



# GLOBAL BIOECONOMY SUMMIT 2020

## *Track 4 Workshop: Regional Cooperation for innovative bioeconomy pathways to promote health and wellbeing*



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## Overall Workshop Framework/Approach



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The aim of the workshop was to discuss and evaluate bioeconomy pathways in the context of health and well-being, by adopting a broad, holistic and inclusive framing that combined thematic and regional perspectives to identify key priorities and promote innovation and resilience through regional cooperation.

	Africa	Asia	Latin America	EU + other OECD countries
Bio-resources and Bio-industries				
Bioeconomy for health and wellbeing				
Transnational Innovation Systems				

# Bioeconomy for health and wellbeing



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- Bioeconomy as part of a ***coupled socio-ecological system*** -> where bioeconomy can be a solution, but also a problem, depending on the pathways - **Liesbeth de Schutter**
- In East Africa, Developing affordable plant-based products for malaria control while ***harnessing local resources***. - **Tatien Masharabu**
- In Latin America, in spite of the ***rich endowment*** of bioresources in the region, there can be issues on ***affordability*** for healthy diets, particularly in mega cities (10+ million people).- **Guy Henry**
- In Asia, bioeconomy could represent an ***opportunity*** for a sustainable use of ***traditional medicinal plants*** in India (and beyond) through the One Health approach. - **Jagdish Krishnaswamy**

# Bio-resources and Bio-industries



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- Government action at national and regional levels is critical to create holistic bioeconomy strategic plan, with supporting policies and infrastructure/investments
- Creating regional BIO-hubs or Bio-incubators for sharing knowledge and assets.  
Standards for Bio-Product certification
- Synthetic Biology expands the horizon of renewable Bioresources and authentic bioproducts
- Knowledge & tech exchange are needed and must include indigenous knowledge of the peoples --- whether in Amazon or Africa. How should nations create new bio-resources and sustainably harness more traditional ones?

# Transnational Innovation Systems



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- Bioeconomy implies a shift away from classical innovation types
- Challenges from globalization lead to a new geography of innovation
- Understanding regional strengths and weaknesses is the first step towards a successful transformation
- A successful implementation of regional bioeconomies requires to move beyond national borders towards bioeconomic boundaries

# Cross-cutting and cross-regional perspectives



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- **Capacity building** – key precondition for the transformation
- **Competence networks and innovation clusters**
- *Bringing actors together!*
- Local stakeholders – local knowledge and drivers of vision development
- Global players – knowledge/technology transfer, access to global markets and economies of scale
- **Policy frameworks** – initiation and promotion of transformation and cooperation

*Specialized excellence in many regional clusters has been achieved,  
now the focus will have to shift to interregional and cross-sectoral cooperation  
as a turbine for more widespread development*



# Synthesis and key messages



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## Key messages:

- The convergence of modern biology and digital technologies is propelling **new partnerships and collaborations** on how to add value to bioresources and optimize biomass use
- **Regional collaboration, and convening platforms** (e.g. incubators, Public-Private Partnerships, Clusters, Networks etc.) are greatly needed to catalyse knowledge sharing, policy development, capacity building and to support sustainable bioeconomy development at all levels

## Follow-up:

- Post-workshop **report** on key messages from the workshop
- Follow-up **interviews** with speakers and participants
- Online **perspective** pieces and **blogs**
- **Commentary article** to be published in academic journal