



Blueprint

Plan for building a
business support
**ecosystem for the
bioeconomy in Colombia**

Latimpacto

Colombia is recognized as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. This means that it has significant potential to consolidate its bioeconomy as a strategic pillar of sustainable, inclusive, and competitive development. This sector has been supported by public policies such as the National Bioeconomy Strategy and the Bioeconomy and Territory Mission, which promote the efficient and sustainable management of biodiversity and biomass to generate value-added products, processes and services based on knowledge and innovation.

In this context, a plan has been developed to build a business support ecosystem that strengthens incubation and growth capacities for entrepreneurial initiatives in the bioeconomy sector. This plan aims to bring together key actors and generate enabling conditions in the territories in alignment with the recommendations and guidelines established in the aforementioned policies.

A recent assessment of the current state of the bioeconomy in Colombia (Latimpacto 2025) reveals both significant progress and challenges for the consolidation of a dynamic business environment that draws on the country's biodiversity, traditional knowledge and innovation. With the goal of guiding the construction of this ecosystem, Latimpacto has created five mind maps based on the priority recommendations that were made following the evaluation of the current actors, opportunities, and barriers facing the bioeconomy in Colombia.

The mind maps present the key actors in this ecosystem and are accompanied by a list of specific actions these actors must take in order to strengthen the bioeconomy at the national level. The tools described in the mind maps are the technical, financial, and methodological requirements that will facilitate the implementation of these actions. The relationships shown between the different actors describe how they interact with each other and what actions they can jointly implement to achieve an increased territorial impact.

These recommendations have led to the design of a roadmap for future actions that will be carried out by Latimpacto and its partners. Each of the mind maps are presented below:



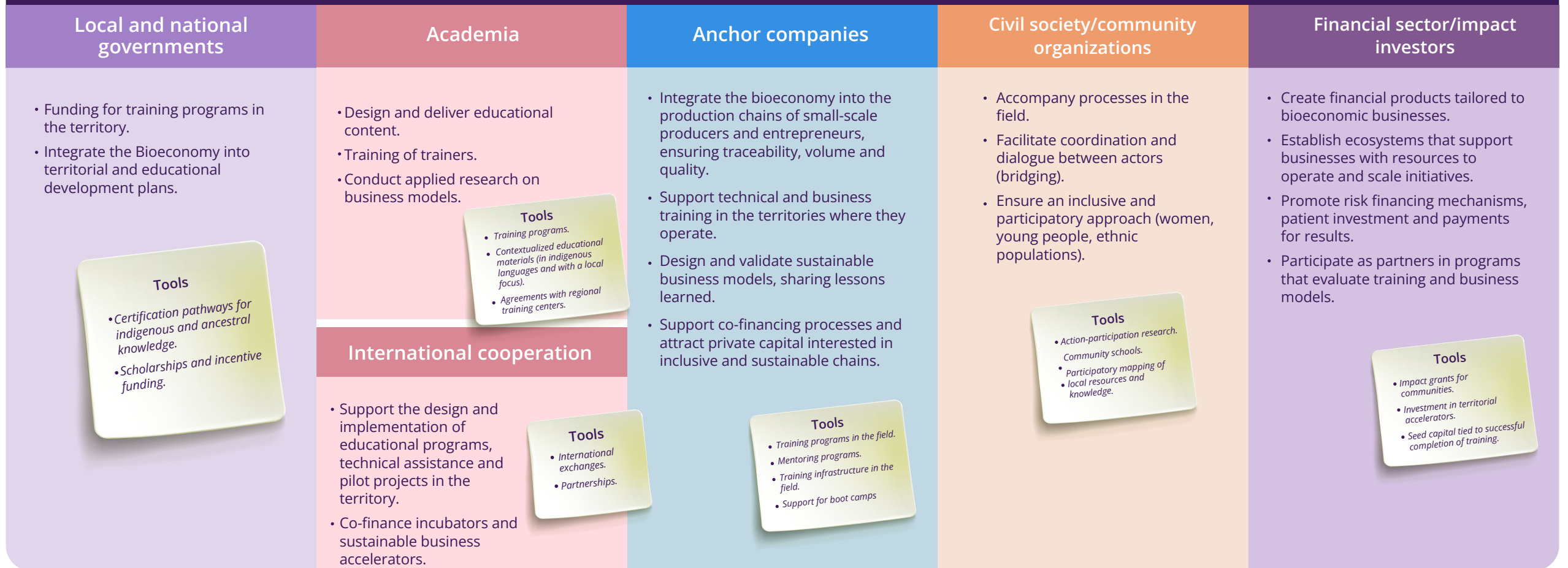
Territorial training and capacity building with an environmental, social, and economic approach that promotes sustainable business models

One of the fundamental pillars for strengthening the bioeconomy's ecosystem in Colombia is the implementation of territorial training that combine environmental, social, and economic knowledge. This approach must respond to local conditions, strengthening capacities for the design and implementation of sustainable business models and promoting the participation of diverse actors.

