

## BIO4AFRICA, A NEW EUROPEAN PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE BIOECONOMY IN AFRICA, KICKS OFF

- SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS, CTA, AND BARCELONA PLATAFORMA EMPRESARIAL ARE THE SPANISH PARTNERS OF THIS PROJECT, IN WHICH 13 EUROPEAN AND 12 AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS WILL COLLABORATE TO PROMOTE TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS AND VALUE CHAINS IN THE BIOECONOMY SECTOR
- THE PROJECT, FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME, HAS A BUDGET OF €9 MILLION

*Madrid, June 29, 2021* - The European project **BIO4AFRICA** has officially started, after holding an online kick-off meeting on June 22 and 23, with the aim to support **the deployment of the bioeconomy in rural Africa**. In order to do so, it will boost the development of **value chains and grassroots solutions through a circular approach that will encourage the use of local resources and the diversification of farmers' income**.

This initiative, which has received €9 million in funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, involves a total of 13 European and 12 African organisations. SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS, Corporación Tecnológica de Andalucía (CTA), and Barcelona Plataforma Empresarial are the Spanish partners of BIO4AFRICA.

### Methodology

In order to achieve this, BIO4AFRICA will establish **four pilot cases in Uganda, Ghana, Senegal, and Ivory Coast with eight testbeds**, and it will involve over 300 farmers. This will improve the environmental, economic, and social performance of their agri-food systems.

The combination of African and European partners in the consortium will allow a strong collaboration between multiple stakeholders from rural communities and the Government, promoting the construction **of sustainable value chains** that allow the introduction of **bio-based approaches and technologies**.

### Project approach

The African continent will need to feed more than two billion people in 2050, as it faces unprecedented demographic, socio-economic, environmental, and climatic transitions. In this context, ensuring food security is essential, and the bioeconomy can play a leading role.

The bioeconomy uses the renewable bio-based resources of the land and sea to produce food, materials, and energy. The European Commission is strongly promoting its development due to its potential to generate wealth and employment in a sustainable way.

The project's impact indicators are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the 2030 Agenda, mainly related to quality employment and gender equality.

## About SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS is a Spanish consultancy company that provides innovative services to a wide range of sectors throughout Europe: bio-based industry, renewable energy, or advanced materials, among others. The capabilities that SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS offers are structured around three main pillars that serve as a bridge between the conception of innovative ideas and the market: Innovation Management, Market Uptake, and Capacity Building. Our main asset is the highly qualified team of engineers, environmentalists, communication experts, and business strategists who work with us.

[www.sustainableinnovations.eu](http://www.sustainableinnovations.eu)

## About CTA

Technological Corporation of Andalusia (CTA) is a private foundation that was born from a public-private partnership. For almost 15 years, CTA has been supporting R&D activities through financing, mentoring, and cooperation with main Andalusian stakeholders, emerging as a singular multi-sectorial, innovation cluster. More than 670 R&D business projects have been funded by CTA with more than €M168. Currently, CTA is owned by more than 160 companies, 70% of them SMEs, in 7 main European industrial priority sectors: ICT, Aerospace and productive processes, Agrifood, Biotechnology, Building, and civil engineering, Energy and Environment, and Leisure and Tourism.

[www.corporaciontecnologica.com](http://www.corporaciontecnologica.com)

## About Barcelona Plataforma Empresarial

Barcelona Plataforma Empresarial is a Spanish consultancy expert in competitiveness and internationalisation of companies and institutions. Since 2017, it has been part of an international network of accelerators with high social impact for startups from emerging countries under the commercial name of Fledge Barcelona. The mission is to generate sustainable social impact over time thanks to business growth.