G20
SOUTH AFRICA 2025

Solidarity
Equality
Sustainability

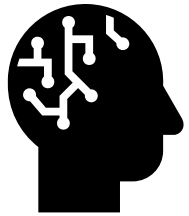
TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

GIB MEETING

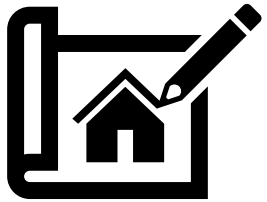
Dr Sue Snyman
Director of Research
School of Wildlife Conservation
African Leadership Univeristy

PROCESS

Why?

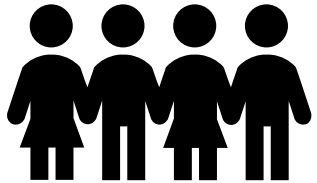


What?



How?

Who?



START WITH WHY

“You can’t manage what you can’t measure”

~Peter Drucker

WHY?

G20 high level principles on the bioeconomy:

7. Benefit 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.

8. Utilize transparent, comparable, measurable, inclusive, science-based and context-specific **criteria and methodologies** to assess their sustainability throughout the value chains.

WHAT?

A **multi-faceted approach** is needed to promote the bioeconomy:

- Comprehensive national strategies, harmonised policies & strategies and international cooperation to address global value chains
- Enabling and supportive policy environment
- Implementation of bioeconomy principles
- Market access and consumer engagement
- Biodiversity conservation for sustainability
- Capacity building and innovative, sustainable finance
- Promotion of standards and metrics

HOW?

- Metrics
- Standards
- Certification

IMPORTANCE OF METRICS

- To track economic contribution
- To assess sustainability
- For benchmarking and innovation
- For policy and strategy monitoring
- To build trust and market confidence
- To address regional and sectoral differences

IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDS

- To ensure sustainability and trust
- Facilitate innovation and market growth
- Support interoperability and commerce
- Enable regulation and biosecurity
- Promote global co-ordination and regional adaptation
- Create a common language and framework

IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDS & METRICS

Without standards and metrics, there will be **missed opportunities for innovation and increased challenges across the innovation pipeline**. Introducing standards and metrics that will support SMEs to scale-up will enable **continued innovation** and boost the bioeconomy

Applying standards can be an **effective way to allow consumers to compare bioengineered products** with non-bioengineered products

Standards and metrics are necessary to **develop a shared understanding and enable knowledge transfer**, data sharing and to support distributed manufacturing and trade around the world

Source: WEF, 2024

IMPORTANCE OF STANDARDS & METRICS

Need to acknowledge global differences and public perceptions of bioengineered products and processes: differences present opportunities to develop standards that apply to specific regions; to leverage regional strengths. In parallel, it is **important to pursue global coordination and harmonisation** in setting standards for the global bioeconomy

Funding programmes will be required to support such efforts, and further **international collaboration** will be key to ensure the successful application of standardisation across the bioeconomy sector