The following chart presents a comprehensive approach to strengthening territorial capacities in the bioeconomy that is designed to promote sustainable business models and has an emphasis on the environmental, social, and economic sectors. It highlights the key tasks that different actors (governments, academia, anchor companies, community organizations, the financial sector and international cooperation) must carry out in the areas of training, coordination, co-financing and knowledge generation processes. This involves the use of tools such as knowledge certification, technical support, applied research, business incubation and innovative financial product design.

Strategic alliances between actors and territories are highlighted as a means of achieving transformative and sustainable impacts in communities, particularly in rural contexts and using a differential approach.

Territorial training/education in bioeconomy with an environmental, social, and economic approach that promotes sustainable business models



Relationship between actors and actions





Adapt regulatory frameworks for the bioeconomy: Review and relax regulations for bio-based enterprises and products, provide training to public officials on new technologies and business models and promote the provision of guidance and support tools in regions

The current regulatory environment presents significant challenges for developing sustainable businesses, especially community-led initiatives. There is an urgent need to review and relax existing regulations in order to consolidate a functional business ecosystem. This will also require the use of support tools that facilitate regulatory compliance in the territories.

A roadmap has been designed for adapting regulatory frameworks that promotes the bioeconomy in the territories with an emphasis on regulatory flexibility for bio-based products, training public officials on new technologies and business models and promoting guidance and support tools.

Key actors play important roles such as reviewing regulations, designing digital platforms, creating pilot projects, providing technical support and generating legal and scientific evidence. It is proposed that differential criteria are included for these processes, which will contribute to formalizing businesses and promoting innovative regulatory frameworks, particularly for community-based products that use a territorial approach.



Adapt regulatory frameworks for the bioeconomy: review and relax regulations for bio-based enterprises and products, provide training to public officials on new technologies and business models and promote guidance and support tools in the regions

Local and national government	Academia	Anchor companies	Civil society/community organizations	Financial sector/impact investors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update regulations to incorporate differentiated criteria for bio-based products with a specific focus on community enterprises. Design flexible regulatory frameworks that recognize the diversity of territories and products. Provide training to public officials on the bioeconomy, emerging technologies and sustainable business models. Establish one-stop shops and digital platforms to facilitate procedures in the regions. <div> Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital platforms that provide guidance on procedures. Regulatory guides adapted to territorial contexts. Observatory for Monitoring and Regulatory Adjustment </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct legal and technical research to inform adaptive regulatory proposals for bio-based products. Provide training to public servants and entrepreneurs on applicable regulations and regulatory trends in the bioeconomy. Generate technical evidence on the risks, benefits and characteristics of bio-based products to inform the design of regulations. <div> Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training programs for public officials and producers </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in technical roundtables to co-design regulations with the State and other actors. Transfer technical knowledge about processes, certifications and regulations for bio-based products. Support community suppliers to achieve regulatory compliance through mentoring and training. <div> Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot projects and proof of concept in the territory </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and highlight local regulatory barriers that affect market access. Influence regulatory development through networks and dialogue platforms. Participate in training programs and replicate knowledge in communities. <p>Provide territorial inputs and experiences to inform the design of adapted regulations.</p> <div> Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with anchor companies Participate in consultation processes on regulations </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote financial schemes that take into account the costs of regulatory compliance. Finance technical support for entrepreneurs to formalize their businesses. Include regulatory criteria in risk assessments and feasibility studies for bioeconomic enterprises. Support pilot projects or proof of concept that demonstrate the regulatory and commercial viability of bio-based products. <div> Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Territorial impact funds Investment with comprehensive technical assistance Payment by results (PbR) schemes Microcredits and financing using a differentiated approach </div>
	International cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund technical assistance for a regulatory review and the design of flexible frameworks. Facilitate exchanges of good regulatory practices with countries that have made progress with the bioeconomy. Support institutional 			

