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By Julius Ecuru, Katrin Glatzel, and Fortunate Muyambi

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# Editorial

Since its adoption by the African Union (AU) in 2003, the [Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme](#) (CAADP) has been Africa's primary policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security, economic growth, and prosperity. It guides the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and Member States in driving agricultural transformation toward a self-reliant and productive Africa.

The recently adopted [Kampala CAADP Declaration](#) on “*Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa*” and the associated [CAADP Strategy and Action Plan \(2026-2035\)](#) will build on the success and deepen the progress achieved after two decades of CAADP implementation, during which Africa significantly improved in economic and agricultural growth, poverty reduction, nutrition outcomes, and agricultural trade expansion. The next 10-year cycle of CAADP implementation must further deepen its focus to incorporate lessons while responding to emerging issues to accelerate sustainable food system transformation within a context of climate change and multifaceted stressors and shocks.

The longevity and continued success of CAADP can be attributed to its credibility as a shared framework designed to guide Member States toward agricultural transformation and economic growth. Driven by the CAADP principles and values, with emphasis on African ownership and mutual accountability, alongside review and benchmarking, data and analytics have been central to CAADP's evidence-based planning and implementation approach. As Africa prepares for the implementation phase of the Kampala CAADP Declaration, which comes into force on January 1, 2026, evidence and robust data analysis will continue to remain indispensable to the successful implementation on the ground. This is the rationale behind AKADEMIYA2063's *Kampala Policy Brief Series*.

The purpose of the policy briefs is to serve as reference documents for policy analysts and planners across AU Member States as they prepare their programs in response to the Kampala CAADP Declaration. The policy briefs will provide a synthesis of a large body of research tackling topics of strategic relevance to Africa's development agenda in parallel with key issues to be addressed during the new phase of CAADP implementation to provide insights, analyze emerging ideas, review crosscutting thematic areas, and propose policy recommendations that can be replicated for sustainable impact.

The evidence presented in the Kampala Policy Brief Series is derived from published research and data by AKADEMIYA2063's scientists and collaborators across Africa and outside the continent. These lessons will be accessible to policymakers, non-state actors, and other practitioners at continental, regional, and national levels, as well as development partners, to support the implementation of CAADP 2026-2035. In addition to packaging the lessons and insights into comprehensive yet accessible knowledge products, AKADEMIYA2063 is facilitating policy dialogue through webinars. During these sessions, the findings will be presented to a broad range of stakeholders to guide programmatic interventions supporting the implementation of the Kampala CAADP Agenda.



# Introduction

Earlier this year, the African Union Commission (AUC) launched the Kampala CAADP Declaration on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa (or The Kampala CAADP Declaration) for the period 2026-2035. CAADP is Africa's blueprint for its agricultural transformation. The new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035 posits that transforming agrifood systems will lead to food security, improved nutrition, economic resilience, and livelihood improvements (AUC and AUDA-NEPAD 2025). Considering bioeconomy principles that carefully address trade-offs will help to better achieve these outcomes. Bioeconomy refers to the production, utilization, conservation, and regeneration of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide sustainable solutions within and across all economic sectors to enable a transformation to a sustainable economy (Dietz et al. 2024; Ecuru et al.

2022). It focuses on the sustainable use of biological resources to produce food, energy, and other products. The key features of a bioeconomy are that it is biologically based, scientifically driven, and underpinned by innovation, cross-sectoral, and is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable (Ecuru and Osano 2024). Although not explicitly mentioned in the Kampala CAADP Declaration, the bioeconomy aligns with and can be considered in the implementation of the commitments of the Declaration.

Several development practitioners and political leaders across Africa increasingly view bioeconomy as a promising pathway to tap into the continent's competitive advantages in agriculture, forestry, and biodiversity, helping to build a more inclusive and resilient economy. With a fast-growing youth demographic and rapid urbanization, they see the bioeconomy's



potential in establishing new industries and value chains and offering a prospect for job creation and economic diversification (Glatzel et al. 2024; Malabo Montpellier Panel 2022).

