



# YOUTH COMMUNIQUÉ: A SHARED VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL BIOECONOMY

This Communiqué, issued by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions (BYC) at the 2024 Global Bioeconomy Summit in Nairobi, represents the voices of 18 nationalities from five regions. It reflects the perspectives of youth leaders, professionals, activists, students, and researchers selected between 2020 and 2024.

# YOUTH COMMUNIQUÉ: A SHARED VISION FOR A SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL BIOECONOMY

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## Executive Summary

We, the Bioeconomy Youth Champions (BYC), are a multidisciplinary group of independent and dedicated youth leaders, each volunteering our time, energy, and deep personal commitment to building a sustainable future. Selected by the International Advisory Council on Global Bioeconomy (IACGB), we represent 18 nationalities across the world, advocating for the places where we live, work, or study. BYC does not represent the views of the institutions where we are employed or educated. We envision reimagining our current economy into a bioeconomy that is driven by convergent technologies (e.g. biotechnology, green chemistry, material sciences, digital technologies) to create sustainable alternatives across critical sectors such as food and agriculture, health, materials, and energy. Youth, disproportionately impacted by environmental and economic crises, see the bioeconomy as a transformative force for restoring and conserving biodiversity, sustainable development, and social equity.

This Communiqué is a collaborative effort by BYC members from diverse global regions, reflecting our shared vision of a bioeconomy that not only fosters local and regional prosperity but also addresses critical global challenges by centering youth voices. It outlines key pathways and priorities for realizing these goals, emphasizing the importance of youth leadership, inclusive policies, adequate infrastructure, and global collaboration. There are almost 1.2 billion young people (age 18-24) worldwide, comprising 16% of the global population and 88% in developing countries, that have the potential to spearhead a transition towards a sustainable economy. We are dedicated to advancing a global sustainable bioeconomy as a transformative engine for local, national, and regional economic prosperity that fosters environmental stewardship and social equity.

We have grown up experiencing the direct impacts of climate change while also benefiting from unprecedented access to technology and information. This unique position drives an unparalleled sense of urgency and purpose to act. The BYC asserts that empowering youth is crucial for the success of the global bioeconomy. We wish to see the following:

- **Empower Youth Through Education and Inclusive Policies:** Invest in comprehensive education and inclusive policies that bridge critical skills gaps, ensuring that all youth - regardless of background, demographic, expertise, and experiences - are included and empowered in decision-making, fostering a transformative, resilient and innovative bioeconomy.
  - **Enhance Infrastructure and Resources for Sustainable Development:** Increase investments in infrastructure and resources to support youth-led initiatives that foster economic resilience and sustainable practices.
  - **Foster National, Regional, and Global Collaboration and Innovation:** International partnerships and agreements are crucial for advancing the global bioeconomy. These partnerships should include youth in all forms of decision-making (e.g. policy, innovative-driven solutions). Successful models such as BioInnovate Africa and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Europe demonstrate the benefits of cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange.
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# OUR CALL TO ACTION: EMPOWERING YOUTH IN THE GLOBAL BIOECONOMY

Youth empowerment is essential to transforming the global bioeconomy into a force for societal, environmental, and economic change. Investment in education, infrastructure, and global collaboration will enable youth to co-lead this transformation, driving sustainable growth and innovation. From a global perspective, empowering youth within the bioeconomy involves overcoming several key challenges.

The following call to action urges policymakers, industry leaders, educational institutions, and society to take decisive steps in building a bioeconomy that champions innovation, equity, and the diverse voices of our generation. We call on these stakeholders to work with us in creating a more inclusive and effective bioeconomy in a manner aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Fig.1).