Relationship between actors and actions

GOVERNMENT-ACADEMIA Inter-institutional agreements, multisectoral technical roundtables: generation of technical and scientific evidence to support new regulations	GOVERNMENT-ANCHOR COMPANIES Public-private advisory councils: co-creation of regulations with a productive and commercial focus	ACADEMIA-INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION International academic networks, knowledge transfer, joint research and internships	ANCHOR COMPANIES-CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support and training Contracts that include a territorial development component Shared oversight platforms 	FINANCIAL SECTOR/IMPACT INVESTORS Support formalization and regulatory compliance: provide advice on certifications, standards and blended finance investment	FINANCIAL SECTOR/IMPACT INVESTORS-CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate access to financing for community enterprises that are facing regulatory barriers. Support formalization and regulatory compliance processes using a social and territorial approach. Promote investments that have a social and environmental impact.
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Promote the consumption of biodiversity-based products through educational campaigns, sustainable public procurement and short supply chains that boost local economies and benefit rural communities

Strengthening domestic demand is essential for consolidating a dynamic ecosystem. Promoting the consumption of biodiversity-derived products through educational campaigns, marketing strategies and sustainable public procurement mechanisms will generate income for rural communities while strengthening local economies.

The complementary roles of government, academia, anchor companies, civil society, the financial sector and international cooperation are notable in this area, given that these actors can create enabling environments through a number of actions: formulating favorable public policy; highlighting the technical and environmental benefits of biodiversity-derived products; stimulating demand through the provision of infrastructure, credit, and narratives; and strengthening local capacities in the areas of commercialization and marketing.



Promote the consumption of biodiversity-derived products through educational campaigns, sustainable public procurement and short supply chains that boost local economies and benefit rural communities

Local and national government	Academia	Anchor companies	Civil society/community organizations	Financial sector/impact investors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and implement sustainable public procurement policies.• Finance and lead awareness campaigns that highlight the value of biodiversity.• Create tax and regulatory incentives to strengthen short marketing channels.• Include biodiversity-derived products in social programs (school meals, nutritional assistance, etc.). <div>Tools<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compras públicas sostenibles• Campañas institucionales• Incentivos tributarios• Programas alimentación escolar (PAE)</div>	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generate and disseminate evidence about the nutritional, cultural and environmental benefits of biodiversity-derived products.• Develop methodologies that identify the impact of responsible consumption.• Support innovation in sustainable packaging and green marketing practices.<div>Tools<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovation laboratories• Methodologies to analyze the social, environmental and nutritional impact of the bioeconomy• Academic networks</div></div> <div>International cooperation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financiar campañas de comunicación y visibilización a nivel nacional y territorial.Apoyar la construcción de capacidades locales en comercialización y marketing sostenible.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitar intercambios de buenas prácticas internacionales en promoción de los productos derivados de la biodiversidad.</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include products derived from the sustainable use of biodiversity in portfolios and value chains.• Support small-scale producers with direct purchasing mechanisms, visibility and logistics.• Invest in joint campaigns with communities and territories to position products in the domestic market. <div>Tools<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution channels and market positioning• Experience in marketing strategies• Inclusive purchasing agreements• Product dissemination platforms</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize fairs, local markets and direct sales strategies.• Educate communities about the benefits of local and responsible consumption.• Generate cultural content and narratives that value traditional knowledge. <div>Tools<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local markets/fairs• Community communication channels• Storytelling for products• Ancestral knowledge</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance logistics infrastructure and platforms for short marketing channels.• Create preferential credit lines for enterprises that promote products derived from the sustainable use of biodiversity.• Invest in positioning and commercial scale-up campaigns for these products. <div>Tools<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blended finance and impact-based results.• Crowdfunding.• Green funds.• Seed capital.</div>

Relationship between actors and actions

GOVERNMENT-ACADEMIA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovation laboratories• Methodologies to analyze the social, environmental and nutritional impact of the bioeconomy• Academic networks	GOVERNMENT-ANCHOR COMPANIES <p>Participate in public procurement</p>	ACADEMIA-FINANCIAL SECTOR/IMPACT INVESTORS <p>Identify socio-environmental impact and return using scientific methodologies.</p>	FINANCIAL SECTOR/IMPACT INVESTORS-INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION <p>Co-invest in innovative financial instruments</p>	ACADEMIA-ANCHOR COMPANIES <p>Co-develop innovative products</p>	ANCHOR COMPANIES-CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS <p>Incorporate local producers in supply chains.</p>	FINANCIAL SECTOR/IMPACT INVESTORS-ANCHOR COMPANIES <p>Strengthen international sales. Develop supply chains using a territorial approach.</p>	FINANCIAL SECTOR/IMPACT INVESTORS-CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS <p>Support sustainable community enterprises.</p>
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Strengthen governance through intersectoral dialogue, joint planning, public-private partnerships and decisions based on territorial evidence for the effective implementation of the bioeconomy

Strong and coordinated governance is essential for the effective implementation of the bioeconomy in Colombia. This involves establishing spaces for intersectoral dialogue, joint planning, public-private partnerships and decisions based on territorial evidence. Coordination among actors is essential for designing policies, allocating resources and managing processes with a participatory approach.

