BioFISA

BioFISA was a programme supporting the efforts of the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) to strengthen collaboration in biosciences research and support entrepreneurs in bringing innovative products to market while encouraging gender equality. It accomplished this goal by offering training, providing grant funding, and operating business incubators.

Grants

14 projects
funded after receiving 346 applications - the programme focussed primarily on a small number of high-quality applicants

297 mobility grants
awarded during the programme, helping a geographically disparate population access valuable technical and entrepreneurship trainings

Products

7 products
brought from concept to market which by early 2019 had combined revenue of nearly 500,000 rand and led to 6 successful spin-offs

100 jobs
created directly or indirectly as a result of new ventures and products supported by the programme

Gender

250 women
trained in technical and entrepreneurship skills with an additional 60 female students trained as part of the FemBioBiz Acceleration Programme

65% of all participants
in the BioFISA programme were women, exceeding the goal of 50% female participation and dramatically higher than previous engagement rates

Networks

134 events
held by BioFISA, including networking events, workshops, training sessions, and knowledge exchanges

3,000 stakeholders
engaged through network outreach events and training, with 800 individuals directly supported to enable their participation

Most births in Zambia are home births, which can be risky to mothers and infants, many of whom die of infections. The Safe Motherhood Alliance of Zambia - supported by (and winner of) the FemBioBiz Acceleration Programme in 2018 - created kits with everything required for a safe home birth. Ms. Mwanza, the founder, now employs 30 women and has won multiple prizes.

Project Details

BioFISA
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Location: Southern Africa
Managed funds: EUR 7,200,000
Duration: 2015-2019