

## Bioeconomy Workshop aims to place the bioeconomy firmly on the policy agenda of West African Countries

*Delegates will contribute to high-level, action-oriented discussions on how West African countries can collectively shape a sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy amid growing momentum.*

**DAKAR, September 4, 2025** – AKADEMIYA2063, the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn, the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), and the Centre de Suivi Écologique (CSE) are organizing a workshop themed **"Towards a West African Regional Bioeconomy: The Contribution of Policy, Science, and Technology Innovations."** The workshop is scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 4, 2025, in Dakar, Senegal.

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 carefully selected delegates, the session represents a timely and strategic opportunity to catalyze regional action on the bioeconomy and build strong African representation in global discussions.

To date, more than 65 countries worldwide have developed dedicated bioeconomy strategies. In Africa, South Africa, Namibia, and Ethiopia have developed bioeconomy strategies, with the East African Community (EAC) becoming the first regional economic bloc to establish a regional bioeconomy strategy in 2022. The growing relevance of the bioeconomy across the continent was further underscored by the most recent Global Bioeconomy Summit, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2024, the first of its kind on African soil. This momentum presents a timely opportunity for West African countries to discuss pathways towards comprehensive national bioeconomy agendas.

"Charting the course for resilient African economies requires a sound understanding of the continent's vast resources and pathways for biological and ecological sustainability," said **Dr. Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063 and Co-Chair of the Malabo Montpellier Panel. "This workshop sets out to facilitate policy dialogue and peer-to-peer learning on how successful policy interventions and scientific and technological innovations across Africa and elsewhere can contribute to the formulation of a cohesive West African bioeconomy agenda."

As momentum around the bioeconomy grows across Africa, institutional interventions and policy guidance will be crucial to the development of country-level and regional strategies to facilitate the adoption of biobased economies. South Africa was the first African country to establish a dedicated bioeconomy strategy in 2013. In addition, the South African-led G20 has bioeconomy on the agenda.

"South Africa's G20 presidency this year marks a pivotal moment to shape a global bioeconomy that is inclusive, sustainable, and attuned to the distinct challenges and opportunities of the African continent," said **Mr. Ben Durham**, Chief Director of Bio-innovation at South Africa's Department of Science, Technology, and Innovation. "Our goal is to catalyze investment in sustainable nature- and biomass-based industries, fostering enabling policy frameworks, and unlock the innovation potential of African and other developing economies. The African Bioeconomy Finance Hub is a bold and strategic initiative—designed to create practical pathways for mobilizing sustainable finance where it is most urgently needed. This workshop comes at a critical moment, as we work collectively toward an African Bioeconomy Vision in the lead-up to the Global Bioeconomy Summit in 2026."

Senegalese stakeholders would anchor the discussions locally, supported by the participation of actors 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.

"The *Centre de Suivi Écologique* is delighted to be part of this monumental effort to facilitate dialogue toward the development of a West African bioeconomy agenda", said **Prof. Cheikh Mbow**, Director General of CSE. "The objectives align with our mission to contribute to the knowledge and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, through the production and dissemination of decision-making support products and services for state and non-state actors."

The dialogue will focus on identifying the region's key priorities in the bioeconomy space, strengthening regional coordination within the sector, and facilitating knowledge sharing and learning from best practices. The workshop will also serve as a preparatory step for the Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) 2026 in Dublin, Ireland, and the GBS preparatory meeting in Hannover, Germany, slated for January 2026. [Learn more](#).

## Media Inquiries

### Dr. Layih Butake

Director, Communication and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063

[lbutake@akademiya2063.org](mailto:lbutake@akademiya2063.org)

+221 772335609