Source: WEF, 2024

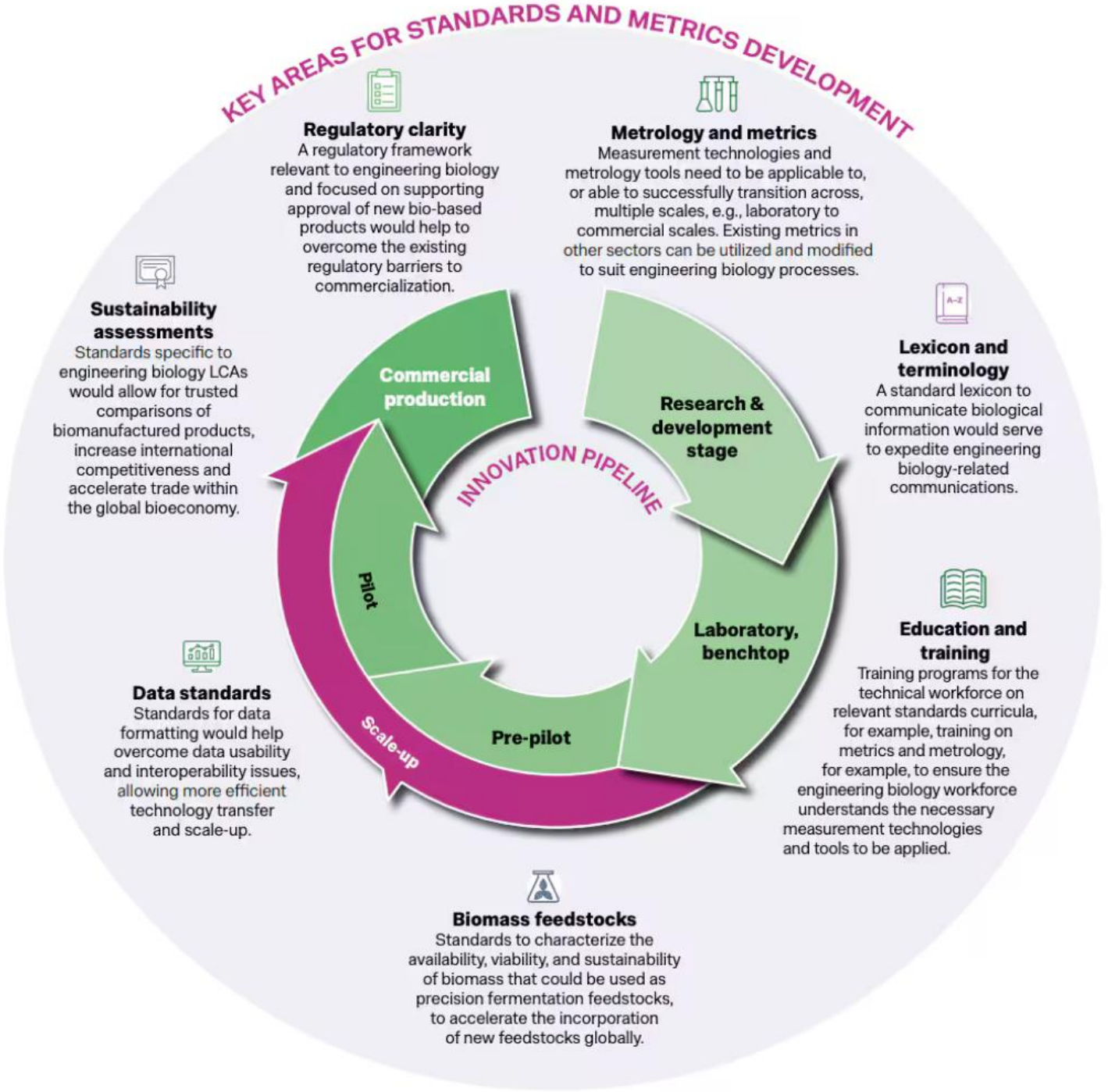
CHALLENGES

Establishing standards in the bioeconomy is challenged by:

- market and policy uncertainties,
- technical complexities,
- coordination needs across supply chains,
- skill shortages,
- sustainability concerns, and
- the need to build public and investor trust through clear, reliable frameworks

ESTABLISHING STANDARDS, CERTIFICATION AND RELEVANT METRICS FOR M&E

- Value add or red tape?
- Compulsory versus voluntary?
- Global versus regional?
- Enabling versus restrictive?



Source: WEF, 2024

WAY FORWARD

Prioritising trade in legitimate bioeconomy goods

- Defining legitimate bioeconomy goods
- Establishing standards, certification and relevant metrics for M&E
- Promoting and prioritising trade in legitimate bioeconomy goods: managing the bioeconomy “premium”
- Engaging stakeholders and role-players
- Raising awareness and building capacity
- Ensuring long-term sustainability

DEFINING A LEGITIMATE BIOECONOMY GOOD?