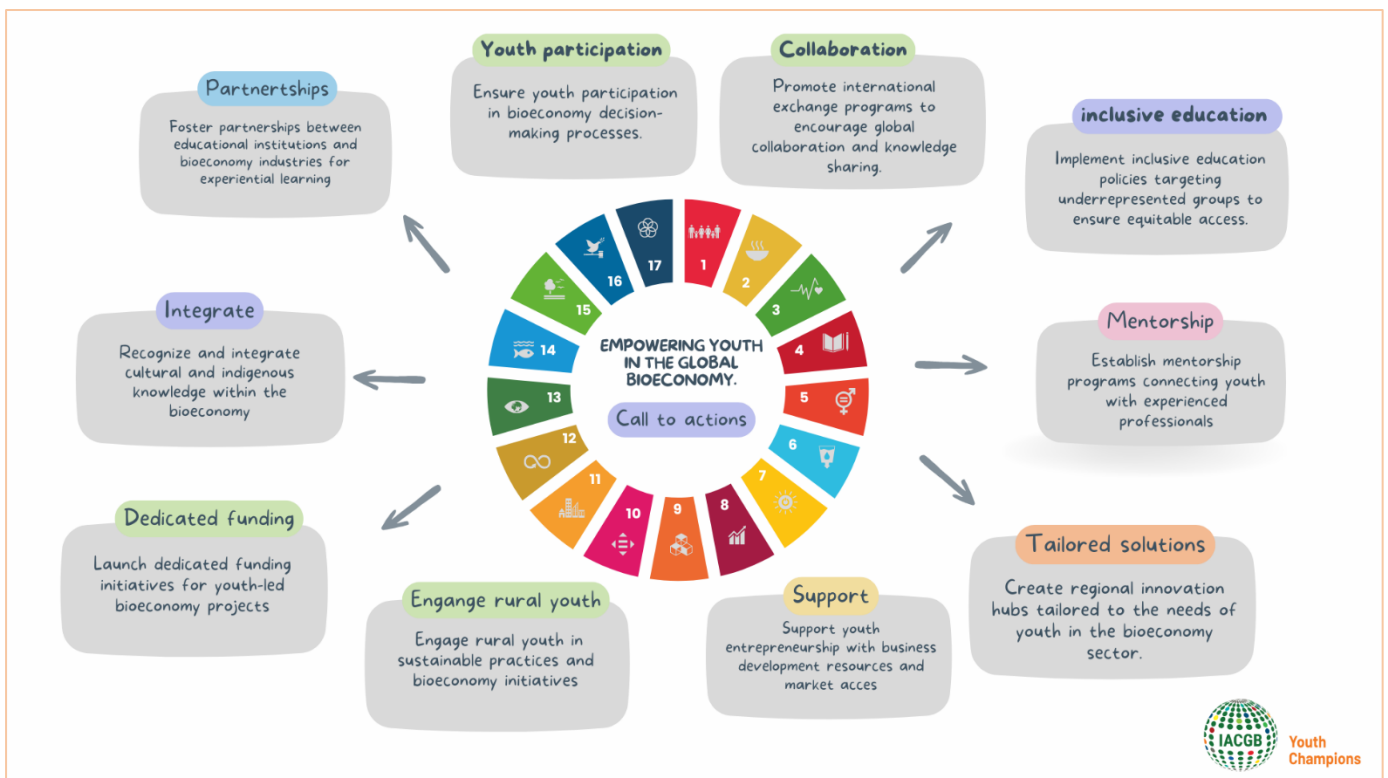


Figure 1: Youth Bioeconomy Call to actions aligned to UN Sustainable Development Goals

## OUR VISION

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This Communiqué marks the first publication issued by the IACGB Bioeconomy Youth Champions (BYC), representing 18 nationalities from five regions of the world on the occasion of the 2024 Global Bioeconomy Summit<sup>1</sup>.

Adopting the IACGB's definition of bioeconomy<sup>2</sup>- the production, utilization and conservation of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide sustainable solutions (information, products, processes and services) within and across all economic sectors and enable a transformation to a sustainable- economy- the BYC collectively affirms an unwavering commitment and shared vision for advancing global efforts for development through a transformative, innovative, inclusive, and sustainable bioeconomy.

Bringing this vision to fruition will require interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement across all sectors (policy, science, academia, industry, government, and civil society) to cultivate a resilient bioeconomy that benefits current and future generations. While much progress has been made since the introduction of the first national bioeconomy research strategy in 2010, the voices of youth globally have largely been overlooked.

As the impacts of climate change are increasingly impacting lives across the globe, there has been an unprecedented wave of youth-led actions demanding change. Today's youth, building on the legacy of earlier generations of environmental activists and growing up in an era defined by critical global challenges are not only the catalysts for change, but also champions of an inclusive and equitable bioeconomy for today and tomorrow<sup>3</sup>.

## WHO ARE WE?

We, the Bioeconomy Youth Champions (BYC), are a multidisciplinary group of dedicated and independent youth leaders, volunteering our time, energy, and deep commitment to building a sustainable future.

This publication, alongside youth-led workshops at the Summit, communicates the voices and perspectives of a diverse group of youth leaders, professionals, activists, students, and researchers selected between 2020 and 2024.

