

# AFRICALICS

**THE AFRICAN NETWORK FOR ECONOMICS OF LEARNING, INNOVATION,  
AND COMPETENCE BUILDING SYSTEMS**

## **Building Research on Innovation and Development in Africa Programme**

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**AfricaLics Research Partnership Building Workshop Report**

**2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013**

**Maputo, Mozambique.**



## Background

The purpose of this workshop was to bring together researchers from the innovation and development community and provide a space for creative thinking concerning new research projects or research dissemination projects in this area in Africa.

The workshop was a follow up to an initial meeting of academics studying innovation and development held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in December 2012 where there was agreement that research was lacking in a number of subject areas which are essential to the development of African economies and livelihoods. These subject areas include:

1. The role of women in Africa's innovation systems.
2. Work organization and competence building in formal and informal sector.
3. Overcoming raw material curse through new manufacturing and service activities.
4. National strategies to stimulate spillovers from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) presence in Africa.
5. Engineering design capacity building and economic development in Africa.
6. Building Low-carbon Energy Innovation Systems.
7. Agro-industrial innovation systems and food security.
8. The role of financial institutions in relation to innovation and development in Africa.

The Maputo workshop was held as a means to start a programme of work that would reduce the research gaps in some, if not all, of the above subject areas. The workshop used a series of group work activities to bring out research ideas and potential activities that could be carried out by a group of researchers within and around each thematic research area.

## Workshop overview

Participation at the workshop occurred through a competitive open call. A total of 74 applications were received. These were assessed by the AfricaLics Secretariat against a criteria relating to qualifications and experience; degree of fit with thematic areas and across geographical and gender lines, as well as, the attitudes and experience of group work.

The workshop was principally held over two days with a focus on group work (see full programme in Annex 1). Day 1 started in plenary with an introduction to the event detailing more information on aims and objectives of AfricaLics as well as the research and book projects proposal call due out in early 2014. There was also a presentation outlining the experiences of Latin American scholars who have made progress in developing a vibrant innovation and development learning research community connected to, and able to influence, policy and business in the region. This was provided as a source of inspiration for participants as they moved through the two intensive days of group work.

Following the plenary session, participants conducted a series of exercises in groups focusing on thematic areas from the list above on the afternoon of Day 1 and all of Day 2. A ‘thematic leader’ for each subject area had been identified (and who already had prior experience researching the subject area) to help ensure that group work was focused and that participants successfully achieved the desired outputs within the timeframe allocated.

By the end of Day 2, participants in each thematic group had developed a number of project ideas and opportunities were provided for everyone else (from the other thematic groups) to review project ideas and comment on them. A closing plenary session drew out cross-cutting issues between projects, possible areas of amalgamation of projects or otherwise and identified areas absent from the discussions. The main issues raised in this session and throughout the workshop more generally are outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Issues raised relating to innovation and development in Africa research gaps**

Overlapping topic areas discussed	Topic areas not discussed but should have been	Methodological and practical issues arising
<p>A number of opportunities to look for success stories on innovation in Africa – perhaps the opportunity for a larger book project? This is also perhaps the case with the issue of scale up of successful innovation projects.</p> <p>Gender, financing and environment have cross cut many of the ideas being discussed</p> <p>Is there a similar conceptual framework being used across more than one project idea?</p> <p>There is a consistent lack of knowledge on who is doing what.</p> <p>The role and need for capacity development.</p>	<p>The following other ‘sectors’:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Youth</li> <li>2. Health</li> <li>3. Sustainability</li> <li>4. Tourism</li> <li>5. Conflict</li> </ol> <p>Intellectual property rights</p> <p>Application of existing knowledge/ ideas (rather than new knowledge) to innovations</p> <p>The role of competition</p> <p>The role multi-national corporations play in controlling innovations</p>	<p>There is often an emphasis on real world problems which, while important, can obscure the importance of academic and methodological rigour in proposal development – bring out the need to think seriously about how and why a project can/should be done.</p> <p>Are many of the projects too ambitious and large in size?</p> <p>Need for innovation scholars to see themselves as part of the innovation process and not simply external to it.</p> <p>Think about country choices – extremes vs. similar situations</p>

In addition workshop participants also discussed ‘what worked well’ during the workshop. The following issues were raised for consideration when designing future events:

1. The opportunity to discuss across groups and hear or see what other groups are working on was useful. It was noted that these opportunities should not be rushed.
2. How to bring together people from different ideas or disciplines and levels of seniority is difficult. The activities were arranged in a way to effectively break down barriers, particularly between younger and more established scholars.
3. Effective planning of the two days showed that it is possible to progress project development in a short period.
4. The two days resulted in lots of discussions but the challenge was how to keep communications going after the workshop.

