GLOBAL BIOECONOMY SUMMIT 2026

Bioeconomy for socio-economic transformation and climate action

Workshops

Full details of the 24 participatory workshops taking place during the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026

Version 2 – 16/10/2026

International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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Session 1: 11.15 – 12.45, 20 October 2026

Beyond Science and Technology: Scaling the Bioeconomy in the Global South - Enabling Conditions, Regional Cooperation and Global Partnerships

Co-organisers: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; The South African Department of Science, Technology and Innovation; The Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA); European Commission; ISC3; the Inter-American Development Bank / Amazonía Siempre; NatureFinance; the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO/OTCA); SENACYT Panama; BioInnovate Africa.

The bioeconomy is already advancing across the Global South. Science, technology and innovation are generating new solutions and opportunities, but many still face difficulties in moving from promising experiences to wider adoption and real market scale.

The main barriers are often found beyond science and technology. Finance, markets, regulation, infrastructure, institutional capacity and regional coordination all influence the ability to scale. These conditions also vary across sectors, territories and types of actors, so there is no single pathway to scale.

The workshop will start from concrete experiences in Latin America and Africa. It will identify the main barriers to scaling the bioeconomy, the most important enabling conditions and the areas where cooperation can add value. Building on these perspectives, three Scaling Action Labs will then focus on investment and scale, markets and value webs, and implementation in countries and territories.

With these priorities on the table, the workshop will move to a plenary conversation with representatives of relevant regional and global initiatives. The discussion will explore how these initiatives can better respond to the priorities and realities of the Global South, and how countries, institutions and networks from these regions can participate more actively and help shape these processes.

The workshop will seek to agree on a small set of Global South scaling priorities and partnership opportunities. Subject to partner interest, the results could also provide the basis

for a short joint policy brief after Dublin and support continued policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and future cooperation.

Workshop Objectives:

- Identify the main systemic barriers that continue to limit the scaling of bioeconomy solutions in the Global South, beyond science and technology.
- Compare experiences from Latin America and Africa and identify common enabling conditions and relevant differences across contexts.
- Prioritise, through three Scaling Action Labs, needs and opportunities related to investment and scale, markets and value webs, and implementation in countries and territories.
- Analyse how national action, regional and South-South cooperation, and international partnerships can complement each other in overcoming these barriers.
- Explore how Global South priorities can have a stronger presence in existing regional and global initiatives, networks and instruments, and how Global South actors can participate more actively in their development.
- Identify three to five scaling priorities and two to three partnership opportunities that can guide dialogue and cooperation after Dublin.
- Explore, subject to partner interest, the preparation of a short joint policy brief after the Summit.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Welcome and framing
- 5-21 mins | Global South perspectives
- 21-24 mins | Introduction to the Scaling Action Labs
- 24-49 mins | Three Scaling Action Labs
- 49-61 mins | Reports from the Labs
- 61-82 mins | Connecting Global South priorities with regional and global initiatives
- 82-90 mins | Looking beyond Dublin

Workshop Speakers:

- Hugo Chavarría - IICA
- Verónica Galmez - IDB, Amazonía Siempre
- Sandra Sharry - SENACYT Panama
- Edith Paredes - Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, ACTO
- Ben Durham - Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa
- James Morrison - Director, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- Bioeconomy Challenge representative
- Global Bioeconomy Partnership / IACGB representative
- Verónica Galmez – IDB
- Julie McCarthy - NatureFinance

Empowering Primary Producers: Creating Value through Circular Bio-based Value Chains and Nature-Positive Systems

Co-organisers: Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking, CBE JU; BiOrbic Bioeconomy Research Ireland Centre.

This interactive workshop will explore how primary producers can play a stronger role in the bioeconomy and benefit from the economic, social and environmental opportunities it offers. The aim is to share ideas and lessons learned on how primary producers can better participate in and benefit from circular bio-based value chains, while contributing to ecosystem services and biodiversity protection.

The workshop will bring together two emerging practices. First, the Action Plan developed by the CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers (WGPP). This WGPP is an EU-level initiative empowering farmers, foresters, fishers and aquaculture producers through supporting tools for business development, knowledge sharing and collaboration, organisational collaboration models, and stronger advisory support. These areas are addressed through a co-created Action Plan comprising eight practical actions, whose development and implementation are supported by the RootLinks project. A complementary input from the ReFarm initiative, working directly at farm level in Ireland will add the perspective of nature-positive farming solutions and the conditions needed to scale them beyond pilot level, including regulatory frameworks, policy incentives and private or blended finance.

The workshop will then open a participant-driven global practice exchange. Participants will contribute examples from their own regions, sectors and organisations, including what has worked, what has not worked, and what should be considered when designing and implementing support actions for primary producers.

Through practice cards, table discussions and short participant spotlights, the session will generate practical lessons for strengthening primary producer empowerment in the bioeconomy at European level and globally.

Workshop Objectives:

- to present the CBE JU WGPP Action Plan as an emerging European practice example for empowering primary producers in circular bio-based value chains.
- to introduce ReFarm as a complementary practice example on scaling nature-positive farming solutions and addressing the regulatory, policy and financial conditions that influence uptake beyond pilot level.
- to explore how primary producers can gain stronger roles in bio-based value chains through supporting tools for business development, knowledge sharing and collaboration, stronger advisory support, and collaborative organisational models to better enabling conditions for scaling practical solutions.
- to collect participant experiences from different world regions and sectors on producer-centred approaches, including good practice, failed approaches, barriers, incentives and lessons learned.
- to identify recommendations and possible follow-up opportunities for global bioeconomy actors interested in primary producers empowerment, nature-positive solutions and value-chain cooperation.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-10 mins | Opening: From vision to action
- 10–20 mins | European practice input 1: CBE JU WGPP Action Plan
- 20–30 mins | European practice input 2: ReFarm and scaling nature-positive solutions
- 30–40 mins | Individual contribution round: Global practice cards
- 40–65 mins | Table exchange: Compare and cluster
- 65–80 mins | Participant spotlight: Global practice voices
- 80–88 mins | Moderated synthesis: What can be taken forward?
- 88–90 mins | Closing and next steps

Workshop Speakers:

- Nicoló Giacomuzzi-Moore, Executive Director; CBE JU
- Virginia Puzzolo, Head of Programme, CBE JU

- Ana Ruiz, Programme Officer, CBE JU
- Orsolya Frizon-Somogyi, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission (DG AGRI)
- May Hobeika, Policy Officer, European Commission (DG AGRI)
- Marco RUPP, Deputy Executive Director, Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC)
- John Brosnan, Chair, CBE JU Working Group on Primary Producers
- Martin Behrens, RootLinks project
- Elena Reger, RootLinks project

Beyond Invisibility: The Role of Metrics and Standards for Global Scaling-up of Sustainable and Competitive Bioeconomy Solutions

Co-organisers: International Bioeconomy Forum and The Directorate-General Research & Innovation, European Commission; Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Metrics and standards are the operational foundation of any credible bioeconomy claim. If standards for bio-based content, sustainability performance, and chain-of-custody are absent, not fit-for-purpose or not used, this can create trade barriers, undermine consumer trust, limit access to premium markets, and weaken the evidence needed to mobilize investment.

Building on the GBS 2024 workshop on monitoring, G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy, COP30 Bioeconomy Challenge Working Group on Metrics and Indicators, and organisations such as FAO and IICA, IBF-standards have been developing a framework to address this gap by linking national-level measurement with value-chain and firm-level performance. This workshop translates the HLPs and technical work into practical tools to scale implementation through a multi-stakeholder forum, connecting standards experts, value-chain actors and policy makers to identify who needs which data, for what purpose and in what form, so that metrics and standards support policy, investment decisions and practical uptake by market actors.

The session opens with high-level addresses by the two main organising institutions, i.e. the European Commission, representing the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF), and IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture). This will be followed by a joint presentation of members of the International Bioeconomy Forum's Working Group on indicators, metrics and standards providing insight in the objectives and results of their work, and presenting key findings from value chain case studies, focusing on gaps in metrics and standards.

Four expert pitches then open an interactive panel discussion, presenting the standards landscape, and 'key asks' for metrics and standards are necessary to enable scaling of bioeconomy solutions from business/market, investors, and countries' perspective. The fishbowl panel discussion, including IBF/IICA participants, engages with the auditorium to discuss required actions to fill the identified gaps.

The workshop will make explicit how metrics and standards support competitiveness by enabling market access, procurement readiness, credible sustainability claims, commercial scale-up, trade facilitation, and investment readiness for bioeconomy products.

Workshop Objectives:

- What role do bioeconomy metrics and standards have for scaling-up sustainable bioeconomy products in different countries and globally?
- How can bioeconomy metrics and standards help reduce investment risk, strengthen investor confidence, and mobilize finance for scaling up sustainable bioeconomy solutions?
- How do bioeconomy metrics and standards link to existing sustainability frameworks, in particular the 10 G20 High-Level Principles on bioeconomy?
- What metrics and standards exist that are relevant for different bioproducts and bio-based value chains within the bioeconomy and for the bioeconomy as a whole?
- Where are gaps of national, regional and international standards, and what actions are needed to fill these gaps?
- What practical approaches could help confirm and close priority gaps, including options to increase coherence across standards, and reduce duplication in data collection and verification across different standards and reporting needs?

