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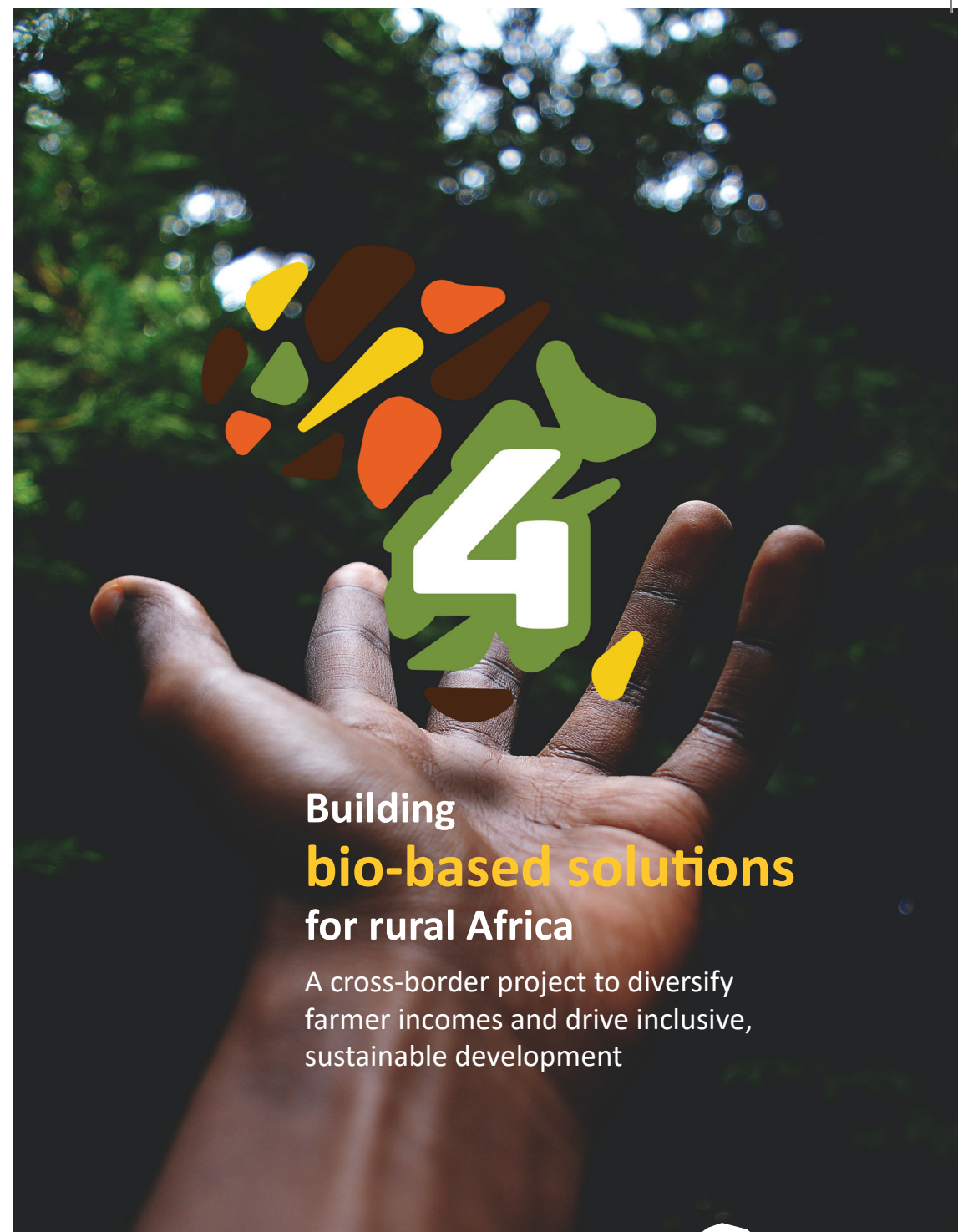
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Building bio-based solutions for rural Africa

A cross-border project to diversify farmer incomes and drive inclusive, sustainable development



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A continent in transition

The African population is growing. By 2030, 1.2 billion people will need a safe and secure food supply that is resilient towards environmental and climate change. For the more than 60% of sub-Saharan Africans who are smallholder farmers, agri-food systems are not just vital to their livelihoods. They are key to combating poverty and enhancing food security while driving inclusive, sustainable development.

BIO4Africa – supporting the deployment of the bioeconomy

Comprising 13 partners in Africa and 12 partners in the EU, BIO4Africa is a four-year project to transfer simple, small-scale and robust bio-based technology to rural Africa.

The objective is to empower African farmers and farming communities to produce a wider range of high-value products using local biomass. Possibilities include animal feed, fertiliser, pollutant absorbents, construction and packaging materials, solid fuel and feedstock for biogas production.

By developing new business opportunities, the project will support farmers in making more from less and diversifying their incomes. Circular business models will ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The vision is to contribute to long-term improvements in livelihoods, food security and community resilience and a reduction in rural migration.

Six key objectives



Analyse the needs and context of rural communities and their agri-food value chains



Identify, develop and adapt robust bio-based solutions that are easy to use with minimal training



Pilot the bio-based solutions at testing sites in Uganda, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal



Facilitate rural take-up via validated business models and hands-on business support



Document the potential to diversify farmer incomes through sustainable, marketable products that can be scaled up elsewhere



Collaborate across academia, government, industry and society