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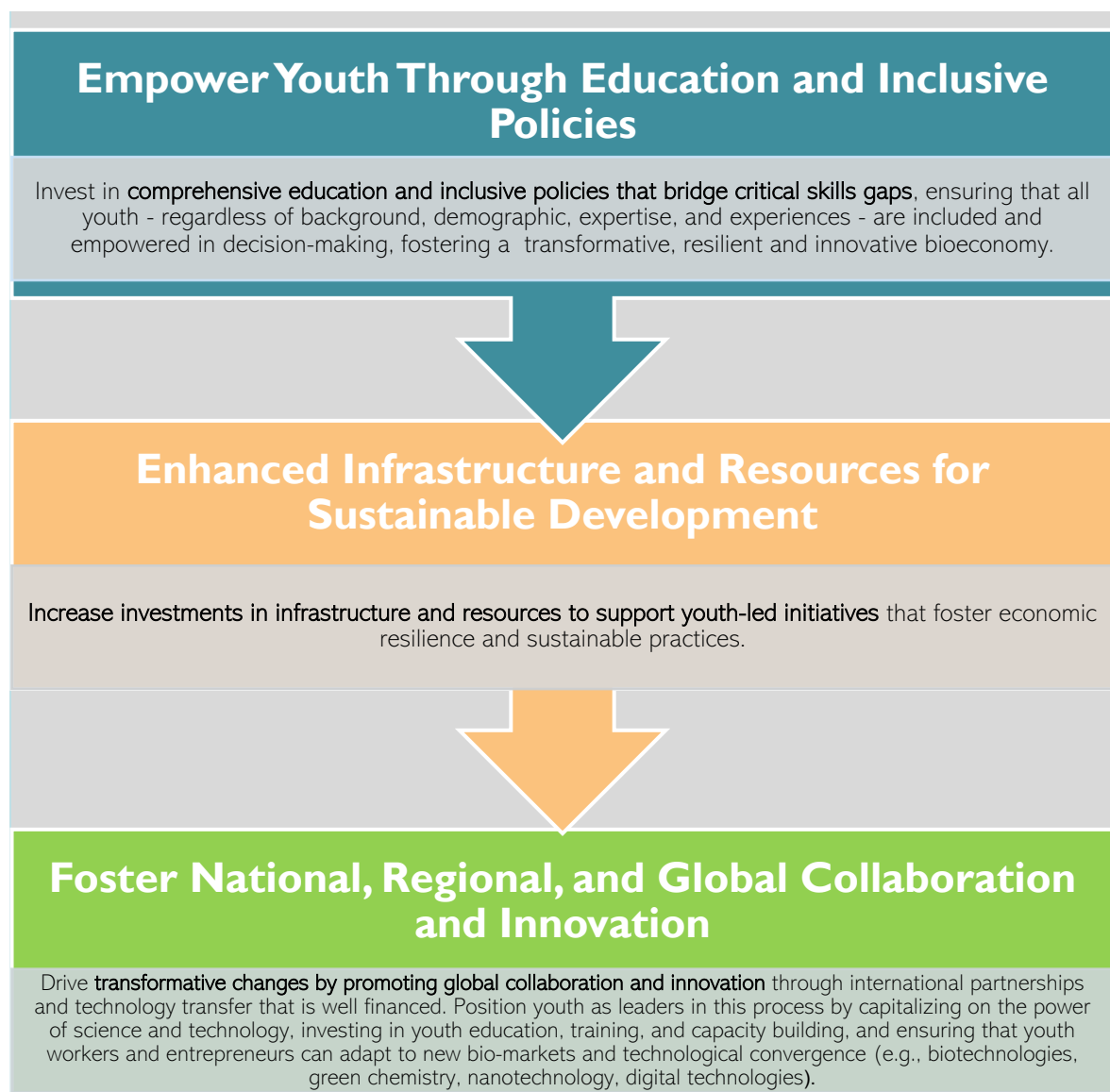
<sup>1</sup> International Advisory Council of the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2018. (2018). Communiqué: Innovation in the Global Bioeconomy for Sustainable and Inclusive Transformation and Wellbeing. Available at [https://qbs2020.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GBS-2020\\_Global-Bioeconomy-Policy-Report\\_IV\\_web-2.pdf](https://qbs2020.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GBS-2020_Global-Bioeconomy-Policy-Report_IV_web-2.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> International Advisory Council of the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2018. (2018). Communiqué: Innovation in the Global Bioeconomy for Sustainable and Inclusive Transformation and Wellbeing. Available at [https://qbs2020.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GBS-2020\\_Global-Bioeconomy-Policy-Report\\_IV\\_web-2.pdf](https://qbs2020.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GBS-2020_Global-Bioeconomy-Policy-Report_IV_web-2.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Pickard, S. (2022). Young environmental activists and Do-It-Ourselves (DIO) politics: collective engagement, generational agency, efficacy, belonging and hope. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 25(6), 730–750. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2022.2046258>

We recognize that globally the bioeconomy is viewed as more than the application of biotechnology, however, we have grown up witnessing the pressures of climate change, the positive and negative impacts of industrial growth, and major technological advancements<sup>4</sup>.