Workshop Agenda:

- Chair welcome & introduction
- European Commission opening remarks
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) opening address
- Joint International Bioeconomy Forum presentation
- Fishbowl expert panel
- Closing remarks

Workshop Speakers:

- Adrian Leip, Co-chair of the Working Group on Indicators, Metrics and Standards for the Bioeconomy, International Bioeconomy Forum, European Commission, Directorate-General Research and Innovation
- Peter Wehrheim, Co-Chair of the International Bioeconomy Forum; Head of Unit Bioeconomy and Food Systems, Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Philipp Kaspar Graf von Bothmer (on behalf of the International Bioeconomy Forum) Co-chair of the Working Group on Indicators, Metrics and Standards for the Bioeconomy, International Bioeconomy Forum, Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR), Germany
- Guilherme Bircol (on behalf of the International Bioeconomy Forum) Program Manager Bioeconomy Challenge, NatureFinance
- Rose Omari (on behalf of the International Bioeconomy Forum) Chief Research Scientist, Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana
- Karen Montiel, Technical Specialist, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- Sacha Trelles, Technical Coordination, Representation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Costa Rica
- Ana Carolina Mendes dos Santos Environment Specialist, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA), Brazil
- Ingmar Juergens CEO, Climate & Company
- Maria Gustafsson (on behalf of the International Bioeconomy Forum) Project Manager Bioeconomy, Department of Standardisation, Swedish Institute for Standards (SIS)
- Marco Rupp, Deputy Executive Director, Bio-based Industries Consortium
- Marta Gomez San Juan Program Manager Bioeconomy, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Tilman Schachtsiek, Co-chair of the Working Group on Indicators, Metrics and Standards for the Bioeconomy, International Bioeconomy Forum; Technical

cooperation and international bioeconomy, Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity, Germany

- Valeria Piñeiro, Director of Technical Cooperation, Latin American Bioeconomy Network, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

From Innovation to Impact Financing. Scaling and Commercialising Marine-based Solutions

Co-organisers: Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM); Údarás na Gaeltachta and Nua Mara

Ireland's blue bioeconomy is emerging as a key contributor to sustainable economic development, climate action, circular resource use and resilient coastal communities. However, moving marine innovations from research to commercial success requires access to the right funding, partnerships and scaling pathways.

This workshop, organised by BIM, Marine Institute and NuaMara brings together funders, policymakers, industry leaders and innovators to showcase how Ireland is supporting the development of a thriving blue bioeconomy ecosystem. Through international perspectives, practical funding guidance and real-world commercial case studies, participants will explore how marine-based innovations are moving from research laboratories and pilot projects into global markets.

The session will highlight successful blue bioeconomy enterprises working in areas such as marine biotechnology, seaweed-based materials, circular resource utilisation, marine ingredients and environmental technologies, while examining the funding and support mechanisms that enable growth and scale.

Workshop Objectives:

Showcase Ireland's leadership and emerging opportunities in the blue bioeconomy.

- Increase awareness of funding and commercialisation supports available to marine innovators.
- Highlight successful blue bioeconomy businesses and scaling pathways.
- Connect policymakers, researchers, investors and industry around common challenges and opportunities.
- Generate actionable insights for accelerating marine-based innovation and coastal economic development.
- Foster new collaborations across Ireland and internationally.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Welcome and Setting the Scene
- 5-15 mins | Ireland's and EU Blue Bioeconomy Ecosystem: Research, Funding and Commercialisation Support
- 15-25mins | International Perspective: Scaling the Blue Bioeconomy Globally
- 25-50 mins | Lightning Case Studies: From Innovation to Market (3 x 8 mins)
    - International/Irish Case Study: Marine biotechnology & bioremediation
    - Irish Case Study 1: National supports and the route to commercial scale
    - Irish Case Study 2: Marine ingredients for health, nutrition & cosmetics- a commercial insight into business development
- 50–75 mins | Moderated Panel Discussion: What Does It Take to Scale a Blue Bioeconomy Business?
- 75–90 mins | Interactive Audience Discussion & Q&A

Workshop speakers:

- Dr Michael Gallagher, Innovation Manager, Bord Iascaigh Mhara
- Fiona Grant, Marine Institute
- Alan O'Sullivan, Founder & CEO Algamy Bioplastics
- Jennifer O'Brien, Founder & CEO Sea & Believe Ltd
- Udarás Na Gaeltachta, Enterprise Ireland, Teagasc & commercial entity

Building an Enabling Environment for Place-based Bioeconomies to Succeed

Co-organisers: Climate KIC; Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn; Schmidt Sciences; Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ), Institute of Bio- and Geosciences, Plant Sciences (IBG-2); Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN), Jaffe Policy Consulting LLC

Bioeconomy ambition is set globally, but it is realised, or stalls, at the level of a place. This 90-minute, six-table World Café brings together six different lenses on the same question: what actually creates the enabling environment for a place-based bioeconomy to succeed?

After a short framing on why regional and place-based approaches matter, participants rotate across three rounds through six facilitated tables, each grounded in a distinct body of practice:

- system transition through the Two-Loop Model of change (Climate KIC);
- regional governance and ecosystem orchestration, drawing on the Committee of the Regions' Territorial Impact Assessment work and the ERRIN network (ERRIN / European Committee of the Regions)
- the policy mechanisms that carry national and supranational bioeconomy goals down to subnational strategies, informed by the IACGB Global Bioeconomy Policy Report 2026 (ZEF/University of Bonn);
- Tools, networks and capacity-building support for regions translating strategy into delivery, drawing on the BIO2REG regionalisation concept and its macro-meso-micro governance lens (Forschungszentrum Jülich);
- cross-sectoral integration and collaboration in building regional circular bioeconomy systems, with case studies spanning Europe, North America and beyond (Schmidt Sciences); and
- hands-on implementation lessons from a live regional initiative in California's San Joaquin Valley (Jaffe Policy Consulting / BEAM Circular).

Across the three rotations, participants discuss what enables, and what blocks, the transition from strategy to grounded, lasting action. We will explore governance and coordination mechanisms, financing and de-risking instruments, skills and capacity, data and monitoring, and the community relationships that hold a regional agenda together.

The workshop closes with a short cross-table harvest, surfacing shared barriers, transferable practices and concrete next steps that participants can carry back into their own regions.

Workshop Objectives:

- Demonstrate the value of place-based bioeconomy approaches, showing how regional ecosystems are essential to translating global bioeconomy ambitions into on-the-ground impact
- Produce actionable recommendations for how regional and local authorities can be better supported by, and better integrated into, national and international bioeconomy governance frameworks, contributing to the post-Summit policy dialogue
- Exploring acceleration pathways for the implementation of circular bioeconomy solutions
- Developing communities of practice that share lessons learned from around the world to support the transition
- Connect people and organizations interested in developing regional circular bioeconomy systems across diverse geographies, advancing discussions across sectors and regions.
- Generate synergies with existing networks in regions and stakeholders and between bioeconomy regions

Workshop Agenda:

- 0–5 mins | Welcome
- 5–15 mins | Strategic Context – Importance of Regional & Place based approaches
- 15–30 mins | Table Topics Introductions
    - System transition, the 2-loop model
    - Regional Governance and Ecosystem orchestration
    - Policy Frameworks Across Levels - What Turns National Bioeconomy Goals into Subnational Strategies
    - Implementation tools, networks and capacity building
    - Integration and collaboration across sectors

    - Implementation in practice: insights and lessons learned
- 30–45 mins | World Cafe Round 1
- 45–60 mins | World Cafe Round 2
- 60–75 mins | World Cafe Round 3
- 75–90 mins | Table feedback & Conclusion

Workshop Speakers:

- Climate KIC , Denyse Julien Karen Gallagher
- ZEF/Uni Bonn , Daniel Braun, Gideon Tups
- ERRIN , Gianpiero Petruzziello, Randi Johanne Hoseth
- European Committee of the Regions , Piotr Całbecki
- Jaffe Policy Consulting , Gregory jaffe
- Beam Circular , Karen Warner
- Schmidt Sciences , Genevieve Croft
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory , Blake Simmons
- Forschungszentrum Jülich , Denise Gider, Ulrich Schurr

From Youth Priorities to Action 1: Co-creating Youth-Led Solutions for a Sustainable Bioeconomy

Co-organisers: IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions

Building on the Youth Communiqué 2024 and the Global Youth Survey on Bioeconomy, the workshop will use youth-generated evidence to identify priority themes, challenges, barriers, and response pathways needed to advance a sustainable bioeconomy. The session will present survey findings alongside video cases featuring young people and youth organisations working across regions and sectors. These cases will place the findings in concrete context and support scenario-based discussions.

Participants will engage in scenario-making and participatory 3D Modelling to examine bioeconomy futures, explore trade-offs, and identify social, environmental, economic, territorial, and governance pathways. The core of the workshop aims to foster discussion among participants on the different shapes the bioeconomy can take depending on the perspective (primary production, research, policymaking, industry…) and to create a space for brainstorming possible solutions to address barriers.

The workshop will generate practical insights, collaboration opportunities, and inputs for a follow-up youth-led document on solutions, partnerships, support, financing, and implementation. This workshop is part of a three-part youth-led series jointly developed by the IACGB BYC, WFF Youth Assembly, and EU BYA for GBS2026. Opening discussion on regional and sectoral variations will be explored further in Workshop 2, focused on regional realities and the rural bioeconomy in Europe, and Workshop 3, focused on bioeconomy in agrifood systems.

Workshop Objectives:

- Present selected findings from the Global Youth Survey on Bioeconomy as evidence of youth-identified priorities, barriers, and perceived response options across different global regions.

- Link survey findings with practical experiences through short video cases featuring young people and youth organisations engaged in bioeconomy-related initiatives across regions and sectors.
- Engage participants in scenario-making and participatory 3D Modelling to explore plausible bioeconomy futures, key trade-offs, and exploratory solution pathways from multiple stakeholder perspectives.
- Generate action-oriented ideas, collaboration opportunities, and structured inputs to inform a follow-up youth-led document focused on bioeconomy solutions, partnerships, support needs, financing, and implementation pathways.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Arrival and transition
- 5-15 mins | Welcome and framing
- 15–30 mins | Survey highlights and short video cases
- 30–35 mins | Introduction to scenarios and 3D Modelling exercise
- 35–70 mins | Small-group work: critical analysis, vision making and implementation pathways
- 70–85 mins | Plenary sharing and collective reflection
- 85–90 mins | Closing remarks and next steps

Workshop Speakers:

- The introductory framing and presentation of the survey findings will be led by the IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions.
- Facilitators from the IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions, the World Food Forum Youth Assembly, and the EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors will support the 35-minute small-group 3D Modelling exercise.

