



G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy 1st Meeting

Bloemfontein, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa,
24 to 25 February 2025

PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY

Venue: Odeion Auditorium, University of the Free State

Session 1: Opening

Programme Director: Mr Daan du Toit, Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

09:30 – 09:35 Welcoming Remarks

Prof Hester Klopper, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of the Free State

09:35 – 09:40 Welcoming Remarks

Ms MaQueen Joyce Letsoha-Mathae, Premier of the Free State

09:40 – 09:55 Opening Remarks

Prof Bonginkosi Nzimande, South African Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation

10:00 – 10:30 Tea break

Breakout into two groups (GIB and RIWG)

Session 2: GIB Issue Note

Venue: Modlec Building, Room 2, University of the Free State

Chair: Dr Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl, Deputy Director-General: Technology Innovation, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

10:30 – 11:00 Presentation of the GIB Issue Note

It is recommended that delegates focus on the importance of continuing the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy, and their evaluation of the elements of the Issue Note.

11:00 – 12:30 Interventions by delegates

- Troika comments (3 min each)
- G20 members (2 min each)
- Knowledge partners comments (1.5 min each)



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability



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12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Session 3: Bioeconomy Development in the Global South: A Focus on Africa

13:30 – 15:15 a. Introduction

Mr Ben Durham, Chief Director: Bioinnovation, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

Mr Khorommbi Matibe, Chief Director, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment

b. Climate Change and Impact/ Predictions for Bioeconomy Development

Prof Francois Engelbrecht, Director: Global Change Institute, University of the Witwatersrand

c. Context for Developing Bio-economies in Africa

Dr Peter Minang, Director for Africa, ASB Partnership for the Tropical Forest Margins

His Excellency Chief Dr Blessed Okole, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister- Head of Government, Republic of Cameroon

d. Skills, Resources and Science Infrastructure

Dr Rachel Chikwamba, Group Executive: Advanced Chemistry and Life Sciences, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Dr Jihane EL GAOUZI, Head of Sustainable Environment Division – SEBE Directorate, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainability Department, African Union

15:15 – 15:30 Questions

15:30 – 16:00 Tea break

16:00 – 17:00 Interventions by delegates

17:00 – 17:30 Participants travel to the Odeion Auditorium

17:30 – 21:00 Cocktails, dinner and a play, "Retracing South African History"

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TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY

Modlec Building, University of the Free State

Session 4: Effective Opportunities for Bioeconomy Development in the Global South

Venue: Modlec Building, Room 2, University of the Free State

Chair: Dr Rakeshnie Ramoutar-Prieschl, Deputy Director-General: Technology Innovation, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

09:00 – 11:00 a. Agro-processing for Biomass Value Addition

Dr Shadrack Moephuli, Director, South African Sugarcane Research Institute

b. Indigenous Knowledge Valorisation

Dr Aunkh Chabalala, Director: Indigenous Knowledge-based Technologies, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

c. Bioprocessing

Dr Santosh Ramchuran, Chief Researcher and Research Group Leader, Chemicals Cluster, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

d. Biorefineries

Dr Viren Chunilall, Biorefinery Industry Development Facility, Research Group Leader, Chemicals Cluster, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research

Dr Katherine Foxon, Group Leader: Strategic Research, Sugar Milling Research Institute NPC

e. Bioenergy

Prof Johann Görgens, Distinguished Professor, Research Chair in Sugarcane Biorefineries, Department of Chemical Engineering, Stellenbosch University

f. Agricultural Bio-innovation Partnership Programme

Dr Maneshree Jugmohan-Naidu, Director: Agricultural Biotechnology, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation

11:00 – 11:30 Tea break

11:30 – 11:45 Questions





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11:45 – 12:30 Interventions by delegates

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

Session 5: Cost Effective Intervention Programmes for Supporting Bioeconomy Development in Africa and the Global South

13:30 – 14:45 a. Bio-innovate Africa

Dr Julius Ecuru, Principal Scientist and Manager, Research Innovation Coordination Units, Bio-innovate Africa Programme

b. Incubation of Science-based SMMEs

Mr Dheepak Maharajh, Chief Executive Officer, UVUBIO

c. Centralised Platforms for Catalysing Science-based Technology Development

Mohohlo Molatudi, Acting Executive: Bioeconomy, Technology Innovation Agency

d. Implementation of the Biodiversity Economy

Ms Preshanthie Naicker, Director, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment

e. Carbon Capture

Mr Tom Dower, Vice President: Public Policy Lanza Tech. United States

14:45 – 15:00 Questions

15:00 – 15:30 Tea break

15:30 – 16:30 Delegates comments and suggestions on cost effective programme characteristics for Global South/ Africa

16:30 – 17:00 Concluding comments and next steps

18:30 Travel to Naval Hill Planetarium

19:00 – 22:00 Cocktail and dinner – "Braai under the African sky"

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