We bring those lessons to our vision for the bioeconomy rooting our approach in the sustainable use of biological resources (natural capital), respecting critical ecological principles, and increasingly centering biotechnology-driven innovations. The BYCs envision a global sustainable bioeconomy as a transformative engine for local, national, and regional economic prosperity that fosters environmental stewardship and social equity. Youth empowerment will be necessary to bring this vision to life and assert the following priorities and imperatives:



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<sup>4</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (2022). Education at a Glance 2022: OECD Indicators. OECD Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1787/3197152b-en>

# 1. EMPOWER YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION AND INCLUSIVE POLICIES

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With young people aged between 18 to 24 years old, constituting 16% of the global population and 88% residing in developing countries<sup>5</sup>, their collective role in advancing the bioeconomy is indispensable. To ensure intergenerational equity, youth must be actively involved in decision-making, as they bear the greatest burden of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution<sup>6</sup>. Thus, providing access to world-class education and implementing inclusive policies will be crucial for ensuring they have the capacity for success in a rapidly changing global economy. In this context, inclusivity relates to the recognition that all people, regardless of background, demographic, expertise, and experiences have value and are worthy of consideration and inclusion in decision-making processes and the development and deployment of technology and solutions.

The potential of the current and future sustainable bioeconomy will be dictated by the capacity of young people to address global and local challenges innovatively and sustainably.

Access to world-class education and training will enable the current and subsequent generations of students to create and develop novel tools, technologies, and solutions. Increasingly for the global bioeconomy this includes curricula and training in convergent technologies such as biotechnology and engineering approaches alongside ecology and environmental issues. All curricula must be tailored to local and regional contexts, and include relevant traditional knowledge, in order to benefit from the diversity of approaches and perspectives toward common challenges and foster a sense of ownership and pride. Unique insights drawn from local and traditional knowledge can fuel innovation, as exemplified by the Sumbawagen iGEM team, which developed a synthetic biology system to safely detect counterfeit honey, helping Sumbawa farmers differentiate between authentic and fake honey<sup>7</sup>. Such initiatives, in turn, encourage involvement in the bioeconomy with a purpose-driven focus on local, and community benefits.

Additionally, academic programs should incorporate learning approaches that provide hands-on experience through practical activities, both locally and internationally, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to tackle real-world challenges. An FAO report on youth in the bioeconomy identifies key factors that enhance youth capacities, including technology development, business development, education, and vocational and technical education and training. Whereas the former two are key, the two latter are crucial

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<sup>5</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (2024). Youth employment | Decent Rural Employment. [Internet]. Available at <https://www.fao.org/rural-employment/work-areas/youth-employment/en/>

<sup>6</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2023). Opportunities for youth in the bioeconomy [Internet]. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc8238en>

<sup>7</sup> The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Foundation. (2023). What is iGEM? (part 2): Local people solving local problems all around the world. [Internet]. Available at <https://blog.igem.org/blog/2019/8/21/what-is-igem-part-2>

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The bioeconomy must not only be innovative, but also transformative and inclusive.

as they prepare the future workforce to embrace bioeconomy opportunities and understand its challenges<sup>8</sup>. Such approach serves as a vital catalyst for global knowledge exchange, enabling the youth to address current challenges through innovation. However, barriers still exist for young women and people from underrepresented communities. Policies must

implement mechanisms to promote gender equality and inclusivity, considering the particular challenges in accessing education and training members of these groups face. This will allow us to generate a broader pool of talent, with diverse, innovative, and resilient perspectives. It is extremely important to create instruments that specifically promote the development and incorporation of marginalized groups through study programs, scholarships, and mentoring, ensuring greater opportunities to participate in the bioeconomy. A crucial example that included youth groups in its authorship is the Costa Rican National Bioeconomy Strategy 2020-2030 , which introduces initiatives to involve Indigenous peoples, youth, and women in the national development of the bioeconomy through training, entrepreneurship of innovative bioproducts, and communication with society.

Younger generations offer fresh and committed perspectives on sustainability and provide innovative solutions to complex challenges. An analysis of the FAO youth report revealed that 34 bioeconomy country and regional strategies related to innovation; none showed evidence that youth groups were included in the development of those strategies. Existing policies contribute little to setting a conducive and inclusive environment for youth groups to actively participate in bioeconomic trade and entrepreneurship<sup>9</sup>.

It is essential to create platforms that enable young individuals to contribute their ideas to policy frameworks, ensuring a more forward-thinking bioeconomy while avoiding duplication of efforts and actions. Examples of such platforms include youth councils, forums, and digital platforms that allow diverse participation from various segments of the population.

By prioritizing youth involvement, a future driven by innovative and sustainable ideas will address both national and global future bioeconomy needs.