Enabling the Global Bioeconomy Through Inclusive Digital and Regulatory Pathways

Co-organisers: International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF), The Directorate-General on Research and Innovation, European Commission; Deenamic Ltd.

The workshop will examine how regulatory requirements, data governance and digital infrastructure interact as bioeconomy innovations progress from discovery towards application and market. Using two illustrative pathways for a biological resource from innovation to commercialisation, participants will explore five topics through short impulse talks spanning international treaty obligations, Digital Sequence Information and benefit sharing, substance identification and REACH considerations, data sharing and substance sameness, and downstream application-specific regulatory requirements.

The cases will demonstrate how regulatory and compliance gaps can emerge progressively across increasingly complex data and value chains and how earlier regulatory roadmapping and readiness can help reduce avoidable delays and the unnecessary orphaning of promising innovations.

Participants will then work collaboratively to identify the functional requirements of more inclusive digital and regulatory pathways. Discussion will consider governance, data provenance, robustness, security, sovereignty, interoperability and the potential for trusted digital infrastructure to support regulatory intelligence, readiness, reporting and Safe and Sustainable by Design metrics.

Outputs will be synthesised into practical recommendations and a shared vision for digital and regulatory infrastructure capable of supporting responsible innovation, inclusive participation and the scaling of the global bioeconomy, while also informing discussion on the Global Bioeconomy Goals for 2040.

Workshop Objectives:

- Present practical case studies illustrating hidden regulatory gaps that may only become evident as innovations approach market entry.

- Raise awareness of the regulatory complexity that can emerge as bioeconomy innovations progress towards application
- Foster a stronger compliance culture and critical thinking around compliance, encouraging compliance to be considered earlier in the innovation pathway to help reduce the risk of promising ideas becoming unnecessarily orphaned.
- Promote a collaborative ethos around regulatory intelligence, roadmapping, readiness and reporting across bioeconomy value chains.
- Troubleshoot key digital infrastructure considerations around governance, robustness, data provenance, sovereignty and interoperability and explore how gold-standard practices can be roadmapped to create trusted digital infrastructure capable of supporting the industry transition needed to scale the bioeconomy.
- Explore how trusted digital infrastructure can generate, aggregate and communicate metrics within Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) frameworks to better capture the impact and value of biobased materials, identify lead-market opportunities, strengthen commercial pull and create a clearer vested interest for SMEs and other actors to participate in the bioeconomy transition.
- Identify actionable mechanisms to help non-traditional biodiversity users and SMEs navigate compliance requirements, notably via digital infrastructures platforms.
- Inform further discussions on the Global Bioeconomy Goals for 2040.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-10 mins | Setting the scene
- 10–30 mins | Illustrative Pathway 1: From Microbiome & DSI to Application
- 30–60 mins | Illustrative Pathway 2: From Biobased Materials Development to Market Access
- 60-80 mins | Facilitated Discussion & Small-Group Interaction
- 80–90 mins | Synthesis & Closing Reflections

Workshop speakers:

- Louise McGrath, Deenamic Ltd
- Elena Del Pup, Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador
- Dr. Amber Hartman Scholz / national Ireland CBD contact point / Leibniz Institute DSMZ / CBD secretariat
- Dr. Thomas Lemberger / Guy Cochrane , EMBL-EBI or NCBI
- Adam Weatherley, ISME (Irish Small & Medium Enterprises)

From Bio-Based Innovation to Biomanufacturing Deployment: Bridging Barrier

Co-organisers: IBISBA; BioChem Europe; BIO4 Ltd Belgrade

An expert panel will discuss the current state of biomanufacturing for the bioeconomy. The potential for bio-based solutions to replace the pervasive use of non-sustainable fossil-derived products is widely acknowledge, yet the level of actual deployment of these solutions is quite low. This can be due to bottlenexks at the level of fundamental innovation, scaling from lab to pilot, or moving from pilot to commercial operation. This workshop will take the form of a guided panel discussion with audience engagement. A series of key questions and themes has been identified along with a panel that is well equipped to provide insights on these topics. The panel will be briefed and prepped in advance of the workshop to ensure that a tight focus on the topics is maintained. The audience will be invited to particiapte in the session through an app that will enable them submit questions and comments. These will be curated in real-time to enable some of the points and questions be put to the panel. A final conclusions section will attempt to pull together some of the key points and recommendations to facilaite a final report that can be published.

Workshop Objectives:

- Discuss the technical and non-technical barriers to large-scale deployment of biomanufacturing solutions in the bioeconomy
- Identify approaches that have been successful in promoting innovation in the life sciences or bioeconomy sectors
- Propose practical solutions and measures that will accelerate the development of the global biomanufacturing sector for the bioeconomy

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-10 mins | Introduction and Scene setting
- 10-25 mins | Part 1. The first valley of death
- 25-40 mins | Part 2. The second valley of death

- 40-55 mins | Part 3. Integration
- 55-65 mins | Conclusions

Workshop Speakers:

- Dr Michael O' Donohue, Scientific Director for Bioeconomy, INRAE, France
- Mr Shakthi Nagappan, Chair PreferCo and Life Sciences Advisor to the Governemnt of Telengana, Hyderabad, India
- Dr Siobhan Jordan, Head of Technology Transfer and Commercialisation, Teagasc Agricultural and Farm Development Authority, Ireland
- Mr Franz Kraus Head of International Public Affairs. Novamont, Belgium
- Ms Inge Arents, MD Flanders Food and Chair of The European Bioeconomy Clusters Alliance (EBCA), Belgium

Session 2: 16.00 – 17.30, 20 October 2026

The Bioeconomy as a Bridge-builder: Regional Networks Scaling Innovation into Impact

Co-organisers: Cluster SPRING – Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster; International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe); Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA); Catalonia Bioeconomy Hub (BioHubCat)

The workshop brings together relevant stakeholders coming from different world countries and regions to discuss the role played by the bioeconomy in building international collaboration and facilitating industrial and academic partnerships. In this frame will be deepened the role of networks (associations, clusters, etc.) in bridging the gap between innovation and large-scale implementation. Clusters are organizations that represent different value chains from academia to industries and are an effective tool to face common challenges such as financing, access to markets, policy and regulation, territorial implementation and regeneration. The relationship between these organizations and the local, national and international institutions is pivotal to make the bioeconomy happen.

Workshop Objectives:

- Bring together bioeconomy stakeholders from different countries with specific knowledge and expertise in bioeconomy policies
- Share good and best practices to learn from each other
- Deepen specific topics such as scale-up, investment, regulatory framework, markets.
- Highlight the role played by networks specifically focused on bioeconomy

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Welcome and framing
- 5-30 mins | Roundtable 1: Regions connecting regions: networks and innovation clusters as infrastructure for deployment
- 30-55 mins | Roundtable 2: Connecting governance levels: policy, regulation, markets and investment readiness

- 55-75 mins | Audience bridge-building exercise
- 75-85 mins | Synthesis and next steps
- 85-90 mins | Closing remarks

Workshop speakers:

- Mario Bonaccorso, SPRING, Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster
- Víctor Falguera, Catalonia Bioeconomy Hub, BioHubCat
- Stephen Napier, Irish Bioeconomy Foundation
- Francis X. Johnson, Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI Asia
- Gregory Jaffe, former United States Department of Agriculture
- Julius Ecuru, BioInnovate Africa / icipe
- Cristina Massot, Secretary-General, Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, Government of Catalonia
- Peter Wehrheim, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Shaukat Abdulrazak, State Department of Science, Research and Innovation of Kenya
- Hugo Chavarría, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) / Latin American Bioeconomy Network
- Peter Minang, Landscape Alliance's Director for Africa
- Inge Arents, Managing Director of Flanders'Food and spokesperson European Bioeconomy Clusters Alliance

From Evidence to Policy: Enabling Competitive Integrated Biorefineries

Co-organisers: International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF) Biorefineries Working Group; International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research (ICABR); King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Bangkok, Thailand

Integrated biorefineries serve as platforms for transforming biomass into a diversified portfolio of bio-based products, while contributing to resource efficiency, rural development, industrial competitiveness and the green transition. Yet moving from promising research and pilot-scale solutions to viable, sustainable and competitive value chains require more than technological innovation.

This workshop will bring together international experts and practitioners to explore how evidence, policy, entrepreneurship, finance and cross-sector partnerships can enable the development and deployment of integrated biorefineries. Drawing on perspectives and case studies from Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, the discussion will examine policy and regulatory frameworks, support for SMEs and entrepreneurship, rural and community-scale biorefineries, industrial relevance and commercialisation, as well as metrics and financing.

The workshop will identify key enabling conditions, challenges and opportunities for scaling biorefinery solutions and translating research and innovation into market uptake. It will also consider how international cooperation and the G20 High-level Principles on Bioeconomy can support more coherent approaches to sustainable and competitive biorefinery development.

Workshop Objectives:

- Strengthen the role of evidence in policy and decision-making for biorefineries: Explore how scientific and empirical evidence can inform effective policy and regulatory frameworks that support sustainable biorefinery development while addressing environmental, economic and social considerations.
- Enable entrepreneurship and SME participation in biorefinery value chains: Identify
- policy, financial and market conditions that can help SMEs and entrepreneurs develop, scale and commercialise innovative bio-based products and business models.