This brief analyzes the bioeconomy connection in the Kampala CAADP Declaration and argues that as African countries prepare for its domestication, they should do so while integrating bioeconomy principles and practices during the implementation over the next 10 years. Given that the domestication and implementation of the Kampala CAADP Declaration are only just starting, it fits well with the global momentum now being given to bioeconomy, especially the development and implementation of bioeconomy strategies at national and regional scales. The increasing global attention to bioeconomy opens opportunities for the continent to create enabling policy frameworks and regulations, strengthen institutional capabilities, foster international collaborations for knowledge and skills exchange, and attract investments at scale in the African bioeconomy.





## 1. The Bioeconomy Connection in the Kampala CAADP Declaration

Although the Kampala CAADP Declaration does not explicitly reference bioeconomy, it has, nonetheless, embraced key principles that resonate with bioeconomic strategies. The Declaration's focus on sustainable development, resilience, and innovation in agrifood systems naturally complements the goals of a bioeconomy. While this is good, it is not sufficient to realize the full potential and benefits of a bioeconomy. Yet, it lays the foundation for further expansion and application of bioeconomic principles and strategies during the implementation of the Declaration. As such, it will support ongoing discussions towards a dedicated bioeconomy strategy for the continent – a strategy that is expected to be systemic and synergistic across all economic sectors and carefully addresses and manages social, economic, and environmental trade-offs. Table 1 shows the bioeconomy connections with the six commitment areas of the Kampala CAADP Declaration.

**Table 1:** Bioeconomy in the Kampala CAADP Declaration.

CAADP Commitments	Intervention Areas	Key Targets	Bioeconomy Connection/Practices
Intensify Sustainable Food Production and Agro-Industrialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Promote emerging technologies (1.2)</li> <li>♦ Stimulate agro-industrial enterprises (1.3)</li> <li>♦ Invest in regional value chains and post-harvest infrastructures (1.6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Increase agrifood output by 45 percent</li> <li>♦ Reduce post-harvest loss by 50 percent</li> <li>♦ Raise locally processed food to 35 percent of agrifood GDP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Bioeconomy emphasizes sustainable agriculture, focusing on renewable biological resources, research, technology, and innovation. In 2024, agriculture contributed between 23 percent and 30 percent of the GDP of most African countries, while manufacturing was less than 10 percent of GDP (Ecuru and Osano 2024). Value addition to agricultural biomass in a sustainable way is the hallmark of bioeconomy and would boost the manufacturing sector.</li> </ul>
Boost Investment and Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Stimulate private investments (2.1)</li> <li>♦ Expand public investments (2.2)</li> <li>♦ Build capacities for flagship programs and bankable projects (2.3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Mobilize US\$100 billion in public and private sector investment</li> <li>♦ Allocate at least 10 percent of public expenditure to agrifood systems</li> <li>♦ Reinvest 15 percent of agrifood GDP annually.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Bioeconomy is scientifically driven while incorporating indigenous knowledge. Areas such as biotechnology and sustainable agriculture require significant financial investments to foster innovation and scale</li> </ul>

CAADP Commitments	Intervention Areas	Key Targets	Bioeconomy Connection/Practices
Ensure Food and Nutrition Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Boost production and consumption of nutritious foods (3.2)</li> <li>♦ Strengthen actions to eliminate micronutrient deficiency (3.3)</li> <li>♦ Strengthen fisheries and aquaculture (3.7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Zero hunger</li> <li>♦ Reduce stunting, wasting, and overweight by 25 percent</li> <li>♦ Ensure 60 percent of the population can afford a healthy diet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Bioeconomy strategies, such as improved agriculture practices, can boost food security and nutrition by promoting sustainable production and reducing reliance on non-renewable resources. It offers opportunities for value addition, scientific exploration, and innovation to increase agricultural productivity and produce safer and more nutritious food.</li> </ul>
Advance Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Facilitate access to productive resources (4.3)</li> <li>♦ Facilitate job creation for youth, women, and vulnerable groups (4.4)</li> <li>♦ Implement inclusive social protection programs (4.5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Empower 30 percent of youth, women, and vulnerable groups</li> <li>♦ Reduce the yield gap between male and female farmers by 50 percent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ A thriving bioeconomy can promote inclusivity by empowering marginalized groups (youth, women, vulnerable communities) through modular bioproduction and connections to sustainable supply chains. It is these groups that are often the custodians of critical biodiversity and biomass, and bioeconomy provides wider opportunities for equitable access to resources, jobs, and technology.</li> </ul>



