

Project Fact Sheet

Project Title	BIOVARYA – Establishing a BIOgas network for BaVARia and KenYA
Keywords	Sustainable biogas industry, biogas industry partner network, capacity building, research cooperation, biogas conference

Project Details

Project Start	2024	Duration	2 Years
Funding Authority	Bayerische Staatskanzlei	Project ID	C I 4 – 1162-16-78
Project Budget	225.735,- €		
Project Leader	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wilfried Zörner		
Contact Person	Stefan Schneider		

Project Partners

University partner in Kenia:
Technical University Kenya (TU-K)

Description

Kenya has great potential for biogas production. Despite the efforts of the government, development partners and non-governmental organisations, this potential has not yet been exploited. Although biogas technologies were introduced in Kenya more than 50 years ago, their uptake in the country has remained low. The slow uptake of biogas technology can be attributed to high installation costs, lack of technical expertise for installation, operation and maintenance of biogas plants and low awareness among potential users and financial institutions.

The BIOVARYA project has set itself the goal of further expanding biogas production in Kenya. By establishing a network between Bavarian and Kenyan players in the biogas sector, a mutual transfer of knowledge is to be created. This knowledge transfer should provide impetus to strengthen the Kenyan biogas sector, create new local jobs and promote international cooperation and investment.

The following objectives were defined for the BIOVARYA project:

- Public relations work for networking and knowledge exchange
- Networking between Bavaria and Kenya
- Targeted information services for Bavarian and Kenyan companies
- Research cooperation between TU-K and THI

- Development of local expertise and capacity building
- Concluding biogas conference

The project focusses on networking and exchange between the industrial partners. Public relations work is planned as a first step. A specially created website will provide stakeholders from industry and research with relevant information about the network and opportunities to make contact. In addition, a delegation trip by Kenyan companies to biogas companies in Bavaria is intended to promote potential cooperation and expand the transfer of knowledge. The exchange of knowledge will be supplemented by information events, which will take place both at the TU-K in Kenya and at the THI in Ingolstadt and will be accompanied by speakers from the project partners.

In addition to networking biogas companies in both countries, the BIOVARYA project promotes academic cooperation in the field of biogas. Joint research work, including by students from both universities, strengthens local expertise. In order to ensure the sustainable development of the biogas sector in Kenya beyond the project phase, local capacity building is an important part of the project. This includes the expansion of the biogas laboratory at the TU-K. Together with the associated training, local expertise in the maintenance and operation of the plants will be increased and future research into the composition of ideal substrates will be made possible.

At the end of the project phase, a biogas conference is planned in Kenya with two main objectives. On the one hand, research content is to be bundled and an opportunity created for researchers and students to present themselves as attractive employees. Secondly, the conference is intended to bring together industrial partners from Bavaria and Kenya in order to initiate international cooperation and investment.