- Support sustainable and competitive rural biorefineries: Examine how rural and community-scale biorefineries can contribute to local value creation, resource efficiency and inclusive development, and identify the conditions needed to move from local solutions towards viable and scalable value chains.
- Strengthen international collaboration and financing for biorefinery deployment: Explore how international partnerships, knowledge exchange and innovative financing approaches can help overcome barriers to investment, scaling and commercialisation, particularly across different regional and economic contexts.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-3 mins | Welcome and introduction
- 3-8 mins | Introduction of the topic and setting the scene
- 8–13 mins | Importance of evidence-based policy
- 13–18 mins | Global highlight on entrepreneurship
- 18–23 mins | Case study on rural biorefineries & SME support
- 23–28 mins | Case studies on biofuels and policy perspectives in ASEAN
- 28–33 mins | Global collaboration to ensure industrial relevance and speed up
- commercialisation
- 33-38 mins | Importance of metrics for bioeconomy financing
- 38-41 mins | Perspectives on integrated biorefineries
- 41-44 mins | Southeast Asia: biorefinery perspectives
- 44-69 mins | Moderated Panel Discussion
- 69-84 mins | Engagement with the panel
- 84-87 mins | Concluding Remarks
- 87-90 mins | Wrap-up and Summary of the Discussion

Workshop Speakers:

- Mr Nicolo' Giacommuzzi-Moore, Executive Director: Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBEJU), Belgium,
- Prof Lene Lange, Director: Bioeconomy, Research and Advisory, Denmark

- Dr Viren Chunilall, Research Group Leader: Biorefinery Industry Development Facility, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa, Member of the International Bioeconomy Forum, Biorefineries Working Group
- Dr Warinthorn Songkasiri, Joint Graduate School of Energy and Environment, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand
- Prof Stuart Smyth, President of ICABR, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- Dr Regina Birner, Head: Department of Social and Institutional Change, Dean: Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Hohenheim, Germany
- Ms Rebecca Groen, CEO: Komercon, Director: Mission Innovation Integrated Biorefineries, Netherlands
- Dr Khemmathin Lueangwattanapong, Kasetsart University, ASEAN Cassava Centre, Thailand
- Ms Nanna Koefoed, European Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador

From Resource to Value: Scaling a Circular and Resource-efficient Bioeconomy

Co-organisers: PEFC International; Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gGmbH (DBFZ); Teagasc – the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

Scaling the bioeconomy will increase demand for renewable biological resources. Ensuring that this growth is sustainable therefore depends not only on which resources are used, but also on how efficiently they are used, how long their value is retained, and how material, carbon, nutrient, environmental and economic value can be maintained across successive uses and sectors. Scaling the bioeconomy may also increase disparities across regions and between high and low income countries, considerations for a just transition need also to be developed.
The workshop brings together practical perspectives from forest-based construction, cascading biomass use, biofertilisers and circular nutrient systems. These examples span different sectors of the bioeconomy that share a common challenge: valuable resources and opportunities are often lost because policy, markets, finance, infrastructure and governance systems are not sufficiently aligned.
The workshop will also explore the concept of efficient cascading use. There is no single universally applicable hierarchy of biomass uses. Different pathways reflect different environmental, economic, social and resource-efficiency objectives, as well as regional circumstances and policy priorities. Participants will therefore examine how better resource-use pathways can be identified, where trade-offs arise, and how policy can support more efficient and circular outcomes without imposing unnecessarily rigid hierarchies.

Workshop objectives:

- identify where biological resources and associated material, carbon, nutrient and economic value are currently lost or under-utilised across different bioeconomy systems and/or value chains;
- identify recurring policy, market, finance, technology, infrastructure and governance barriers that prevent more efficient and circular use; and how policy frameworks and market mechanisms can support desirable resource-use pathways while recognising regional differences and avoiding overly rigid hierarchies

- examine how different environmental, economic, social and resource-efficiency objectives influence decisions about cascading and resource allocation, and how policy frameworks and market mechanisms can support desirable resource-use pathways while recognising regional differences and avoiding overly rigid hierarchies
- identify opportunities for stronger cross-sector linkages and for retaining value across successive uses of biological resources;
- identify practical interventions that could realistically improve resource efficiency and circularity over the next two to three years; anddistill these into a small number of emerging priorities for participating initiatives and wider bioeconomy policy discussions.

Workshop agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Opening story and workshop framing
- 5-10 mins | FAO framing: Forests and forest products in the bioeconomy
- 10-30 mins | Five short provocations
- 30-42 mins | Moderated discussion: What does better use actually mean?
- 42-70 mins | Participant workshop: Finding the waste and leaks of value
- 70-82 mins | Harvest and contributor responses
- 82-90 mins | Synthesis and emerging priorities

Workshop speakers:

- Thorsten Arndt, PEFC International, Moderator
- Sven Walter, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Rick Fox, University of California, Berkeley
- Paul King, Built by Nature
- Wiebke Wedekind, DBFZ
- Kerstin Wilde, DBFZ
- Patrick Forrestal, Teagasc

Forests in the Bioeconomy: Building Integrated Pathways Across Sectors and Regions

Co-organisers: European Forest Institute (EFI); International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF): Forest Bioeconomy WG; Teagasc – the Agriculture and Food Development Authority; Eco-Innovation Foundation (EIF), Sweden; Thai-Nordic Innovation Unit, Thailand

Forests play a central role in the bioeconomy by providing wood, non-wood forest products, and ecosystem services, while contributing to climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, resilience, and economic development. Yet this potential remains constrained by fragmentation across sectors, limited public understanding of sustainable forest management, and slow uptake of new approaches. Strengthened outreach, research and innovation, supported by effective demonstration and knowledge transfer, are therefore essential to accelerate development and implementation of sustainable forest bioeconomy solutions.

Key sectors such as construction, textiles, energy, and land-use planning all depend on the same forest resource base, but operate under different incentives, policy frameworks, and time horizons. This also extends to emerging cross-sectoral bioeconomy applications and value chains in food, medicine, cosmetics, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, tourism, and water management, among others.

The workshop will present innovative forest-based bioeconomy approaches, highlighting their potential to create jobs, support rural and regional development, provide livelihood options and foster new green industries. Through practical examples and cross-sector dialogue, the workshop will explore how multi-actor collaboration, knowledge exchange and R&I can help move forest-based innovation from promising solutions to implementation at scale. It will enable the identification of key synergies, trade-offs, safeguards and enabling conditions, and generate a concise set of actionable priorities for policy, research and innovation, investment, markets and cross-sector cooperation, providing an actionable framework towards the development of forest-based bioeconomy worldwide.

Workshop Objectives:

- To bring forestry and non-forestry actors into a structured cross-sectoral and -regional dialogue to identify shared challenges across the bioeconomy, understand where and how coordinated action creates additional value, and explore how the forest sector can both offer value and learn from other sectors.
- To generate a concise set of actionable policy, and partnership-relevant messages. It will examine where forests can contribute most, where resource limits and competing demands require explicit choices, and how climate and biodiversity considerations shape those choices.
- To identify the governance, research and innovation, investment, procurement and partnership changes needed to move sustainable forest-based solutions from innovation to implementation at scale and strengthen integrated bioeconomy pathways across sectors and regions.
- To explore the contribution of forests and forest-based solutions to crossectoral challenges, identify key barriers to their sustainable uptake and scaling, and discuss the governance, investment, R&I, market and partnership conditions needed to accelerate implementation.
- It will also consider trade-offs and the implications of climate and biodiversity objectives for the sustainable use of forest resources.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-10 mins | Welcome & Introduction to workshop objectives
- 10-25 mins | Three impulse /provocation presentations
- 25-65 mins | Fishbowl discussion
- 65-75 mins | Insights discussions
- 75-85 mins | Reflection and validation Synthesis Lead
- 85-90 mins | Close

Workshop Speakers:

- Lucy Amissah, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana / member of IBF, Ghana

- Foo Yeow, Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation /member of IBF Malaysia
- Norman Dlamini, Forestry South Africa, Small-scale Grower Group
- TBC member of IBF, South Africa
- Kati Merruntaus, EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador
- Mandar Trivedi, Partnerships for Forests (P4F)
- Sven Walter, FAO

From Food Waste to Circular Bioeconomy: Aligning Policy, Research and Industry

Co-organisers: Wastewise & Folou Horizon Europe projects; Biomatec (Costa Rica); Technological University of the Shannon (TUS)

Food processing generates substantial food waste and residual biomass streams, many of which remain underutilised. At the same time, significant data gaps and limited industry engagement constrain both accurate measurement and the development and scaling of effective reduction and valorisation strategies.

This interactive workshop will explore practical pathways for addressing food waste, from improved measurement and prevention to the valorisation of unavoidable and residual streams into higher-value ingredients, materials, energy carriers and other bio-based products. It will examine the technical potential alongside real-world regulatory, economic, operational and infrastructure constraints.

Bringing together industry, research and policy perspectives, the workshop will explore how policy frameworks and research approaches can better engage companies in sharing data, testing solutions and co-developing scalable practices. Drawing on insights from WASTEWISE, FOLOU and complementary research on valorisation pathways, participants will identify actionable strategies to strengthen research–industry collaboration and better align innovation, policy frameworks and industrial practice within a circular bioeconomy.

Workshop Objectives:

- Build a shared understanding of food loss and waste streams, with particular attention to the food processing sector, existing data gaps, current management practices, and opportunities for prevention and valorisation.
- Showcase realistic reduction and valorisation pathways, drawing on research and industry experience to identify what is technically, economically, and operationally achievable.
- Identify regulatory, economic, organisational, and scale-up barriers affecting the implementation of food waste reduction and valorisation solutions at company level.