CAADP Commitments	Intervention Areas	Key Targets	Bioeconomy Connection/Practices
Build Resilient Agrifood Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invest in agricultural technologies and innovations for climate mitigation (5.1)</li> <li>Strengthen early warning and response systems (5.2)</li> <li>Promote adaptation strategies within agrifood systems (5.4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase mobilization of climate finance</li> <li>40 percent of households are protected from shocks</li> <li>30 percent of agricultural land under sustainable land management (SLM)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bioeconomy principles, focusing on sustainable resource use and innovation, directly support resilient agrifood systems that can help mitigate environmental degradation and climate change while increasing resilience to withstand climate impacts and economic shocks.</li> </ul>
Strengthen Agrifood Systems Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote indigenous knowledge for resilience (6.1)</li> <li>Promote evidence-based decision-making (6.3)</li> <li>Empower national, regional, and continental parliaments (6.6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt best practices in the governance of agrifood systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective governance enables the implementation of bioeconomy solutions at national, regional, and continental levels through nimble policy design and regulations.</li> <li>Many innovations of the bioeconomy are deeply rooted in traditional knowledge systems, and as such, the bioeconomy can harness and safeguard the use and application of indigenous knowledge.</li> </ul>

Source: Authors' presentation.

## 2. Why Bioeconomy Matters for the Implementation of the Kampala Declaration

### 2.1 Leveraging bioeconomy strategy efforts

Across the world, countries and regions are increasingly adopting bioeconomy strategies, with notable emphasis on agricultural innovations (Glatzel et al. 2024). Within Africa, bioeconomy strategies have advanced in South Africa, Namibia, and Ethiopia, as well as in regions such as the East African Community (EAC). Outside of Africa, the European Union (EU), North America, Latin America, and Asia all have countries that are leveraging unique resources and competitive advantages in the bioeconomy. The bioeconomy connection in



the Kampala CAADP Declaration raises the momentum for countries and regions to consider developing dedicated bioeconomy strategies. Below are a few examples of countries and regions that are making efforts to advance the bioeconomy through dedicated strategies:

### 2.1.1 South Africa's Bioeconomy Efforts

South Africa launched its Bioeconomy Strategy in 2013, becoming the first African country to have a dedicated bioeconomy strategy. The strategy envisions the bioeconomy as a key driver of economic growth by 2030. The strategy aims to enhance food security, promote sustainable job creation, and facilitate a transition to a low-carbon economy. According to the 2024 Annual Trends and Outlook Report, South Africa is committed to integrating bioeconomy pathways within its broader agrifood systems transformation agenda (Tadesse et al. 2024). The strategy combines scientific innovation with traditional knowledge to foster sustainable economic growth, create jobs, and ensure environmental stewardship. As part of its G20 Presidency in 2025, South Africa has taken a leadership role in advancing the bioeconomy agenda on the global stage. This leadership emphasizes anti-poverty and pro-equity goals through national actions, regional cooperation, and international partnerships. The G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy under South Africa's presidency aims to establish a global platform for strategy development, technology transfer, and financing, ensuring that bioeconomy efforts are scaled up for sustainable development worldwide.

### 2.1.2 Namibia's Bioeconomy Efforts

Namibia's bioeconomy strategy was launched in June 2024 (Namibia, Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and National Commission on Research Science and Technology 2024). Namibia's transition towards a bioeconomy is driven by strong governance structures and policies that foster collaboration among government agencies, research institutions, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and international experts. The country's bioeconomy spans primary production sectors like agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture, as well as industries that process biological resources. Namibia's bioeconomy strategy also emphasizes the conservation of these resources for future generations. Namibia's bioeconomy approach focuses on a holistic model that integrates environmental conservation, economic diversification, and social inclusion. Through strategic investments in key sectors, the country aims to unlock the potential of its resources, encourage innovation, and foster a sustainable future. By including local communities in resource management and income distribution, Namibia contributes to poverty reduction and social development. Despite challenges such as limited resources and funding, the country's comprehensive approach aims to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities for economic diversification, job creation, and environmental resilience.

