



South African Presidency

G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy Issue Note

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Background

- **Poverty:** More than two billion people have moved out of extreme poverty in the last four decades.
- **Life expectancy:** Life expectancy has improved. Child mortality decreased.
- **Gender equality:** Gender equality has improved.
- **Literacy:** Literacy has increased.
- **Wealth:** GDP per capita has increased.

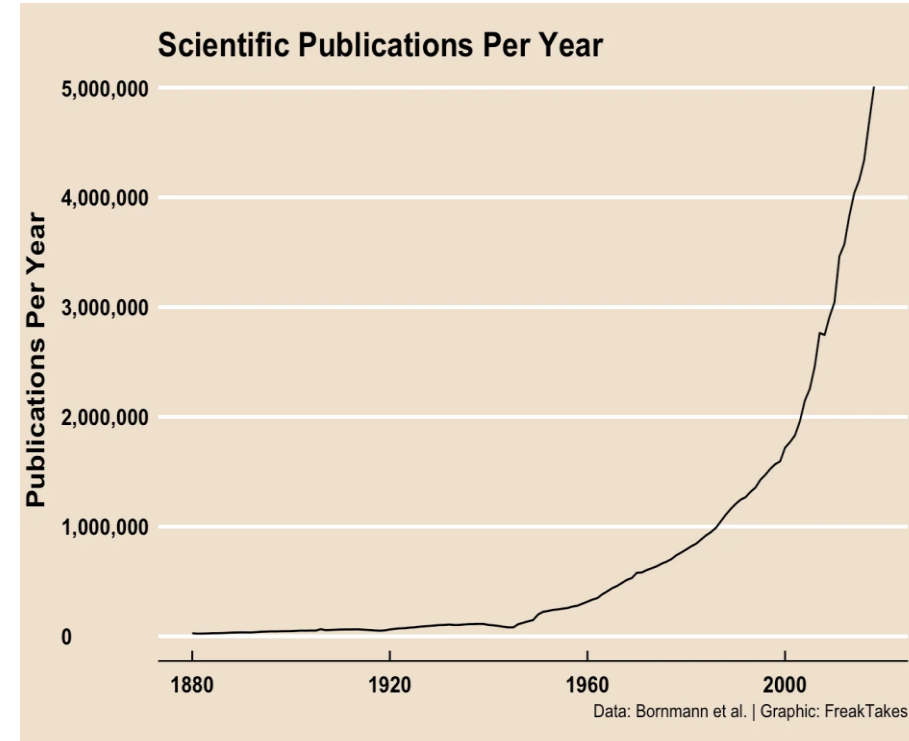


Coordinated global effort

Background (2)

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity Loss
- Unsustainable Development

Outstripping the ability of the planet to support us.



Bioeconomy – a new bio-based paradigm harnessing STI, biotechnology, IKS, and also key profit principles to ensure a more sustainable opportunity for people and organisms to exist and thrive on the planet.

GIB Issue Note

General Introduction

1. Economic opportunity
2. Bioeconomy is not the silver bullet to climate change, biodiversity loss, unsustainable development – but a significant and powerful roleplayer.
3. Critical the world responds collectively to the global challenge / global opportunity
4. Recognize climate change risks - which will also affect the bioeconomy.
5. G20 must ensure it represents global consensus

GIB Context

1. *GIB 2024 established High Level Principles on bioeconomy*
2. *Now is the time to translate such vision, potential, and principles into action*

Orchestrating an Equitable, Sustainable Global Bioeconomy

1. *Global South - with a special focus on Africa - participates meaningfully and benefits from the potential development of the Global bioeconomy*
2. *Business and market developments, infrastructure and technologies, equitable international financial arrangements, development of skills along the value chain, and strengthening regional and international cooperation.*

1. Towards establishing global bioeconomy standards and metrics

The lack of common standards and metrics makes it difficult to measure and have a shared understanding of the bioeconomy. Agreeing on and adopting a common set of metrics and standards and related data for planning, aligning, guiding, and evaluating bioeconomy interventions at national, regional, and international levels, will allow consistent and accurate assessment and global alignment as captured in GIB High-Level Principle 8:

“Utilizing transparent, comparable, measurable, inclusive, science-based and context specific criteria and methodologies to assess their sustainability throughout the value chains”.