- Explore policy instruments and incentives that can effectively support companies in measuring and reducing food waste and adopting circular bioeconomy solutions.
- Identify strategies to strengthen industry–research collaboration, including company engagement in data sharing, knowledge exchange, testing, and co-development of solutions.
- Co-develop practical recommendations to better align research, policy frameworks, and business needs and support the translation of knowledge and innovation into practice.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-15 mins | Introduction
- 15-20 mins | The Point of View of the EU Commission
- 20-60 min | Panel talk with businesses
- 60-90 mins | Fishbowl – Open to all participants
- Throughout the event, Padlet and Mentimeter will encourage the interaction with the public

Workshop speakers:

- Maria Teresa Borzacchiello, JRC of the EU Commission
- Laudia Giordano, Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
- Lena Madden, Technological University of the Shannon
- Peter Mooney, Dawn Meats
- Cliodhna Griffin, BIM
- Michael McEniry, Nephin Renewable Energy
- Luis Urvina, Biomatech

From Youth Priorities to Action 2: European Rural Youth as Drivers of Inclusive Global Bioeconomy Transition

Co-organisers: EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors

The workshop focuses on regional bioeconomy development in rural Europe and on the role of youth in the transition process, both as direct beneficiaries and as a driver triggering regional bioeconomy development.

The session opens with presentations of regional bioeconomy success stories across EU regions. The structural characteristics of these regions, together with the evidence needed to give the audience a more holistic picture of the potential reasons behind their success, as well as the role of regional bioeconomy and place-based development, are presented and discussed. A multi-criteria assessment (MCA) framework is then introduced to identify underperforming regions that hold bioeconomy potential and share similar characteristics with the success cases presented.

Participants subsequently work in small groups, using the World Café format, to identify the parameters underlying the success cases, to determine which enabling conditions (governance models, farmer organisations, access to finance, innovation ecosystems, education pathways) are genuinely transferable, and to distinguish barriers that are structural from those that are contingent.

By the end of the session, the workshop is able to establish what occurred in each case and whether it is replicable. The results of the World Café are presented by the group facilitators through mindmapping, visualising the outcomes of each group, and a live synthesis consolidates the discussion into a set of youth-driven recommendations.

The outputs feed into a consolidated youth contribution to GBS2026, alongside the other two workshops in the series.

Workshop Objectives:

- Promotion of the role of rural youth in place-based bioeconomy development and their significance in terms of intergenerational justice and the viability of EU regions

- Identification of the enabling parameters of successful regional bioeconomy development
- Analysis of structural barriers, gaps and limitations to regional bioeconomy transitions, as well as of replicability potential and lessons learnt from best-performing regions
- Facilitation of the co-creation of transferable solutions, including policy recommendations and local actions

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-8 mins | Stage 1 - Introduction: Welcome, explanation of workshop rationale, methodology and expected outcomes, and introduction of the speakers
- 8-23 mins | Stage 2 - Case Studies: Presentation of selected successful regional bioeconomy cases from across the EU
- 23-50 mins | Stage 3 - Analysis: Regional transformation through bioeconomy development and the role of youth; funding and activities addressing biomass flows, hubs and industrial symbiosis; presentation of the multi-criteria assessment (MCA) framework and of the identified high-potential underperforming regions
- 50-70 mins | Stage 4 - World Café: Participants work in small groups to address a structured set of guiding questions
- 70-85 mins | Stage 5 - Mind Mapping & Synthesis: Facilitators present their group's findings using mind-mapping, followed by a plenary discussion
- 85-90 mins | Stage 6 - Concluding Remarks: Key takeaways, recommendations and next steps

Workshop Speakers:

- Panagiotis Koronaios, EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador, PhD candidate, Panteion University
- Denise Gider, BIO2REG Coordinator and Transformation Manager, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany
- Wim Haentjens, Head of Sector for Bioeconomy, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

- Lucie de Seguins Pazzis, EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador
- Nanna Koefoed, EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassador
- Gisell Burgos, International Projects and Development Officer, CMQ Bioeco Academy
- Daragh Cogley, BiOrbic
- Liza Vernyuy Kengran, IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champion
- Nina Adams, Youth Assembly Secretariat (Thematic Policy), World Food Forum Office of Youth and Women, FAO

The Global Bioeconomy Innovation Sprint

Co-organisers: ARISE Project at Technological University (TU) Dublin

This interactive 90-minute workshop explores how agri-food bioeconomy innovations progress from real sector challenges to scalable, real-world application, engaging ~80 participants including delegates, mentors, organisers and judges.

6 cross-disciplinary teams will address global challenges across: Meat, Poultry & Seafood; Dairy; Grains & Cereals; Fruits & Vegetables; Oils, Fats, Sugar & Sweeteners; and Brewing & Distilling. Challenges will span sustainability, functionality, shelf life, safety and productivity, and solutions will be developed with Irish and international stakeholders, EIT Food regional partners and the Co-Centre UK & Ireland network. Delegates will submit a pre-workshop expression of interest outlining their expertise, organisational type and preferred challenge area, enabling balanced teams spanning industry, research, NGO/civil society and policy. Selected delegates will receive their challenge in advance and will be required to prepare an initial solution, including how it could move towards real-world application. At the workshop, participants will briefly present their idea to their team, which will then select one concept or combine elements from several ideas to take forward. Teams will brainstorm to further develop their chosen concept using a structured innovation framework, exploring the proposed solution and what is innovative about it, and the pathway from concept to real-world application through science, sustainability, regulation, commercial potential and scale-up. The framework will also ask teams to consider the bioeconomy value of their solution, including circularity, sustainable and resilient use of biological resources, and the wider value the solution could create. Teams will then share their developing concept with another team for feedback before refining it for the final pitch Each team will then pitch its proposed solution and pathway to a 5-person panel of industry and bioeconomy experts. Concepts will be evaluated against criteria aligned with the same framework used by the teams, including innovation, scientific and technical credibility, bioeconomy and sustainability value, regulatory and commercial potential, and pathway to application and scale.

The workshop will produce six bioeconomy concepts while also giving participants the opportunity to work with people from different disciplines, sectors and countries and make connections that could continue beyond the Summit.

Workshop Objectives:

- Give delegates a practical framework to take a bioeconomy innovation from concept towards real-world application, considering science, sustainability, regulation, commercial potential and scale-up.
- Bring together industry, researchers, NGOs/civil society, policymakers and innovators from Irish and international backgrounds to work on real challenges across six agri-food sectors.
- Push teams beyond initial ideas to develop and test potential solutions, looking at what is innovative, the bioeconomy value they create, who would use or adopt them, and what would be needed to bring them to market or implementation.
- Produce six worked-up bioeconomy concepts with clear next steps, and identify opportunities for further development, partnerships and collaboration beyond the Summit.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0–5 mins | Welcome, bioeconomy context and workshop introduction
- 5–20 min | Participant idea presentations and selection of team concept
- 20–50 mins | Team concept development using the Bioeconomy Innovation Sprint framework
- 50-58 mins | Peer feedback and final concept refinement
- 58–86 mins | Final team pitches and live judging
- 86-90 mins | Winning concept and workshop close

Workshop Speakers:

- Dr. Dympna O'Sullivan, Vice President of Research & Innovation, TU Dublin
- Ms Paula Hafner Salina, Head of Ecosystem Impact at EIT Food
- **Ms Zelai Ambrosio, Ecosystem Manager, EIT Food South**

Supercharging a Nature-positive Blue Bioeconomy

Co-organisers: Trinity College Dublin (Trinity Business School and Trinity School of Natural Sciences)

The EU Bioeconomy Strategy highlights that scaling bio-based technologies remains highly capital-intensive and risky. Many start-ups struggle to survive two critical "Valleys of Death": the Viability Gap between demonstration and first commercial production, and the Industrial Scale Gap, where companies transition from market entry to full industrial-scale production. For bioeconomy enterprises seeking to balance profitability with environmental and social impact, attracting private investment is particularly challenging.

This session will examine the importance and potential of nature-positive bioeconomy businesses, while addressing the barriers they face in securing finance for growth and scaling. A special emphasis will be placed on the blue bioeconomy, an area of major opportunity for Ireland given its extensive marine territory within the EU. Drawing on global and Irish examples, the discussion will explore financing pathways for sustainably scaling marine resources.

Workshop Objectives:

Supported by the EU Horizon project GoNaturePositive! and their pilot in Ireland, this workshop aims to unlock knowledge and insights from around the world to address key financing challenges hindering the scale-up of the nature-positive bioeconomy, with a specific focus on the blue bioeconomy.

Specific objectives include:

- Highlighting both the importance, and the potential, of nature-positive bioeconomy business development
- Identifying the challenges faced in unlocking finance to scale and grow these businesses
- Sharing novel financing solutions from Ireland, UK and beyond Europe and exploring their potential for uptake in Ireland
- Identifying the mechanisms and supports needed to scale such solutions

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-10 mins | Introduction & setting the scene
- 10-50 mins | Panel session
- 50-85 mins | Modified Fishbowl
- 85-90 mins | Session close & next steps

Workshop Speakers:

- Brian Tsuyoshi Takeda, Japanese-Canadian entrepreneur and environmental innovator
- Gareth Murphy, Managing Director, Óir na Farraige
- Kevin Flowers, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation, B.1 Green Transitions
- George Birch, founder of Oyster Heaven
- Jess Giannoumis, Aquatech Community Manager @ Hatch Blue
- Jasmine Hyman, Global Lead for Amazon's

Session 3: 11.00 – 12.30, 21 October 2026

Global Best Practices for Skills Development and Collaboration in University Bioeconomy Education

Co-organisers: European Bioeconomy University (EBU); University of California, Berkeley; Wageningen University & Research (WUR)

This workshop will provide a platform for an exchange on best practices in bioeconomy education. University educators from around the world are invited along with teachers and trainees keen to learn about the subject, enterprises, officials and policymakers and organisations interested in voicing their skills needs and finally 'end users' of education, including Bioeconomy Youth Champions.

The primary workshop objective is to share experiences of bioeconomy curriculum development and of best practice examples for educational formats for training both bioeconomy experts and teachers and to consider how bioeconomy curriculum development can best meet the needs of global bioeconomy initiatives and stakeholders. Ultimately, the aim is to leverage these shared best practices to promote education collaboration at the global level. The workshop format includes three keynotes and moderated parallel co-creative workshops discussing curricula for training inter- and transdisciplinarity, entrepreneurship and teaching as well as education needs for global bioeconomy initiatives.