Colombia is currently developing or planning a number of strategic tools for this purpose including the Bioeconomy Observatory, which is currently being consolidated, the Joint Inter-Trade Chamber envisaged by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Satellite Account operated by the National Department of Statistics, which is expected to be launched this year.

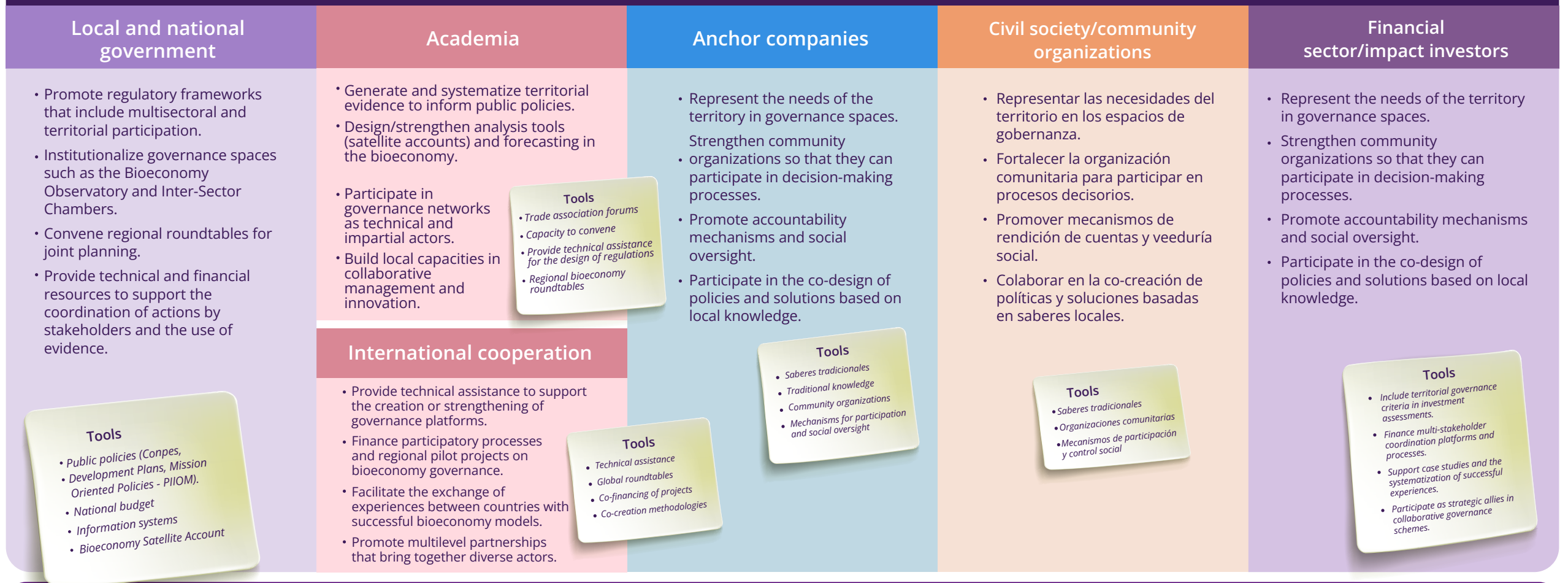
Academia plays a key role in generating territorial evidence, designing methodologies for analysis (such as information and foresight systems) and building local capacities. Anchor companies contribute valuable information for decision-making while leading interregional spaces.

Civil society contributes to this area through the sharing of territorial knowledge, procurement exercises and the co-creation of solutions based on local knowledge. The financial sector incorporates territorial governance criteria into its evaluations and promotes multi-actor coordination platforms. Finally, international cooperation provides technical and financial support for these actions and promotes the exchange of lessons learnt between countries.

Combined, these tools promote solid, responsive and inclusive governance based on territorial and cultural diversity.