### 2.1.3 Ethiopia's bioeconomy efforts

Ethiopia validated its national bioeconomy strategy in December 2024, becoming the third African country to have a dedicated national bioeconomy strategy after South Africa and Namibia. The strategy is aligned with Ethiopia's ambitious goal in its 10-Year Development



Plan (2021-2030) to reduce urban unemployment to 9 percent by creating job opportunities for 15 million citizens. The strategy also aligns with similar goals of the country for structural economic transformation to decrease the share of agricultural GDP from 32.6 percent to 22 percent by 2030, while increasing the industrial sector's share from 29 percent to 35.9 percent, and increasing the contribution of manufacturing to GDP from 6.9 percent to 17.2 percent (Bio and Emerging Technology Institute 2024). The strategy, among other priorities, seeks to transform agriculture with the specific objective of introducing new bio-based technologies and solutions to strengthen food and feed production, ensuring food and nutrition security.

#### 2.1.4 *The East African Community's Bioeconomy efforts*

The East African Community (EAC) Bioeconomy Strategy, launched in 2022, is Africa's first regional bioeconomy strategy and presents an ambitious plan designed to harness the region's rich natural resources to foster sustainable economic growth, environmental conservation, and social development. The strategy aims to establish a bioeconomy that promotes the sustainable use of biological resources across the agricultural, industrial, and



environmental sectors. By doing so, the EAC seeks to create a more resilient and diversified economy, reduce poverty, and contribute to the achievement of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (East African Science and Technology Commission 2022). The EAC Bioeconomy Strategy is rooted in several key principles, including sustainable development, climate resilience, and the integration of traditional knowledge systems with modern scientific advancements. One of the central aims of the strategy is to facilitate the sustainable use of the region's rich biodiversity, which includes a wide range of agricultural products, forests, wildlife, and marine resources. Specifically, the EAC seeks to promote the development and use of bio-based products and services, including biofuels, bioplastics, biochemicals, and pharmaceuticals, by integrating bio-based industries into the region's industrial value chains. By improving agricultural productivity through sustainable practices, enhancing post-harvest management, and developing value chains for bio-based products, the EAC Bioeconomy Strategy envisions greater resilience in the region's agrifood systems.

Already, as part of its implementation, a Regional Bioeconomy Knowledge-Sharing Portal, which provides regular data to support policymakers in monitoring the development of the bioeconomy and enables the EAC region to consistently assess its progress and impact, has been established and hosted by the East African Science and Technology Commission. Additionally, the biennial EAC Regional Bioeconomy Conferences and Policy Dialogues facilitate the review of progress in implementing the regional strategy and support partner states in developing their own national bioeconomy strategies.

### 2.1.5 *The European Union's Bioeconomy Strategy*

The European Union's (EU) Bioeconomy Strategy, initially adopted in 2012 and updated in 2018, is a key part of the EU's overarching agenda to promote sustainability, foster innovation, and transition towards a low-carbon economy. The strategy focuses on the sustainable use of renewable biological resources, aiming to create a more circular, resource-efficient economy (European Commission 2018). The EU bioeconomy spans a wide array of sectors, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food, and bio-based industries, such as biotechnology, biofuels, and bioplastics. Its primary goals are to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, boost economic growth, enhance food security, and support rural development while addressing pressing environmental challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss. The EU has invested significantly in research programs like Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe to support the development of cutting-edge bio-based technologies and industries. These investments have enabled the creation of new bio-based products and services that contribute to sustainability, e.g., biofuels, bioenergy, and biodegradable plastics. The EU also emphasizes the importance of a circular bioeconomy, where waste and by-products from biological processes are repurposed for new applications, further enhancing sustainability. Furthermore, the EU Bioeconomy Strategy underscores the importance of ensuring social inclusion and creating jobs, particularly in rural areas. As part of this effort, the EU supports initiatives to empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within the bioeconomy sector, helping them innovate and scale up their operations.