Workshop Objectives:

The objective is to bring together Universities (all levels of University education) from all over the world with relevant stakeholders to exchange on needs and best practices of bioeconomy education and curricula development and to start global network activities. This shall result in a global report on best practices and guidelines for developing bioeconomy curricula as well as practical tools for best practices in bioeconomy education that participants can apply in their own institutional contexts.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-25 mins | Keynote addresses

  - Global overview on University bioeconomy education programs and formats
  - Shaping Bioeconomy Education: Building Capacity Across Education Systems
  - Education and research needs of the global bioeconomy Initiatives.
- 25-70 mins | The 3 moderated Workshops
  - How should the curriculum be designed to adequately address both the inter- and transdisciplinarity and the need for transformative skills in the bioeconomy?
  - How should the curriculum be designed for educating entrepreneurs and/or industry representatives transitioning from fossil-based to bio-based business models and how can collaboration between universities and industry support this?
  - How should curricula be designed to support teachers at primary, secondary and higher education levels in delivering bioeconomy education?
- 70-90 mins | Final session - workshop moderators will report on the workshop outcomes and next steps on global cooperation activities will be agreed.

Workshop Speakers:

- Marine Godaux, AgroParisTech, France
- Iris Lewandowski, EBU / University of Hohenheim, Germany
- Máire Nic an Bhaird, BEST / Maynooth University, Ireland
- David Zilberman, UC Berkeley
- Davide Viaggi, University of Bologna (Italy)
- Sub-workshop moderators and reporters: Denis Dobrynin and Teppo Hujala, University of Eastern Finland (Finland); Luise Trindade, Wageningen University (The Netherlands); George Sakkelaris (BIOEAST); Leanne Seeliger, Stellenbosch University (Republic of South Africa); Herrick Fox, University of California, Berkeley (US); Bernhard Koch, BOKU (Austria); Thomas Rewe, Pwani University (Kenya); Jamie Murray, Daragh Cogley, Aisling Uí Fhloinn, Sakshi Anand, Conor Haugh, BEST network and BiOrbic (Ireland); Benoit Gabrielle, Agro Paris Tech(France).

Bioeconomy: Closing the scale-up gap between global frameworks and the ground level

Co-organisers: Bioeconomy Challenge; NatureFinance; University College Dublin (UCD)

Scaling the bioeconomy requires action at every level, from enterprise models to global policy. This workshop connects both: the Bioeconomy Challenge convenes international organisations tackling systemic barriers, while the African Bioeconomy Finance Hub (ABFH) drives continental-scale solutions to mobilize capital and align stakeholders and the TRANSFORM project contribute more nuanced and locally oriented solutions. The session opens with a stocktake of progress under the Bioeconomy Challenge. A fireside chat then brings together the experiences of the ABFH and TRANSFORM, illustrating models that are being developed and could be replicated. Participants then work in groups to identify persistent barriers and draft practical recommendations. Outputs feed directly into the Bioeconomy Challenge, the ABFH investment pipeline and TRANSFORM's replication strategy, so the discussion translates into follow-up rather than ending in the room

The workshop addresses the gap between global commitments to the bioeconomy and the conditions needed to scale viable enterprises and community initiatives. Despite growing policy attention, projects face fragmented regulation, limited early-stage and project-preparation finance, uncertain demand, inconsistent measurement and difficulties retaining value in producing communities. These barriers also create a mismatch between how enterprises describe their projects and how financiers and buyers assess them.

The 90-minute session connects the Bioeconomy Challenge's global work with the African Bioeconomy Finance Hub's continental perspective and TRANSFORM's local experience. A first-year stocktake is followed by an inverted fireside chat, in which ground-level experiences open the discussion. European, African and Latin American perspectives help distinguish shared structural barriers from conditions specific to a place.

Participants then self-select into four facilitated groups: metrics and indicators; financial mechanisms; market development and trade; and sociobioeconomy. Each group answers a guiding question and records practical recommendations. A visual plenary synthesis identifies common priorities, regional differences and routes for follow-up through

the three initiatives. The intended audience brings together policymakers, financiers, buyers, enterprises, researchers and community organisations.

Workshop Objectives:

- Review progress. Take stock of the Bioeconomy Challenge's first year across its four working areas and bring implementation evidence from outside existing networks into that work.
- Diagnose the scale-up gap. Compare TRANSFORM and African experience, informed by Latin American perspectives, to distinguish local constraints from recurring structural, policy and regulatory barriers.
- Identify transferable solutions. Assess which financing instruments and design features can be replicated across regions, and the enabling conditions and adaptations each requires.
- Improve mutual understanding. Clarify the evidence, risk language and market conditions that financiers and buyers need, while examining how communities can retain and verify value.
- Produce actionable outputs. Create four recorded group boards, a consolidated barrier map and practical recommendations for the Bioeconomy Challenge Working Groups, ABFH investment pipeline and TRANSFORM replication strategy.
- Intended outcomes: Develop an indicative view of investor and buyer appetite; build South–South and North–South working relationships; and contribute implementation evidence to the global bioeconomy agenda, including discussions leading into COP31. Group recordings and a written synthesis are intended for open publication.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0–5 mins | Opening and keynote - Julie McCarthy frames the scale-up gap, the four themes and the expected outputs.
- 05–25 mins | Where the global work stands - Bioeconomy Challenge first-year stocktake, anchored in the G20 High-Level Principles; four concise thematic inputs and regional perspectives.

- 25–45 mins | Fireside chat - TRANSFORM and ABFH ground-level experiences open the exchange, moderated discussion tests barriers and potential replication.
- 45–75 mins | Four working groups - Self-selection, facilitated discussion and prioritisation using a shared recording board.
- 75–87 mins | Visual synthesis - Four two-minute group reports, followed by four minutes comparing common priorities and regional differences.
- 87–90 mins | Close and follow-up - Confirm where outputs go and how participants can remain connected to the three initiatives.

Workshop Speakers:

- Julie McCarthy (TBC), Bioeconomy Challenge Secretariat
- TRANSFORM representative 1 (TBC)
- TRANSFORM representative 2 (TBC),
- ABFH representative 1 (TBC), African Bioeconomy Finance Hub
- ABFH representative 2 (TBC), African Bioeconomy Finance Hub
- Marta Gomez (TBC), FAO
- Verónica Gálmez (TBC), IDB
- Chantal Line Carpentier (TBC), UNCTAD
- Joana Oliveira (TBC), WRI

People and Biodiversity at the Heart of the Bioeconomy: From Local Territories to Global Impact

Co-organisers: WRI Brasil, the Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy; Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation | Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa); The Nature Conservancy (TNC); The Natural Chemotherapeutics Research Institute (NCRI) (Uganda)

How can bioeconomy center people and biodiversity, generating prosperity while sustaining ecosystems and livelihoods? What can diverse territorial experiences teach us about advancing socio-bioeconomy globally?

This workshop brings together experiences from Uganda, Colombia, and Brazil to explore how community-led approaches can turn biodiversity, traditional and scientific knowledge, and territorial governance into inclusive economic opportunities while conserving ecosystems. Cases will highlight access and benefit sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge with Batwa communities in Uganda, long-term forest-based value creation in Colombia, and women-led socio-biodiversity value chains in the Brazilian Amazon.

Through short presentations and facilitated discussion, participants will explore what enables these approaches to create local value, strengthen the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and People of African Descent (IPLCPAF), and inform policy, finance, and markets. The discussion will also consider their contribution to a global understanding of socio-bioeconomy and debates on climate action, nature, women empowerment and territorial development.

This interactive workshop brings together territorial experiences from Uganda, Colombia, and Brazil to explore what makes bioeconomy more inclusive and grounded in people, biodiversity and local livelihoods. Through short case presentations, territorial voices and small-group discussions, participants will identify shared principles, enabling conditions and challenges, and translate these lessons into key messages for a broader global vision of socio-bioeconomy.

Workshop Objectives:

- Explore how bioeconomy can put people and biodiversity at its center, generating local prosperity while sustaining ecosystems and livelihoods.

- Identify common principles and enabling conditions across diverse territorial experiences of socio-bioeconomy.
- Exchange lessons on how rights, traditional and scientific knowledge, gender, equitable benefit-sharing and local value creation can contribute to more inclusive bioeconomy approaches.
- Translate territorial experiences into key messages and priorities for a broader global understanding of socio-bioeconomy, contributing to debates on climate action, nature, women's empowerment and territorial development.

The session will combine short territorial case presentations with facilitated cross-learning. Rather than discussing each experience separately, participants will use the cases as a starting point to identify connections, differences, and lessons across contexts. The discussion will be structured around a set of principles and enabling conditions, with participants working in small thematic groups before coming back together to identify key messages and shared priorities that can contribute to a broader, more inclusive vision of the bioeconomy and inform global debates and future action.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-10 mins | Opening: Setting the conversation, from local to global
- 10-35 mins| Territorial experiences, incl.. short presentations (5–7 min each)
- 35-70 mins | Thematic roundtables: What makes a bioeconomy more inclusive?
- 70-85 mins | From territorial lessons to global messages
- 85-90 mins | Closing: From principles to action — 5 min

Workshop Speakers:

- Joana Oliveira de Oliveira, WRI Brasil and Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy
- Francis Omujal, Uganda
- Sonia Pardo, TNC, Colombia
- Short video featuring different perspectives and bioeconomy models: Indigenous Bioeconomy Initiative in Caquetá, Wild Cacay Forest Economy
- Kary-O, Departmental Committee of Amazon Fruits Guaviare, Colombia

- Julia Franco Stuchi, Embrapa, Brazil
- Territorial voice: Short video featuring Quilombola communities in Pará

From Feedstock to Market: Building the Value Chain for a Competitive Bioeconomy

Co-organisers: Avantium; Munster Technological University (MTU); Novamont; Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy; Renewable Gas Forum of Ireland (RGFI)

This workshop will explore how sustainable biomass can be scaled into competitive, circular bioeconomy value chains that support rural development and industrial decarbonisation, identifying the policies, finance, infrastructure, markets and partnerships needed from feedstock to end-of-life.

