



POLICY BRIEF ON THE 1ST BIOECONOMY CONFERENCE (VIRTUAL)

Theme: Banana and Plantain as Bioresources for Building a Sustainable Circular Economy

Date: November 19, 2024 Venue: Virtual

INTRODUCTION

This policy brief is an outcome of the virtual conference organised by Bioeconomy Research Group of Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife and Panafrican Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), Lagos.

THE OBJECTIVE

The conference examined the use of Banana and Plantain for food and industrial purposes including the waste products thereby establishing circular economic use of these staple products.

PARTICIPANTS

There were over 65 participants which included people from Academia, Farmers Associations, appropriate MDAs Industries etc.

CONCLUSION

The conference participants observed the increase popularity of Eco – friendly farming and confirmed that with the use of Emerging Technology, all parts of Banana and Plantain are food and industrially beneficial including the waste fitting into the sustainable circular economic framework

Unfortunately, there is low level of public information and education leading to high level of waste with the unnecessary pollution effect. These means there is need for sustainable institutional linkages in an ecosystem of MDAs, Farmers, Traders, Academia, Industrialists, Media etc

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Actors of the Ecosystem are positioned to work together to improve existing and to develop new varieties of Bananas and plantains for their nutritional, medicinal and economic benefits
2. The Ecosystem above needs to be supported by MDAs and SMEs to provide the value addition in boosting food security and SMEs growth through supporting research and development activities.
3. Increase public education and information for food and economic benefits of Banana and Plantains.

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Dr. Adekunbi Adetola Malomo
(The Convener)