## 2.2 Unlocking opportunities for partnerships

Africa is actively engaged in global bioeconomy initiatives as seen in its recent participation in the Brazil G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy, the Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS), which was for the first time hosted in Africa (Kenya) in 2024, the 2025 Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA), and South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025 (Table 2) – to name a few. These international platforms offer significant opportunities for Africa to connect its bioeconomy development with similar efforts around the world. Africa's strengths in biodiversity, agriculture, and natural resources give it a competitive edge in the bioeconomy. Moreover, the bioeconomy connection in the Kampala CAADP Declaration is an opportunity to translate global opportunities in bioeconomy advancement into tangible action at the continental and national levels. Making this bioeconomy connection in the Declaration enables Africa to leverage international momentum to advance its bioeconomy.

**Table 2: Important Global Bioeconomy Initiatives.**

<b>G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy (GIB)</b>	The G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy (GIB) was launched during Brazil's presidency of the G20 in 2024. This initiative aims to promote sustainable economic development through the use of biological resources. The initiative unveiled 10 voluntary, non-binding High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy, and was part of Brazil's broader efforts to not only leverage its vast biodiversity but also contribute to the development of the global bioeconomy (G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy 2024).
<b>Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS)</b>	The Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) held on October 23-24, 2024, in Nairobi, Kenya, concluded with a strong emphasis on the importance of resilient and sustainable food systems, biodiversity conservation efforts, and biological resource innovations in meeting the SDGs 2030, as well as the longer-term transition to a sustainable future economy. The summit recommended the integration of bioeconomy strategies into economic policy, creation of a Global Bioeconomy Partnership, development of standards for fast and broad market access for bioeconomy innovations, support for regional and local initiatives to grow and connect with the global bioeconomy, and teaching of bioeconomy principles and exemplars as part of all education levels. The GBS series started in 2015 in Germany and is organized by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB) in collaboration with hosting countries and partners. The IACGB and the GBS are emerging as a global platform for bioeconomy cooperation and collaboration.
<b>Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)</b>	The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) held on January 16-18, 2025, in Berlin, Germany, concluded with a strong commitment to advancing a sustainable bioeconomy to address global food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. With the theme, "Farming a Sustainable Bioeconomy," the Forum brought together ministers responsible for agriculture from 62 countries to discuss strategies for integrating bioeconomy principles into agrifood systems, emphasizing the need for responsible biomass production and the inclusion of the right to adequate food in bioeconomy strategies. The Forum endorsed Germany's initiative to establish a global bioeconomy partnership. Delegates also underscored the bioeconomy's transformative potential in achieving sustainable development goals, urging for practices that ensure equitable access to food while mitigating environmental impacts (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture 2025). The 2026 edition of the GFFA, while focused on water, is expected to prominently feature the bioeconomy to ensure continuity of the dialogue.



<b>South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025</b>	South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025 features the bioeconomy as a key pillar in its agenda, emphasizing its potential to drive sustainable economic growth, create jobs, and address climate risks. The presidency advances the GIB with a focus on enhancing the role of the bioeconomy in fostering resilience in food systems, advancing clean energy solutions, and improving rural livelihoods, particularly through the development of sustainable bio-based industries as well as through establishing a bioeconomy financing hub. G20 members will discuss collaborative efforts to scale up bioeconomy initiatives, including the development of measurements and standards for bioproducts, financing the bioeconomy, and advancing global partnerships.
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### 2.3 Accelerating innovation

By fostering innovation in agriculture, renewable energy, and bio-manufacturing, countries can create new industries and value chains that are both environmentally sustainable and economically viable. The development of biofuels, biomaterials, and pharmaceuticals, for example, can offer sustainable options for consumers, contributing to job creation and diversification of economies. However, achieving these innovation outcomes and societal impact requires collaboration across sectors, as bioeconomy development spans agriculture, industry, environment, and energy. Countries such as South Africa, which have made strides in establishing bioeconomy strategies, provide valuable examples of how policies can be translated into action through inter-ministerial collaboration and multistakeholder involvement. However, for many countries, implementing bioeconomy policies remains a challenge that demands stronger institutional frameworks and a more cohesive approach to governance.