Scaling the bioeconomy is a shared challenge for many countries. This workshop will explore how sustainable biomass from agricultural, marginal and repurposed land can support strategic autonomy, rural development and industrial decarbonisation, provided the right enabling conditions are in place. Moving from feedstock to market requires enabling policies, sustainability standards, infrastructure, finance, demand creation, social acceptance and inclusion, and strong value-chain partnerships that can transform biomass into viable alternatives to fossil-based fertilisers, textiles, materials, and other high-value products. By addressing both environmental and socio-economic outcomes, the transition can create sustainable jobs, strengthen rural communities, and ensure that the benefits of the bioeconomy are shared across society. Drawing on case studies in anaerobic digestion, nutrient recovery, wool, bio-based and biodegradable materials, and the use of marginal lands, with examples from both the Global North and Global South, participants will discuss how promising projects can scale and reach commercially viable markets. The session will take a full lifecycle approach, stressing what is needed to build a competitive bioeconomy from sourcing feedstock to the end of the life of the final product. The workshop will identify practical measures to build circular, competitive and integrated bioeconomy value chains.

The workshop is structured around one central question: How can a diverse and rapidly evolving bioeconomy move from science and pilots to commercial scale? The opening keynote establishes the common science-to-scale challenge, after which five case studies demonstrate how it plays out across different feedstocks, technologies, markets and end-of-life pathways.

The moderated discussion and breakouts then deliver the workshop's three objectives: understand why value chains require tailored approaches; identify the enabling conditions needed from sustainable sourcing through market deployment and end-of-life; and convert the evidence into practical recommendations. The breakout themes—Feedstock, Fertilisers, and End-of-life—correspond directly to the questions and outputs set out in the agenda. Each group will report one headline message, the principal barriers and enabling conditions, and two to three priority actions. The closing synthesis will consolidate these outputs into recommendations for governments, regulators, industry and value-chain partners to support competitive, circular and integrated bioeconomy value chains.

Workshop Objectives:

The workshop aims to answer: How can a diverse and rapidly evolving bioeconomy move from science and pilots to commercial scale?

By the end of the session, participants will have:

- Understood the diversity of bioeconomy value chains and why different feedstocks, technologies and markets require tailored policy, infrastructure and commercial approaches.
- Identified the principal barriers and enabling conditions for scale across sustainable sourcing, innovation, regulation, standards, infrastructure, finance, market demand, social acceptance and end-of-life management.
- Developed practical recommendations for governments, regulators, industry and value-chain partners, including two to three priority actions for each breakout theme.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0–2 mins | Welcome and framing
- 2–10 mins | Keynote: From science to scale—the missing link in the bioeconomy
- 10–18 mins | Case study 1: Feedstock from marginal lands
- 18–26 mins | Case study 2: Wool as a circular bioresource
- 26–34 mins | Case study 3: Biodegradable materials and end-of-life
- 34–42 mins | Case study 4: Bio-based polymers and market scale-up

- 42–50 mins | Case study 5: Biomethane and nutrient recovery
- 50–58 mins | Moderated Q&A and synthesis — Speakers identify common and value-chain-specific barriers, linking the evidence to the breakout questions.
- 58–76 mins | Breakout discussions — Groups address Feedstock, Fertilisers and Energy, or End-of-life and agree one headline message, key enabling conditions, principal barriers and two to three priority actions.
- 76–86 mins | Report-back — Each group presents its headline message and recommendations.
- 86–90 mins | Closing synthesis — The moderator consolidates the findings into practical next steps for competitive, circular and integrated bioeconomy value chains.

Workshop Speakers:

- Floris Hoffmann, Avantium
- Tara McCarthy, keynote speaker (TBC)
- Hyunjin Park, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB)
- Philipp Grundmann, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy (ATB)
- Michael Noctor, Munster Technological University (MTU)
- Robert Shine, SAMCO, Ireland
- Ingrid Goumans, Avantium
- Nick Bennett, Renewable Gas Forum Ireland (RGFI)

The Global Bioeconomy in Times of Poly Crisis : Navigating Interdependencies and Trade-offs while insuring a just and inclusive transition

Co-organisers: Standing Committee on Agricultural Research(SCAR), Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group; Irish EPA Research funded project JusTACE (Circular Bioeconomy Research Group at Munster Technological University (MTU)

This workshop explores how the global bioeconomy can strengthen resilience to polycrisis. Building on SCAR Bioeconomy work on polycrisis resilience and complementary expertise from the JusTACE project at the Circular Bioeconomy Research Group (CircBio) at MTU, participants will examine recent examples where climate and ecological pressures, geopolitical shocks and market disruptions interact and cascade across bioeconomy systems. The workshop will stress-test proposed resilience solutions at global level, exploring their relevance under different regional conditions, considering trade dependencies, cross-border biomass flows and asymmetric capacities. As a second dimension, participants will examine whether these solutions are inclusive and just, considering how their costs, benefits and risks are distributed and whether relevant stakeholders can contribute to decisions affecting them. The discussion will identify additional challenges, adaptations and solutions from different global regions, generating insights for international cooperation towards a resilient, sustainable and inclusive global bioeconomy.

Building on the SCAR Bioeconomy work on poly crisis resilience, the workshop will test how identified challenges and solution areas translate to a global context. All participants will work with one common, evidence-informed poly crisis scenario and examine it through three dimensions: Governance, Coordination and Decision-Making; Data, Monitoring and System Understanding; and Actor Capacity, Behaviour and Value-Chain Resilience.

The scenario combines interacting climatic, ecological, geopolitical, health and market pressures whose impacts differ across regions but are transmitted globally through trade, biomass flows and value chains. Working in mixed groups, participants will use their own regional and stakeholder perspectives to assess where the proposed approaches are transferable, where they require adaptation and what is missing.

The JusTACE project is contributing a cross-cutting perspective on inclusion and stakeholder participation, examining solutions through a just transition indicator framework. This framework will allow the groups to consider how proposed solutions will impact employment, regional equity, and community engagement. This is used as a second test of resilience measures: whether they work for different actors and regions, whether costs, risks or benefits may be shifted elsewhere, and whether affected stakeholders can contribute to their design and implementation. The workshop will conclude with a small set of globally relevant findings and priorities for international cooperation.

Workshop Objectives:

- Present the main findings and solution areas from the SCAR Bioeconomy work on resilience under polycrisis conditions
- Stress-test these findings against one common global scenario and assess their relevance across different regional, institutional and economic contexts
- Use the three dimensions of governance and decision-making; data and system understanding; and actor and value-chain resilience to structure the analysis
- Identify adaptations, additional solutions and enabling conditions needed where European findings do not transfer directly to other contexts
- Examine cross-border spillovers and, as a cross-cutting consideration, whether proposed measures account for different stakeholder capacities, interests and distribution of impacts
- Derive priorities for international RDI, policy and practical cooperation towards a resilient, sustainable and inclusive global bioeconomy.
- The purpose is not to develop a universal resilience model, but to test the transferability of existing findings and enrich them with knowledge and experience from different world regions.

Workshop Agenda:

Part 1 – Scene Setting

- 0-2 mins | Welcome and purpose: definition of poly crisis and objective of the global stress test.
- 2-7 mins | Policy Brief input: concise presentation of the three dimensions and main solution areas from the SCAR Bioeconomy work.
- 7-12 mins | Short introduction just transition and the indicator framework used in the stress test.
- 12-15 mins| Common scenario and task: introduction of the global scenario, table assignments and the cross-cutting stakeholder/inclusion question.

Part 2 – Table-Based Global Stress Test - Participants work at six mixed tables of 5–7 people; two tables address each dimension. All tables use the same scenario.

- 15-22 mins| Perspective round: each participant identifies the most important vulnerability from the perspective of their region, organisation or stakeholder group.
- 22-47 mins| Stress-test discussion: groups identify the critical gap, assess relevant solution areas and consider how the answer changes across regions and stakeholders.
- 47-55 mins | Key messages: each table agrees on a maximum of three concise findings for plenary reporting.

Part 3 – Comparative Plenary

- 55-67 mins | Six table reports
- 67-75 mins | Comparison of the two tables working on each dimension: convergence, differences, required adaptations and missing elements.
- 75-80 mins | Short reflections from selected international contributors.

Part 4 – Synthesis and Closing

- 80-90 mins | Moderators bring the three dimensions together and identify approaches with wider relevance, context-specific adaptations, remaining gaps and priorities for international cooperation.

Workshop Speakers:

- Martin Behrens, Luka Juvančič – SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group / FNR
- Tracey O'Connor, JusTACE PI / CircBio, Munster Technological University
- Luka Juvančič, SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group / University of Ljubljana
- JusTACE project representative(s)

- Additional SCAR Bioeconomy members and partners, complemented where possible by ad hoc facilitators or rapporteurs from the participants
- David Laborde – FAO: global food, trade and resource interdependencies.
- Fabian Cataldo – European Commission JRC: systemic risks, monitoring and analytical perspective.
- Johanna Kohl – SCAR Bioeconomy Strategic Working Group / Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

From Youth Priorities to Action 3: Bioeconomy as a driver for Inclusive and Sustainable Agrifood Systems Transformation

Co-organisers: World Food Forum Global (WFF) Youth Action Initiative

Organized by the World Food Forum (WFF) Youth Assembly, this interactive workshop will highlight the role of young people in advancing inclusive, sustainable, and resilient bioeconomy pathways within agrifood systems. Young innovators are already contributing bio-based solutions across agrifood systems, including forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, but their perspectives are not often not reflected in policy, investment and governance processes. The session will bring together youth innovators, policymakers, development partners, investors and researchers to examine how policy frameworks, financing mechanisms and innovation ecosystems can better support and scale youth-led bioeconomy initiatives. Discussions will focus on strengthening how policy coherence across agriculture and food systems, forestry and, fisheries and aquaculture, while identifying opportunities for more effective multistakeholder collaboration.