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<sup>8</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2023). Opportunities for youth in the bioeconomy [Internet]. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc8238en>

<sup>9</sup> Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Telecomunicaciones. (2020). Costa Rican National Bioeconomy Strategy 2020-2023. Available at [https://www.conagebio.go.cr/sites/default/files/2022-11/Estrategia%20Nacional%20Bioeconomi%CC%81a%20CR\\_0.pdf](https://www.conagebio.go.cr/sites/default/files/2022-11/Estrategia%20Nacional%20Bioeconomi%CC%81a%20CR_0.pdf)



## 2. ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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There is a lack of suitable physical and digital infrastructure to meet current demands. Investment in the development of infrastructure, financial resources for young entrepreneurs, and research grants for early career researchers in all fields relating to bioeconomy is desperately needed.

Significant investment challenges need to be addressed to fully unlock this potential due to advancements in biotechnology, green chemistry, material science and digital technologies and the convergence of environmental and economic imperatives.

Foremost among these challenges is the critical need for robust infrastructure. Young innovators need access to state-of-the-art research and development facilities, commercial-scale and pilot-scale bioprocessing plants and infrastructure for resource/biomass harvesting and recovery of biomass waste streams. Additionally, efficient distribution networks and upstream/downstream processing capabilities, both chemical and mechanical, are essential for producing bio-based products<sup>10</sup>. Spaces for young people to begin exploration of ideas and innovation such as

makerspaces, inspired by the digital technology concept of hackerspaces enable experimentation, tinkering and hands-on learning to complement their education. Australian Maker Grants, which have been provided biennially since 2020, made funding available for community-based maker spaces, with an enhanced focus on providing opportunities to diverse cohorts and communities historically underrepresented in the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics sectors (STEM)<sup>11</sup>.

A strong digital infrastructure is also needed to provide fast communication, secure data storage, effective data handling, and the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI), necessary for protecting sensitive information and ensuring smooth operations across all stages of development and production<sup>12</sup>. A good example of such digital infrastructure is New Zealand's development of a "Biopilot" plant exemplifies how targeted infrastructural investments can bridge existing gaps and foster innovation<sup>13</sup>. Support for open-access journals and repositories such as BioParts<sup>14</sup> to make data available also will accelerate innovation across borders. Given the challenges associated with scaling novel technologies, without adequate public infrastructure, translating innovative ideas into marketable products becomes prohibitively challenging, hindering the sector's growth potential.

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<sup>10</sup> Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement grants 2024 [Internet]. Australian Government [cited 2024 Aug 9]. Available from: <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/maker-projects-community-stem-engagement-grants-2024>

<sup>11</sup> Australian Government. (2024). Maker Projects – Community STEM Engagement grants 2024. [Internet]. Available at <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/maker-projects-community-stem-engagement-grants-2024>

<sup>12</sup> Zeverte-Rivza et al. *Sustainability* 2023 <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/15/17/13237>

<sup>13</sup> O'Byrne, P. (2019). Circular business solutions. Ministry for Primary Industries. Available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/34011-strategic-rationale-for-a-bio-pilot-plant-hub-for-new-zealand>

<sup>14</sup> Plahar, H. A., Rich, T. N., Lane, S. D., Morrell, W. C., Springthorpe, L., Nnadi, O., ... & Petzold, C. J. (2021). BioParts—a biological parts search portal and updates to the ICE parts registry software platform. *ACS Synthetic Biology*, 10(10), 2649-2660. <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acssynbio.1c00263>

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Financing systems pose another significant obstacle. Many young entrepreneurs struggle to secure the necessary funding through traditional channels. biotechnology, green chemistry, material science and digital technologies and the convergence of environmental and economic imperatives.

To bridge this gap, tailored financial resources aimed at supporting youth-led initiatives are crucial for enabling them to turn their innovative concepts into viable businesses that in turn drive economic growth and sustainability within the bioeconomy<sup>15</sup>. Key financial resources include bioeconomy-specific government and private young innovator grants and loans, incubator funding and startup training programs, and sponsored pitch competitions where young entrepreneurs can present their ideas to potential investors<sup>16</sup>. Investment firms focused on “deep tech” and university commercialization offices are more likely to participate in

youth-led entrepreneurial endeavors. An example of effective financial support is the EU-funded project Transition2BIO, which aims at inspiring, informing and attracting young generations towards educational and working careers in the bioeconomy, therefore contributing to raising the future generation of workforce-informed and interested in this domain.