Objectives:

- Identify and collate current nature-related standards which are available[..]. Identify and address gaps and needs. Ensure the approach is appropriate for inclusive participation.*
- Identify mechanisms for advancing the development of a comprehensive set of standards and metrics for planning, aligning, guiding, and evaluating bioeconomy interventions at national, regional, and international levels.*

Deliverable: Recommendation for the development of a framework based on the GIB principles providing a structured approach to measuring, evaluating, and aligning bioeconomy developments as detailed above.

2. *Examining the common needs, opportunities and challenges in bioeconomy development support in an African context*

To create appropriate mechanisms and instruments that can provide and stimulate bioeconomy development leading to sustainable companies, the common challenges to successful entrepreneurialism in Africa needs to be identified and addressed. As such, this would be a response to the socio-economic issues and policy developments aligned to GIB High-Level Principles 1 and 7:

“Integrating and promoting sustainable development across its economic, social and environmental dimensions, contribute to eradicating hunger and poverty and improving health and well-being, whilst ensuring global food security and nutrition” and

“Benefitting from robust and coherent policy frameworks that foster trade for bioeconomy products and services, market conditions, sustainable business models, decent jobs, local value creation and private sector and civil society participation”.

Objective: *To introduce case studies and expert opinion on the fundamental requirements in supporting bio-entrepreneurialism in Africa.*

Deliverable: *Report on key considerations in supporting bio-innovations and bioeconomy developments in an African context.*

3. *Financing bioeconomies*

[..] The availability and access to suitable financial resources are an underlying challenge for entrepreneurial support in Africa, and elsewhere in the Global South. This priority will examine the range of interventions [..] that could be deployed to increase resources supporting bioeconomy Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) and companies. This priority is in line with GIB High-Level Principle 9:

“Foster international collaboration and cooperation that addresses global challenges, leverages complementary strengths, innovation and entrepreneurship and promotes financing, capacity building and sharing of best practices”.

Related to this, seed funding (for science-based research, workshops, with resulting publications and policy briefs) is required to galvanize science-based thematic recommendations or knowledge products that can guide countries or investors for specific bioeconomy development opportunities as espoused by GIB High-Level Principle 6:

“Be developed through safe, secure and responsible use of science, technology, innovation and traditional knowledge, with potential benefits, risks and impacts assessed scientifically”.

3. *Financing bioeconomies (continued)*

Objective: *To examine means for countries, regions and the globe to increase the availability of risk finance for entrepreneurs in Africa and the Global South, through financial instruments and incentives, and through seeding the development of science-based recommendations for development.*

Deliverables:

- *Collation of key financial instruments and incentives that are available to countries and the globe to increase support of risk capital for bioentrepreneurs, SMMEs and companies in the Africa/Global South.*
- *Identification of means for seeding support for science-based bioeconomy recommendations.*

4. *Framing a platform for delivering on bioeconomy developments in Africa*

A long-term support platform is required to give effect to bioeconomy aspirations in Africa. Such a platform would assist Africa and the Global South attain the ambitious goals set in Principle 1:

“Integrating and promoting sustainable development across its economic, social and environmental dimensions, contribute to eradicating hunger and poverty and improving health and well-being, whilst ensuring global food security and nutrition”.

The structure would need to consider:

- a. Coordination of stakeholders;*
- b. Serving as a repository of information related to bioeconomy case studies; country context assessments; existing investments, etc;*
- c. Design and deployment of catalytic bioeconomy projects;*
- d. Development of global financial, trade, and investment incentives;*
- e. Climate change impacts and risks to bioeconomies; and*
- f. Thought leadership for global bioeconomy development.*

4. *Framing a platform for delivering on bioeconomy developments in Africa (continued)*

Objective: *Provide governance, strategic and operational recommendations, in the design of a framework for the terms of reference for a Bioeconomy Implementation Platform.*

Deliverable: *A set of recommendations on the terms of reference for a Bioeconomy Implementation Platform.*

GIB Meetings in 2025

GIB 1: *Examining the common needs, opportunities and challenges in bioeconomy development support in an African context [SETTING THE SCENE]*

Session 2: GIB Issue Note

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

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

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

GIB 2: * *Towards establishing global bioeconomy standards and metrics*
*** *Financing bioeconomies***

25 – 27 MAY 2025; UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA; MBOMBELA.

GIB 3: *Framing a platform for delivering on bioeconomy developments in Africa*

22 - 23 SEPTEMBER 2025; Council for Scientific and Industrial Research International Convention Centre (CSIR-ICC), Pretoria, Gauteng Province.



G20
SOUTH AFRICA 2025



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

Thank you