This workshop is part of a three-part youth-led series jointly developed by the IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions, WFF Youth Assembly, and EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors for GBS2026

This workshop deep dives into thematic aspects of the bioeconomy, as presented in Workshop This interactive workshop positions youth as key actors in advancing inclusive, sustainable, and resilient bioeconomy pathways within agrifood systems. Despite clear youth involvement and innovation in the bioeconomy sector, their perspectives remain underrepresented in policy, investment and governance spaces. Drawing on the findings from the two preceding workshops, this workshop aims to address this critical gap from an agrifood lens by bringing in insights gathered through the WFF Youth Assembly global call for youthled bioeconomy case studies in agrifood systems.

The session will highlight how youth-driven initiatives contribute to climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, decent youth employment, and inclusive economic growth across agrifood sectors

Workshop Objectives:

- Demonstrate how bioeconomy contributes to sustainable, resilient and inclusive agrifood systems, highlighting specific youth-led initiatives and their role in employment, income generation and local development
- Present key barriers and enabling conditions for youth-driven bioeconomy solutions, drawing on findings from the WFF Youth Assembly call for case studies
- Facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing among youth and key stakeholders, gathering further insights into challenges and contributors, aiming to foster more inclusive, intergenerational and cross-sectoral collaboration
- Develop a shared vision of youth inclusive bioeconomy pathways in agrifood systems, grounded in practical experiences and forward-looking perspectives
- Create concrete points, built-on and in collaboration with the previous two sessions, for partnerships, investment and policy support to advance and scale youth-led initiatives

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Stage 1- Opening and Framing: Welcoming of participants, giving an overview of the format and agenda of the workshop
- 5–20 mins | Stage 2 – Context: FAO Bioeconomy experts will share an overview of the work FAO does in the bioeconomy sector, drawing on its link with agrifood systems transformation The WFF Youth Policy Board will present the WFF Thematic Assembly on Bioeconomy, and findings from the call for youth-led case studies.
- 20–30 mins | Stage 3 - Questions and Answer: Participants will have the opportunity to raise questions to the FAO & WFF.
- 30–70 mins | Stage 4- World Café Discussions: Moderators will explain the format of the discussions. Participants will rotate between two tables to address the following questions, expanding on the findings of the case studies.
- 70–75 mins | Stage 4- Synthesis: Fishbowl discussion with leads from each table presenting the major findings
- 75–90 mins | Stage 5- Closing: Key takeaways and next steps.

Workshop Speakers:

- A bioeconomy expert from FAO will deliver an introductory presentation, illuminating the link between the bioeconomy and agrifood systems transformation.
- The WFF Policy Board will then present the work of the Thematic Youth Assembly on the Bioeconomy and findings from a recent call for youth-led case studies.
- The WFFYouth Assembly, with support from our partners at IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions and the EU Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors, will facilitate the World Café Discussions.
- The closing remarks and next steps will be delivered by the speakers from the WFFYouth Assembly.

Stuck in the System? Reversing Systemic Lock-ins and Avoiding Future Path Dependencies in the Bioeconomy

Co-organisers: University of Greifswald, Germany Research Support Centre (ZFF); HOLOSEU Project Consortium in collaboration with University College Dublin (UCD); Biocontrol Coalition; Koalisi Ekonomi Membumi (KEM), Indonesia

The transition to a sustainable bioeconomy is hampered by "systemic lock-ins"—inherited regulatory frameworks, outdated incentives, and siloed metrics that favour established practices over innovative alternatives. In this workshop, we explore how to identify and reverse these lock-ins while preventing future path dependencies. Through three thematic strands, the session examines (1) regulatory hurdles in biological plant protection; (2) barriers in multi-stakeholder governance and value-chain development in peatland rewetting, paludiculture, and landscape management; and (3) the critical lack of integrated evidence for decision-making. Analytical frameworks like the Value Chain Collaboration Canvas (VC3) by KEM and the MODASYS decision-support tool will be integrated and demonstrated. By applying real-world case studies and leveraging participants' insights, we will co-create practical principles for designing flexible, inclusive, and transparent systems. The outputs will equip stakeholders for dismantling obstructive structures and shaping a responsible bioeconomy that delivers resilient and future-proof ecological and socio-economic outcomes without creating new systemic constraints.

The workshop addresses the regulatory frameworks, misaligned incentives, and siloed metrics that currently hinder the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy. The session explores how to identify and reverse these "systemic lock-ins" while preventing the creation of new path dependencies. The discussion will be structured around three thematic strands, each drawing on sectoral case studies: regulatory hurdles in biological plant protection, barriers in multi-stakeholder governance and value-chain development (specifically regarding peatland rewetting, paludiculture, and landscape management), and the critical lack of integrated evidence for decision-making.

Workshop Objectives:

The primary objective of this workshop is to explore if patterns of systemic lock-in are repeating across diverse cases and co-create practical principles for designing responsible bioeconomy interventions.

By leveraging real-world case studies and participant insights, the session aims to equip stakeholders with the tools to dismantle obstructive structures and shape a bioeconomy that delivers sustainable yet responsible ecological and socio-economic outcomes. Specifically, participants will examine why existing lock-ins persist and explore how to identify possibly emerging dependencies early on. Together we will establish practical methods to reverse lock-ins across regulation, economic incentives, value chains, and evidence-based decision-making without creating new systemic constraints. At the same time, the participants are invited to give feedback on the applied analytical frameworks and decision support tools.

Workshop Agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Welcome, Introduction and Framing
- 5-25 mins | Pitches of the Organising Institutions
- 25-65 mins | Concurrent Thematic Roundtables
    - Regulatory Hurdles in Biological Plant Protection
    - Barriers in Multi-stakeholder Governance and Value-Chain Development in Peatland Rewetting, Paludiculture, and Landscape Management
    - The Critical Lack of Integrated Evidence for Decision-Making —Agri-Environmental Modelling for Bioeconomy Transition
- 65-85 mins | Plenary Synthesis and Table Report-back
- 85-90 mins | Closing Reflections: Consolidating the co-created design principles and closing remarks

Workshop Speakers:

- Gerald Jurasinski, Plant Alliance:
- Kristen Sukalac, Biocontrol Coalition:
- Sahnaz Melasandy, KEM

- Ibrahim Khalil, HOLOSEU
- Gilbert Ludwig
- Sahnaz Melasandy
- Badhan Sen
- Masum Billah
- Christian Theel
- Gudrun Mernitz
- Melissa Seidel

Scaling Circularity: Integrating Urban Waste Biorefineries (UWBs) into the Global Bioeconomy

Co-organisers: University College Cork; Maynooth University

The WS is an interactive, forward-thinking workshop designed to transform how cities handle mounting waste streams. Rapid urbanisation demands a swift shift from traditional waste disposal to advanced, sustainable resource recovery. This session bridges that gap by exploring how innovative, research-driven biorefineries can turn pressing urban liabilities into high-value bio-based assets, driving both economic growth and environmental resilience.
The workshop involves:

- Exploring critical urban waste streams: textiles, food/food processing waste, and industrial digestate.
- Examining advanced research and waste-to-value strategies currently being developed through nationally funded research projects.
- Collaborating with experts to identify bottlenecks, evaluate economic competitiveness, and map out pathways for a just transition.

This workshop moves beyond theory into actionable bioeconomy scenarios, offering participants a unique platform to design waste management strategies for a sustainable urban future. As cities face mounting pressure to manage urban waste streams, the shift from traditional disposal to sustainable biorefinery systems offers a pathway to resource recovery and economic growth. This interactive waste biorefineries workshop will focus on critical urban waste challenges such as textile waste and wastewater digestate and will explore how the innovative research-driven bioeconomy solutions designed to address them can pave the way for a sustainable, resilient urban future. Participants in the workshop will examine innovative research and waste-to-value strategies currently being developed through nationally funded research projects. They will explore strategies, pathways, economic competitiveness and key implementation bottlenecks to identify disruptive shifts needed for the just transition. Through dynamic dialogue among diverse stakeholders and experts, the workshop aims to deliver a collaborative roadmap that integrates biorefineries

into local waste management strategies, positioning them as the vital engine for transforming urban liabilities into high-value bio-based assets.

Workshop objectives:

The workshop aims to bridge the gap between emerging bioeconomy innovations for urban waste and their real-world deployment. By defining actionable pathways to transform urban waste into high-value bioproducts, the workshop seeks to advance urban waste management for driving transition toward a circular bioeconomy.

The key objectives of the workshop are:

- Identify critical bottlenecks including technical barriers, regulatory hurdles and behavioural challenges to determine the disruptive shifts required for a just and sustainable transition.
- Co-create an integrated pathway that aligns biorefinery implementation with local urban waste management strategies to accelerate regional bioeconomy development

Workshop agenda:

- 0-5 mins | Welcome note and workshop concept introduction (Urban Waste Scenario 2050)
- 5-15 mins | Snapshot 2026: Background and current urban waste (Textile and Digestate) scenario
- 20-50 mins | Group work: Pathway development through PEST (Political, Economic, Social & Technological) Framework
- 50-80 mins | Expert Panel's assessment and discussion on participants' suggested pathways
- 80-90 mins | Concluding Remarks

Workshop speakers:

- Dr Mary O'Riordan, Co-Founder, HaPPE Earth
- Mr Stephen Napier, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Bioeconomy Foundation
- Prof Xinmin Zhan, University of Galway

- Representative from EPA - TBC