

SE05: From linear to circular – The roles of value chain partners in catalyzing and supporting sustainable peri-urban circular bioeconomy systems

Organized by: Private Sector Mechanism; Solutions From the Land; Embassy of the Republic of Kenya; Circular Bioeconomy Systems Institution; Global Dairy Platform; United States Mission to the RBAs; Syngenta

Summary of the side event

The Side Event entitled “From Linear to circular – The roles of value chain partners in catalysing and supporting sustainable, peri-urban circular bioeconomy systems” noted that farmers, fishers, and foresters are essential to delivering nutritious and affordable food while promoting resource circularity in urban and peri-urban areas. Circular bioeconomy systems, which emphasize sustainable farming, fishing, and forestry practices, can enhance food and nutrition security through optimized production and distribution.

Value chain partners offered examples of how circularity can be deployed to catalyze and support peri-urban intense farm-fishing-forestry systems and the production, transportation and delivery of their products. Speakers noted that trust relationships across the value chain are critical to scaling circular bioeconomy solutions and underscored the need to enhance sustainable production and consumption. It was also noted that properly designed enabling policies can scale the transition from a fossil economy to a bioeconomy.

Further, innovations in agriculture, such as biostimulants and precision tools, help farmers manage stress, improve soil health, and reduce environmental footprints, contributing to food security and climate resilience. Speakers noted that circular systems retain and regenerate value by reusing farm outputs as inputs, leading to increased profitability and enhanced ecosystem services for farmers.

The transition toward sustainable food production and distribution will happen in nonlinear ways as producers of food and their value chains move to systems that reuse, recycle, and repurpose resources and provide co-benefits of

food and nutrition security, quality livelihoods, and more robust local and regional economies.

Value chain partners discussed how they deploy individual components within the agrifood value chain as well as how they network technical and knowledge, resource inputs, mechanization and equipment designed to increase labor and land productivity, and mature and new technologies to increase circularity in the bioeconomy.

Some of the key takeaway messages from the event were:

- Urban-peri urban landscape is a hotbed for bioeconomy innovation
- Trust relationships across the value chain are critical to scaling circular bioeconomy solutions
- Need to reduce dependence on diminishing resources
- Need to enhance sustainable production and consumption
- Ecosystem service markets can unleash solutions from the land
- Need more focus on farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing and extension outreach
- Properly designed enabling policies can scale the transition from a fossil economy to a bioeconomy
- Need to simplify data collection and sharing and enhance data privacy tools
- Need to embrace innovation and technology pathways to scale the bioeconomy
- Greater emphasis on the “bioeconomy” can unleash a 21st century agricultural renaissance
- Need to transition from a linear to circular agriculture and food systems.