Strengthen governance through intersectoral dialogue, joint planning, public-private partnerships and territorial evidence-based decision to achieve the effective implementation of the bioeconomy



Relationship between actors and actions





Identify strategic niches in the bioeconomy aligned with territorial contexts and the market that will contribute to prioritizing investments, training talent and attracting capital

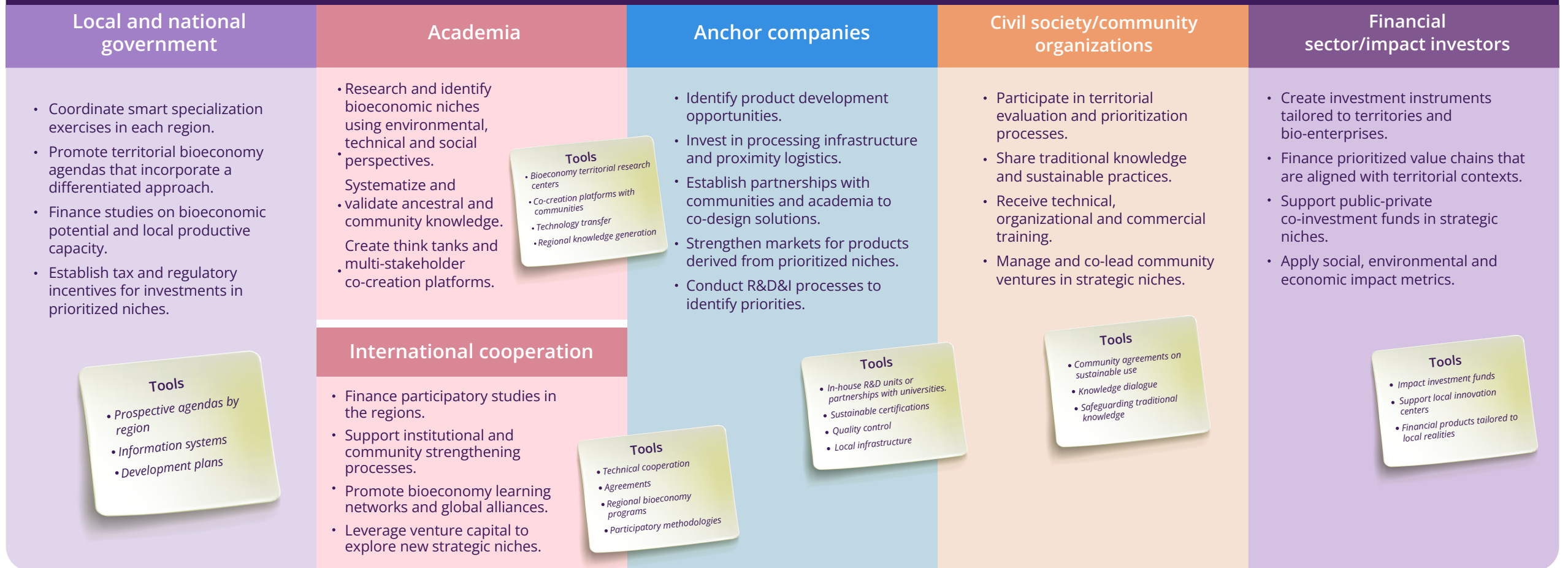
Identifying strategic niches in the bioeconomy that are aligned with the productive contexts in the territories and the demands of the market makes it possible to prioritize investments, train talent and attract capital. This roadmap highlights the need for coordination between public, private, community, academic, and international cooperation actors in the design of strategic routes that will boost emerging sectors.

In terms of tools, this proposal focuses on smart specialization exercises in each region, bioeconomic potential studies, capacity maps and tax incentive mechanisms for investments in the bioeconomy. The academic sector promotes research using a differentiated approach, the design of co-creation platforms and training on territorial foresight.

Anchor companies provide infrastructure, guarantee markets and lead applied research processes to identify product development opportunities. Community organizations identify priorities, manage traditional knowledge and co-lead ventures. The financial sector supports public-private investment funds for strategic niches and applies social, environmental, and economic impact metrics. Finally, international cooperation acts as an enabling agent by promoting participatory studies, consolidating learning networks and supporting risk reduction for new investments.



Identify strategic niches in the bioeconomy aligned with territorial vocations and the market to prioritize investments, train talent and attract capital



Relationship between actors and actions

ACADEMIA-ANCHOR COMPANIES

Design technological solutions and innovation processes.

GOVERNMENT-CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Involve communities in participatory territorial planning processes.

CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS-ANCHOR COMPANIES

Use local community suppliers for the provision of raw materials and/or sustainable tourism services.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION-CIVIL SOCIETY/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Implement actions that strengthen organizations and local governance.



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