While these solutions hold immense promise for enhancing productivity and reducing environmental impact, their effective deployment requires comprehensive strategies and significant investments. Early career researchers are well-positioned to address these challenges but often face funding limitations due to their early-stage career status. Addressing these funding needs is crucial for empowering young innovators to develop sustainable solutions that meet

Integrating biotechnologies, bioresources, and renewable energy systems presents complex challenges.

global demands while ensuring economic viability. For example, government-sponsored early career research grants can provide the financial support needed for young scientists to pursue innovative projects, leading to breakthroughs in bio-based technologies and sustainable practices. A good practical fund example that overcomes such issues is Japan’s FOREST (Fusion Oriented Research for Disruptive Science and Technology) program coordinated by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. The HP says “It aims to create seeds that lead to disruptive innovation through diversity and fusion without setting specific projects or short-term goals, this program provides long-term support for unrestricted, challenging and fusion-oriented diverse research not bound by the existing frameworks, for the period of seven years in principle (up to 10 years with an interim stage-gate review) while securing an environment in which researchers can devote themselves to their researches<sup>17</sup>.” Similar programs focused on bioeconomy-related science and technology development would be pivotal in supporting early career innovators.

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<sup>15</sup> Kuckertz, A., Berger, E. S., & Brändle, L. (2020). Entrepreneurship and the sustainable bioeconomy transformation. *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 37, 332-344. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2210422420301222>

<sup>16</sup> Transition2BIO. (2024). Young Bioeconomy Entrepreneurs. <https://www.transition2bio.eu/young-bioeconomy-entrepreneurs/>

<sup>17</sup> Japan Science and Technology Agency. (2024). Outline of Japan’s bioeconomy strategy. <https://www.ist.go.jp/souhatsu/en/outline/index.html>. [Internet].

### 3. FOSTERING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION

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Amid escalating global challenges, fostering international collaboration and innovation is more crucial than ever for enabling change, particularly among the youth. Where bioeconomy strategies have been enacted, they act as a springboard for innovation.

Despite the lack of minimal youth involvement in bioeconomy strategy development, several initiatives fostering global collaboration and supporting youth-led innovations to solve local challenges could provide the missing link. Where youths were actively included, with typical examples of the Namibia Bioeconomy Strategy 2024, tailored support for youth bioentrepreneurship and bioprocessing resulted.

- **BiInnovate Africa**<sup>18</sup>, the largest regional innovation-driven bioeconomy center in Africa, exemplifies this approach. It unites universities, research institutes, and firms across the eight-country East African region, connecting biological research, inventions, and technologies with business and market needs. By fostering collaborative work among scientists, it facilitates knowledge transfer and sharing across institutions and borders, while nurturing future scientists (youth) to address challenges through scientific research.
- In Asia, countries like India have launched initiatives such as the **Biotechnology Ignition Grant Scheme**<sup>19</sup> which provides funding and support for youth-led biotech start-ups.
- Other examples include the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**<sup>20</sup>, which recently announced €1.25 billion in funding for collaborative research and innovation projects, supporting around 10,000 researchers worldwide. This initiative equips participants with new skills that can be applied to meet the needs of their immediate communities and beyond. For instance, the program includes doctoral networks that select candidates globally for training in specialized areas and upon completion individuals can apply these skills thereby bridging the knowledge void that could be lacking especially in new areas such as the bioeconomy.
- Policy-wise, the **African Youth Charter**<sup>21</sup>, **Allbiotech**<sup>22</sup> in Latin America and the **European Union Youth Forum**<sup>23</sup> are some of the existing initiatives that promote and advocate for the inclusion of young people in policy discussions related to the bioeconomy. These could be further strengthened to serve as global collaboration networks and nodes for sustainable bioeconomic development.

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<sup>18</sup> BiInnovate Africa, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). (2024). *BiInnovate Africa*. [Internet]. Available at <https://bioinnovate-africa.org/>

<sup>19</sup> Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC). (2024). *Biotechnology Ignition Grant Scheme (BIG)*. Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. Available at <https://birac.nic.in/big.php>

<sup>20</sup> European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture. (2024). Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Developing talents, advancing research. Available at <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-announces-new-call-dates-for-2024-calls>

<sup>21</sup> African Agribusiness Youth Strategy: Available at <https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/42281-doc-agribusiness.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Allbiotech. Latin American Biotechnology Network. 2024. Available at <https://allbiotech.org/>

<sup>23</sup> European Union Youth Forum. (2024). *What's the youth vision for the bioeconomy?* Available at Youth Forum. Available at [https://youth.europa.eu/get-involved/sustainable-development/whats-youth-vision-bioeconomy\\_en](https://youth.europa.eu/get-involved/sustainable-development/whats-youth-vision-bioeconomy_en)

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## 4. YOUTH CALL TO ACTION FOR DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY

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From a global perspective, we, the youth, face immense challenges, but we also hold the power to drive transformation. Our engagement is not just important, it is essential for leading the bioeconomy toward sustainability, inclusivity, and long-term economic resilience. These 10 strategic points are our call to action. We call on policymakers, industry, business leaders, educational institutions and society to join us in building a bioeconomy that champions change, innovation, equity, and the diverse voices of our generation, creating a bioeconomy that empowers us and ensures a sustainable, prosperous future for all (Fig. 2).

