




TOWARDS A WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL BIOECONOMY: The Contribution of Policy, Science, and Technology Innovations

 September 4, 2025

 14:00 – 18:00 (GMT)

 Dakar-Senegal

Background and Objectives

As momentum around the bioeconomy grows across Africa, there is increasing recognition of opportunities for leveraging the continent's rich and diverse supply of natural resources together with its science and knowledge for sustainable solutions. With the ambition of expanding the production of value-added products from renewable biological resources, a bioeconomy combines natural resources, scientific knowledge, and technologies with markets and business opportunities¹. Institutional interventions and policy guidance will be crucial to the development of country-level and regional strategies to facilitate the adoption of biobased economies.

To date, more than 65 countries worldwide have developed dedicated bioeconomy strategies². South Africa was the first African country to establish a dedicated bioeconomy strategy in 2013, followed by Namibia and Ethiopia in 2024; at the continental level, the East African Community (EAC) developed a regional bioeconomy strategy in 2022, becoming the first regional economic bloc to develop such a framework.³ The growing relevance of the bioeconomy in Africa was further underscored by the most recent Global Bioeconomy Summit, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2024. It marked the first time the Summit convened outside of Germany. Moreover, the South African-led G20 has Bioeconomy on the Agenda, which was also the case with the G20 Presidency of Brazil in 2024. This momentum presents a timely opportunity to place the bioeconomy firmly on the policy agenda of West African countries.

This focused regional workshop, hosted in Senegal, serves as a strategic platform to explore pathways for West African bioeconomy agendas, leveraging partnerships with key stakeholders in the sector to shape regional bioeconomy dialogue and development.

Targeting 20 to 25 carefully selected delegates, the session is designed to stimulate a high-level, action-oriented discussion on how West African countries can collectively shape a sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy. Senegalese government representatives would anchor the discussion locally, supported by the participation of ECOWAS and stakeholders from Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and other countries across the region, as well as research and policy experts from countries that have developed bioeconomy strategies, and organizations advancing research in the sector to provide broader perspectives.

This workshop represents a timely and strategic opportunity to catalyze regional action on the bioeconomy and build strong African representation in global discussions with the objectives of:

- Providing a platform for West African countries to discuss pathways towards comprehensive national bioeconomy agendas.
- Identifying the region's key priorities in the bioeconomy space and strengthening regional coordination in the sector.
- Positioning Senegal as a regional player in advancing bioeconomy policy and practice.
- Facilitating knowledge sharing and learning from best practices to support the development of a West African bioeconomy agenda.

The workshop will also serve as a preparatory step for the GBS 2026 in Dublin, Ireland, and the GBS preparatory meeting in Hannover, Germany, in January 2026.

¹ Malabo Montpellier Panel. 2022. NATURE'S SOLUTIONS: Policy Innovations and Opportunities for Africa's [Bioeconomy](#). Kigali.

² Ecuru, J., and P. Osano. 2024. "Making the Business Case for a [Bioeconomy](#) in Africa." In *Advancing the Climate and Bioeconomy in Africa for Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems, 2024 ReSAKSS Annual Trends and Outlook Report (ATOR)*, edited by G. Tadesse, K. Glatzel, and M. Savadogo, 146-149. Kigali: AKADEMIYA2063; Washington, DC: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

³ Ibid.

Provisional Agenda (GMT)

MC: **Dr. Layih Butake**, Director of Communications and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063

14:00 – 14:30 Registration and coffee	
14:30 – 14:40 Welcome and introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Katrin Glatzel, Director of Global Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063• Tour de table
14:40 – 14:55 Opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063; Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel• H.E. Prof. Daouda Ngom, Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition, Senegal - TBC
14:55 – 15:10 Keynote: Opportunities for a bioeconomy in West Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Julius Ecuru, Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units, icipe/ BioInnovate Africa ; Co-Chair, International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy
15:10 – 15:25 Input talks (5mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcomes and recommendations from the GBS 2024, GFFA 2025, and G20 Bioeconomy Initiative• Embedding the agrifood systems in the bioeconomy• Bioeconomy opportunities in Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Ben Durham, Chief Director of Bio-innovation, National Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa• Prof. Joachim von Braun, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn; Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel ; Member, International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy• Prof. Cheikh Mbow, Director General, Centre de Suivi Écologique (CSE), Senegal
15:25 – 16:20 Moderated country and regional round-table	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Ms. Anne Wangalachi, Associate Director, Africa Agribusiness, KPMG• Dr. Dossa Aguemon, Director of Cabinet, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Benin• Dr. Rose Omari, Principal Research Scientist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Ghana• Prof. Folasade M. Olajuyigbe, Biochemist, Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Nigeria• Dr. Babafemi Oyewole, CEO, Pan-African Farmers' Organization (PAFO)• Prof. Cheikh Mbow, Director General, Centre de Suivi Écologique (CSE), Senegal• Dr. Julius Ecuru, Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units, icipe/ BioInnovate Africa ; Co-Chair, International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy• Mr. Ben Durham, Chief Director of Bio-innovation, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa

Provisional Agenda (GMT)

16:20 – 16:35	Coffee break
16:35 – 17:35 Open discussion with participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Ms. Anne Wangalachi, Associate Director, Africa Agribusiness, KPMG
17:35 – 17:50 Final reflections: towards a West Africa Bioeconomy strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Simeon Ehui, Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); CGIAR Regional Director for Africa - TBC• Prof. Joachim von Braun, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn; Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel ; Member, International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy
17:50 – 18:00 Closing remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063; Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel
18:00 Cocktail Reception at the AKADEMIYA2063 offices (with additional AKADEMIYA2063 partners)	

Workshop Inquiries

Dr. Katrin Glatzel

Global Director of Strategy and Programs, AKADEMIYA2063
kglatzel@akademiya2063.org

Communications & Media Inquiries

Dr. Layih Butake

Director, Communication and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063
Lbutake@akademiya2063.org

Logistical Inquiries

Ms. Nancy Massala

Administrative and Events Specialist, AKADEMIYA2063
nmassala@akademiya2063.org



@AKADEMIYA2063



www.akademiya2063.org