



Uganda

1 Which bioeconomy-related policy strategies exist?

In Uganda, bioeconomy development is politically supported in the areas of bioenergy and biotechnology. In 2014, the government published the “**Biomass Energy Strategy**”, which points out the potential of biomass to contribute to energy security. The strategy is linked to the government’s “**Renewable Energy Policy for Uganda**” (2007), which encourages bioenergy development in the transport sector and for power generation. In the

long-term development strategy “**Vision 2040**” the government also highlights the importance of a sustainable supply of biomass.

With the “**National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy**” (2008) the government created a framework to promote biotechnology innovations and their cross-sectorial applications, while regulating biosafety issues.

2 Is the term “bioeconomy” or “biobased economy” used in the strategy documents?

Yes

No

X

3 Who is the author of the strategies?

In 2014, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) formulated the “**Biomass Energy Strategy**” in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The strategy underwent a consultation process with various stakeholders.

In 2008, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (FPED) published the

“**National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy**”. Various stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental institutions were involved in the strategy formulation process. The strategy process was initiated by the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), which has a key role in coordinating the implementation process of the strategy.

4 What are the key goals of the strategies?

The key goal of the “Biomass Energy Strategy” is to create added value from Uganda’s large amount of biomass resources and to further promote the country’s social and economic development by ensuring a constant biomass energy supply. The “National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy” gen-

erally endorses Uganda’s national goals to increase economic growth, improve healthcare and ensure food security, while protecting the environment and reducing poverty. Biotechnology should particularly contribute to modernizing the agricultural sector and promoting industrial production.

5 What are the priority areas of the strategies?

In order to develop the biomass energy sector, the “Biomass Energy Strategy” comprises policy initiatives in six key areas. Firstly, the strategy highlights the need for creating awareness on biomass for energy production. Developing a communication strategy, which specifically addresses end users, decision makers and potential investors, should contribute to encouraging discussions concerning biomass policies and should further generate public and private investment for biomass energy production. Secondly, the strategy emphasizes the development of a biomass information system, which should be used to monitor available biomass resources. Thirdly, it focuses on institutional aspects to improve regulatory measures for biomass utilization. Fourthly, in order to increase the biomass supply in all sectors, the efficient use of technologies should be fostered. Therefore, the strategy promotes stronger R&D on relevant technologies. Fifthly, it aims at encouraging innovative approaches to generate sustainable biomass resources. Lastly, emphasis is put on the promotion of innovative financing mechanisms.

The “National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy” identifies several priority areas, such as training technical and academic experts and developing Uganda’s R&D infrastructure in the area of food and agriculture, health, industry, environment and natural resources development. These initiatives should contribute to encouraging knowledge and technology transfer, establishing centers of excellence as well as public-private partnerships in biotechnology. A further key area of the strategy is the creation of public awareness and participation through, e.g. public campaigns that inform about potential benefits and risks of biotechnology and its applications. Moreover, the government seeks to capitalize on the countries rich biodiversity by encouraging bioprospecting of natural resources. Bioprospecting should lead to beneficial discoveries in the agriculture, health and industry sector. Furthermore, public and private investment should be generated to foster the commercialization of biotechnological technologies. Other key areas refer to the implementation of bioethical and biosafety standards, the integration of indigenous knowledge in the biotechnology development, as well as the promotion of national and international cooperation to benefit from emerging synergies.

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