

BioInnovation Technical Exchange Series

Topic: Valorization of biological and genetic resources

Date: 26/09/2020

Summary of discussion points raised during the Q/A sessions

Discussion on the Baobab presentation by Cyril Lombard:

- 1) Multidisciplinary intervention is crucial to ensure the sustainability of the VC. What is the practical solution to mobilize all these different actors in the value chain?

Elements of response: African Baobab Alliance has been formed. This is grouping key actors; ABioSA is supporting the development of a sector development plan and this will identify additional actors and challenges; a network and/or institution such as the Alliance is needed to bring together the relevant actors.

- 2) Please expand on the lessons on the slow growing nature of the resource: is the demand larger than the trees can grow?

This question was combined with the written question: How was the question of sustainable use and possible restoration of Baobab tree "cover" was addressed?

Elements of response: The market demand seems to be less than the current supply which across all the range states is a very large resource base. However, there are differences from region to region. The sector needs to get a global view on the supply capacity and needs a good M/E from the start. Planting of more trees and protection of the Baobab environment needs to be done. The question of changing land use and the resulting pressure on the baobab resource is complex and will require collaboration with many parties including ecologists, foresters, government agencies and the private sector.

Proposed strategy: One option for regions or areas where the size of the resource base is not very large is to focus more on value addition - use less Baobab to create more value.

Diversity of Baobabs: cannot go into all details, can be dealt with during the upcoming trainings.

- 3) How did you manage to bring all different actors needs to the table and wrap it in a package?

Elements of response: Fortunately the nascent Industry was organized through a trade association – PhytoTrade Africa. A forum comprising the “first movers” and innovative businesses worked together. Funding was raised. The networking this enabled was crucial to the success of the project.

Discussion on the ABS trigger points presentation by Pierre du Plessis:

- 1) What do you think about regional resources governed by diverging national legislations?

No answer provided.

- 2) Entry points for ABS: How to capture the value that is created outside of the country when triggering Benefit Sharing at the national level?

Elements of response: It is important to trigger BS where you are able to enforce it. If you aim at BS based on the final product, the following needs to be kept in mind: only 50% of the consumer price is actually paid for the product, then another 60% of the remaining half goes into packaging etc., then transport etc. > while it looks attractive to trigger BS at the consumer level at a first glance, in the end it is not as attractive as thought. We should also keep in mind that it is difficult to collect benefits at consumer level > several reasons to better collect at the national level. Also, you need to try to draw the value chain to the provider country (more transformation on the national level) > this cannot be achieved by simply legislating it > strong need for a commercial plan that is being implemented.

If you want to collect at the consumer level, you need a workable plan to do so in order to overcome all related difficulties.

Such questions will be dealt with in more detail during the upcoming webinars.

Discussion on final presentation on BioInnovation Africa by Friedrich zur Heide

- 1) How do you capture the added value down the value chain?

Elements of response: An option to do so is to do some calculations and run some scenarios, starting at the consumer level and then going backwards. If you come up with an idea of what amounts of benefits you would like to collect at consumer level, you can go backward to compare how to capture the foreseen benefits at the ingredients stage instead.

A proposal was made to apply such a method for targeted Value Chains within the BIA project during one of the upcoming webinars.

- 2) Can the presentations be shared?

Yes, all presentations will be shared after the webinar.

- 3) Can we get another presentation on a much simpler value chain without a multitude of multiple players?

Elements of response: even simple value chains are more complex than they seem in the beginning. You still have to deal with issues such as quality insurance, compliance with national laws when targeting only the national market etc.

Nevertheless, we do work on some fairly “simple” value chains in the BIA project and will look into options to present one or several of these in one of the future webinars.

- 4) Which topics should be covered in the upcoming webinar?

Elements of response as provided by the participants through the chat function: Combining unpacking and analyzing the BIA VC with a discussion on ABS trigger points within these value chains.



Examples of functional online permitting ABS systems: are online systems feasible?