Moreover, collaboration across borders is crucial, especially to address global environmental issues like climate risks and biodiversity loss. Such collaborations are particularly important for knowledge generation and exchange, as well as scaling successful approaches. For example, understanding the role of African biodiversity in creating bio-based products, from pharmaceuticals to bioplastics, is essential for developing viable industries. Investing in building local R&D capabilities and strengthening linkages with the international scientific community improves the biobased innovation ecosystem. By working collaboratively, countries can establish global frameworks and best practices for managing biodiversity, promoting sustainable land-use practices, and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems.

## 3. Recommendations

As African governments domesticate and implement the Kampala CAADP Declaration over the next 10 years, the following considerations should be made:

**3.1 Use the bioeconomy connections in the Kampala CAADP Declaration to strengthen implementation of the CAADP:** Implementing the Kampala CAADP Declaration with bioeconomic principles and practices will help in better achieving the intended outcomes. It will also help countries to integrate the bioeconomy in all economic sectors and have a coherent policy framework that fosters cross-sectoral collaboration in bioproduct development and innovation. Policy coherence across sectors is essential for fostering a thriving bioeconomy and achieving long-term, sustainable development while ensuring that trade-offs are addressed.

**3.2 Use the bioeconomy connections in the Kampala CAADP Declaration to promote regional innovation collaboration:** A thriving bioeconomy is dependent on innovations in the public and private sectors as well as in communities, e.g., indigenous groups. Given the interconnectedness of the African borders, regional innovation collaboration and partnerships can expedite sustainable economic growth, social progress, and regional integration. While individual countries should increase investment in their research and development capacities for bio-based technologies and innovations, they should also foster collaborations across countries and within their RECs.

**3.3 Leverage the bioeconomy connections in the Kampala CAADP Declaration as an entry point to develop a continental bioeconomy strategy:** Bioeconomy connections in the Kampala CAADP Declaration should foster stronger regional cooperation, especially on knowledge generation and technology transfer, trade, and investment in bioproducts and services. Moreover, they can pave the way for developing a comprehensive continental bioeconomy strategy that connects all sectors and aligns with broader continental goals for green growth and economic development. The starting point would be for each of the RECs to establish a regional bioeconomy strategy following the example of the East African Community.





## 4. Conclusion

Bioeconomy has become a key component and an important pathway in global efforts to address climate risk, ensure food security, and drive economic growth. In Africa, it also presents opportunities for adding value to renewable biological resources and stimulating innovation and jobs in agriculture, health, construction, and energy. Inclusive partnerships and careful management of trade-offs will be crucial.

The links – albeit implicit – to the bioeconomy in the Kampala CAADP Declaration and its domestication herald an African continental bioeconomy strategy. With a clear bioeconomy strategy, African countries can leverage their natural resources to create sustainable industries, enhance food security and nutrition, drive economic diversification and resilience, while fostering inclusive growth and conserving biodiversity.

Regional collaboration is crucial to unlock the full potential of the bioeconomy. It allows countries to address pressing global challenges, such as climate risks and biodiversity loss, while simultaneously advancing economic growth and social progress. Regional cooperation through the African Union and its Regional Economic Blocs can create a cohesive bioeconomy strategy for the continent, help to align national bioeconomy strategies, and facilitate cross-border trade in bio-based products – thus benefiting from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). They also allow for the sharing of knowledge and best practices, fostering innovation in sectors such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and biomanufacturing.

International collaboration is important for investment and new market opportunities, knowledge and technology exchange, and capacity building. But more importantly, international collaboration widens opportunities for addressing climate risks and biodiversity loss, which require cooperation across countries and continents.

Most of all, the involvement of local communities and their traditional knowledge in resource management and decision-making is essential in the bioeconomy. Their involvement ensures that bioeconomy strategies are inclusive and equitable, empowering communities and contributing to their wealth creation.

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# ABOUT AKADEMIYA2063

AKADEMIYA2063 is a pan-African non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspired by the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth, and changing livelihoods for the better.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics, and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support, data management, digital products, and technology—as well as partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit [www.akademiya2063.org](http://www.akademiya2063.org).





# Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa



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