A legitimate bioeconomy good is one whose bio-based origin and sustainability credentials are **rigorously verified by recognised standards and certification bodies**, ensuring credible, transparent claims that support consumer trust and market development

PRIORITISING TRADE

Requires:

- **Harmonised sustainability metrics, standards and certification** – to reduce trade barriers and builds trust
- **Policy coherence and integration** – requires inter-ministerial coordination
- **Reduction of trade barriers and technical obstacles** – requires science-based regulations
- **Facilitation of market access and supply chain management** - to promote more equitable trade

PRIORITISING TRADE

Requires:

– Other measures to promote **fair, transparent, and efficient trade practices** (and equitable?)

– Focusing on **certified sustainable products** that optimise resource use and ensures biomass availability

– Access to **sustainable finance** to support measurement and certification processes

– Supports and **fosters innovation and technology transfer** – to enable scaling

– **Infrastructure for data sharing and transparency** – to improve market confidence

PRIORITISING TRADE

Requires:

– **Promotion of regional and multi-lateral agreements** – to overcome national-level limitations

– **Addressing social and environmental equity** – to promote inclusive and sustainable trade

– **Facilitating trade in biomass and secondary raw materials** – to match supply and demand across regions

– **Building multi-stakeholder partnerships** – government, industry, academia, communities, and civil society

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

- Without intact biomass, there will be no bioeconomy
- Essential to **invest in the asset base of the bioeconomy**
- Without community support conservation can be difficult, therefore need **equitable social and economic investment** as well
- Sustainability is related to governance, standards and metrics but it is **everyone's business**

PROMOTING AND PRIORITISING TRADE

Need to demonstrate that the trade in legitimate bioeconomy goods is **good for people, planet and the economy**

OR

TAXES OR INCENTIVES

- **Incentives** - financial benefits, such as tax credits, subsidies, or grants, are offered to encourage environmentally friendly activities or investments

- **Taxes** - Taxes are levied on environmentally damaging activities or products, increasing their cost and making them less attractive to consumers and producers, e.g. carbon taxes, energy taxes, pollution charges, etc.

Incentives often used to encourage certain behaviours or investments and taxes to discourage

The choice depends on the specific environmental issue and the desired outcome, as well as the political and economic context

WHO?

- ***National governments*** – enabling environment & supportive institutions
- ***Regional Economic Communities*** – collaboration and co-ordination
- ***World Trade Organisation (WTO)*** – overarching policies & removing trade barriers
- ***African Union*** – policies and strategies for regional trade
- ***European Union*** – policies and strategies for regional & international trade
- ***United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*** – policies and strategies for international trade
- ***Other UN agencies***, UNDP, UNEP, etc. - capacity building; convening
- ***World Bank*** – finance and expertise
- ***African Development Bank*** – finance and trade facilitation
- ***Private sector*** – finance, entrepreneurship, etc.
- ***Community organisations*** – resources, SMEs, IK
- ***Civil society*** – capacity building, finance, co-ordination
- ***Academia*** – research, supporting M&E

SUMMARY OF WHAT IS NEEDED

– Supportive **policy and regulatory frameworks** to protect the asset base, share benefits, unlock value chains, etc.

– Supportive **institutions** to enable trade, innovation, M&E, etc.

– Engagement of all relevant **stakeholders and role-players**

– **Raising awareness**, knowledge-sharing and capacity building

SUMMARY OF WHAT IS NEEDED

- Importance of ongoing **research, development and innovation** for development and growth of value chains
- **Investment in the conservation of the natural resources** on which the bioeconomy is based
- **Importance of monitoring and evaluation, standards and metrics** to build trust and ensure sustainability

NEXT STEPS

- Further leadership from G20 in 2025 and into the future
  - To make recommendations to WTO, UNCTAD, etc.
  - Cross-country and cross-sectoral knowledge sharing and support related to the implementation of standards and metrics
- G20 inputs into the WEII v2 indicators and sovereign debt instrument
- FAO toolkit made available and implemented

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"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success"

- Henry Ford

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Thank you

Dr Sue Snyman
Director of Research
School of Wildlife Conservation
African Leadership University
ssnyman@alueducation.com