1. Establish **mentorship programs** within the industrial bioeconomy that specifically aim to connect youth professionals with experienced mentors. Emphasize the importance of hands-on learning experiences to equip youth with practical skills and provide guidance for their career advancement.
  2. Implement **inclusive education policies** to ensure that these policies address barriers faced by underrepresented groups, including girls, minorities, and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, to ensure equal access to knowledge and opportunities.
  3. Implement **dedicated funding initiatives** that specifically **target youth-led bioeconomy projects**. Provide financial resources, as well as mentorship and guidance, to support young innovators and entrepreneurs in turning their innovative ideas into impactful solutions.
  4. Create **regional hubs and innovation centers** that are specifically tailored to the needs of youth in the bioeconomy related value chains. These spaces should not only provide resources and infrastructure but should also foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mentorship under the guidance of professionals.
  5. **Engage youth in the decision-making processes of bioeconomy initiatives**, ensuring their voices are heard and valued in shaping policies, strategies, and projects.
  6. **Support youth entrepreneurship with business development resources** and market access. Establish platforms and initiatives that recognize and reward youth innovation and leadership in the bioeconomy, inspiring and incentivizing their active participation in creating sustainable solutions for the future.
  7. Implement initiatives to **actively engage rural youth in the bioeconomy**, creating attractive and viable alternatives to encourage them to remain and contribute to their local areas. Rural youth demand innovative agricultural practices and sustainable resource management to ensure the vitality and continuity of rural communities within the bioeconomic value chains.
  8. Foster **partnerships between educational institutions and bioeconomy industries** to create experiential learning opportunities, internships, and research collaborations for youth.
  9. Encourage **international exchange programs and partnerships** for youth in the bioeconomy, promoting cross-cultural understanding, knowledge sharing, and global collaboration.
  10. Recognize and **integrate cultural and Indigenous knowledge** within the bioeconomy. Encourage youth to explore, preserve, and apply traditional ecological and cultural knowledge in sustainable practices. Foster partnerships with indigenous peoples and local communities to preserve their wisdom, traditional practices and heritage while promoting a sustainable bioeconomy.
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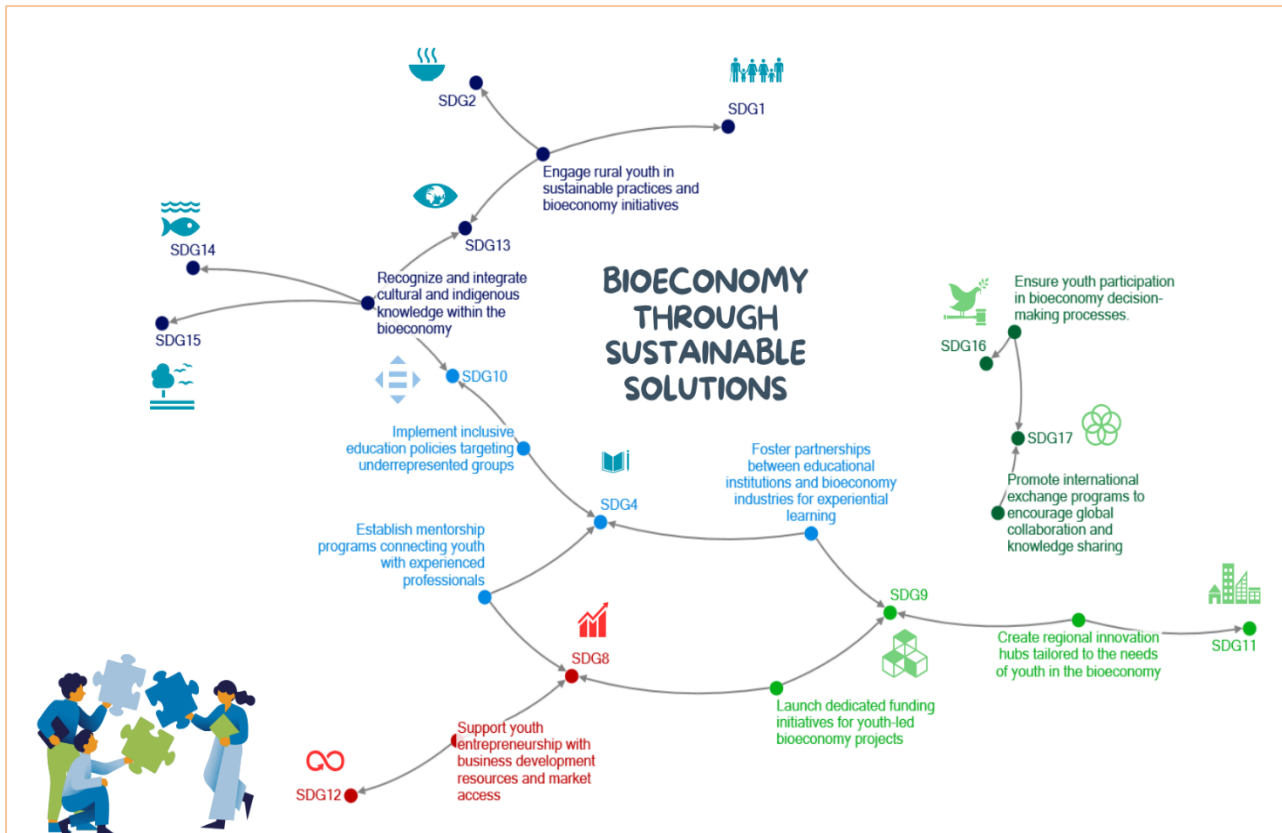


Figure 2: Bioeconomy through Sustainable Solutions – Interaction of the 10 Key Action Points for Empowering Youth in the Bioeconomy. Each action is connected to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting how youth-driven initiatives align with global sustainability goals.

## 5. KEY MESSAGES

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Youth empowerment is essential for a bioeconomy-driven transformation of production systems, policy, technology, and education within the bioeconomy and today's youth are eager and motivated to drive this societal, environmental, and economic transformation. We call on stakeholders to prioritize investments in youth-led initiatives, establish mentorship programs, and facilitate international partnerships to support and encourage the active involvement of young people in bioeconomy.

The future of the global bioeconomy hinges on the active participation, education, and empowerment of youth from all backgrounds. As a generation with access to technology and innovation, today's youth are uniquely positioned to lead. To realize this potential, we need inclusive policies that welcome and demand our participation, investment in education and key infrastructure targeted funding for young innovators, and mechanisms to enable global collaboration. Collectively, these actions will advance global sustainability and economic growth through the bioeconomy as a demonstration of commitment toward youth empowerment from today's leaders. Worldwide collaboration and innovation are critical to ensuring that the bioeconomy not only addresses pressing environmental and economic challenges but also promotes social equity and diversity, values which are so strongly held by today's youth.

A sustainable bioeconomy not only addresses eco-friendly production, economic growth, and job creation but also encourages sustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles. It presents a unique opportunity for youth to lead transformative sustainable change by advancing technological progress and efficiency gains through science, technology, and innovation.

This communiqué was crafted with the collaboration of Youth Champions from all regions of the world, reflecting our collective vision of a bioeconomy that not only fosters local and regional prosperity but also addresses pressing global challenges by amplifying youth voices. Together, we are committed to making this vision a reality, ensuring that the bioeconomy becomes a dynamic force for change, fueled by the creativity, resilience, and leadership of today's young generation.

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## 6. LIST OF IACGB YOUTH CHAMPIONS

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Absalom Iyeleka Shitalangaho, Representative for region AFRICA - Namibia & South

Ana Del Hierro Calvachi, Representative for EUROPE- Spain and Ireland

Andrea Hodgson, Representative for NORTH AMERICA - USA

Angelique Greene, , Representative for ASIA & PACIFIC - New Zeland

Arian Abbasi, Representative for EUROPE - Germany

Bertha Shifeta, Representative for region AFRICA - Namibia & South

Billy Cronin, Representative for EUROPE- Ireland

Cristian Pérez Hernández, Representative for EUROPE- Belgium

George William Ssendagala, Representative for region AFRICA - East & West- Uganda

Isabella Garcia Caffaro, Representative for CENTRAL AMERICA - Guatemala

Jerome Ramirez, Representative for ASIA & PACIFIC - Australia

Johann Liebeton, Representative for EUROPE - Germany

Jose Alvarado Vargas, Representative for CENTRAL AMERICA - Costa Rica

Juan Fernando Martinez, Representative for SOUTH AMERICA - Colombia

Kosuke Shiraishi, Representative for ASIA & PACIFIC - Japan

Liza Vernyuy Kengran, Representative for region AFRICA - East & West

María Celeste Acosta, Representative for SOUTH AMERICA - Argentina

Nicolás Domke Venegas, Representative for SOUTH AMERICA - Chile

Yuri Ernesto Ledezma Pantoja, Representative for SOUTH AMERICA - Bolivia

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