Before participants left the workshop they handed in summaries of project ideas. They were tasked with taking these ideas forward through continued discussions amongst team members in readiness for the opening of the seed funding call in early 2014. The list of projects that were considered during the two days are outlined in Table 2.

**Table 2: Project ideas discussed**

<b>Proposed project title</b>	<b>Brief overview of issue to be addressed</b>	<b>Contact person</b>
<b><i>The role of women</i></b>		
Women agricultural innovators in Africa	The book will look at African women innovators in agriculture. It will focus on a selected few country case studies from Africa. Chapter 1 - Introduction Chapter 2 - Global perspective Chapter 3 Africa - regional economies Chapter 4 - 7 Country case studies Chapter 8 Conclusion	Prof. Abukutsa Onyango Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology abukutsa.mary@gmail.com
The role of women in the informal agricultural sector in STI in Africa	To conduct an empirical study on the role of women in the informal agricultural sector in selected African countries. It will ask: what roles women play in science/ technology/ innovation along the agricultural value chain? In order to establish the innovative practices adopted by women in informal agricultural value chains.	Prof. Williams Nwagwu. University of Ibadan willieezi@yahoo.com
<b><i>Work Organisation</i></b>		
Work organization, competence building and innovation in the formal and informal economies	Addressing the gap of knowledge in African countries about work organization and competence building in relation to innovation in the context of informal economy. This study will conduct a thorough literature review and then do field work in the following sectors: mining, fisheries, agro-processing, tourism and forestry.	Edward Lorenz University of Nice Sophia-Antipolis Edward.Lorenz@gredeg.cnrs.fr
<b><i>Overcoming the raw materials curse</i></b>		
Local sourcing to overcome the raw materials curse	Produce a review paper on oil and gas arrangements and requirements regarding local sourcing	Abdelrasaq Na-Allah Federal University Dutsinma Katsina State, Nigeria abdelrasaq@yahoo.com
Assessment of existing and developing capabilities in mining	Study focusing on South Africa-Zambia-Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) grouping/cluster of inputs to supply mining in Zambia and DRC vs. Ghana	Simon Roberts University of Johannesburg, South Africa. sroberts@uj.ac.za

Soft commodities value addition	Review of existing work on coffee in East Africa - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda	Abdi Yuya Adama Science and Technology University, Ethiopia yuyabdi@gmail.com
Lateral migration	This study will ask the following types of questions: In what ways can the resources industry stimulate development of engineering and machinery activities? What other activities are companies supplying the mines doing? People trained and gaining experience in mining moving to other activities? What is the extent of positive externality/spillover effects?	Abdelrasaq Na-Allah Federal University Dutsinma Katsina State, Nigeria abdelrasaq@yahoo.com
Forward linkages	This study will distinguish between two areas: (i) Where a natural advantage should exist because of substantial transport costs to create forward linkages and; (ii) Where no natural advantage but intervention creates local industry	Simon Roberts University of Johannesburg, South Africa. sroberts@uj.ac.za
Innovation to limit environmental degradation	Assess existing institutions responsible for implementing environmental policies through a case study of water treatment of mine water drainage in South Africa	Gabriel Magoma Pan African University Institute for STI, Kenya gmagoma2000@gmail.com
Avoiding the 'resource curse' through diversified, higher productivity activities	Building on the Rodrik and Macmillian paper this study will ask the following questions: What has happened to manufacturing in African countries during the resource boom period? Has there been structural transformation of African countries during the period of resource boom?	Dave Kaplan University of Cape Town David.kaplan@uct.ac.za
<b>Engineering Design</b>		
Mapping Engineering Design landscape	There is knowledge deficit on design engineering in Africa. This study will use factual and evidence based studies to reduce this deficit. This will include case studies and a mapping exercise to include 5 sub regions; (North, Central, West, East & South)	Prof Mammo Muchie (NRF/DST Sachie Chair), South Africa MuchieM@tut.ac.za
How to improve Engineering Design supply to match the demand in Africa	This study presupposes that most designs are foreign and we seek to make Africa to be effective, capable and improve. This project will involve an in-depth study of the following; Supply; Firms & Organizations, the who, how, quality, identify the source, problems, within universities, technical schools, further education, firms, the Diaspora, foreigners and Multinational Cooperation's (MNC's). On the demand side; economic activities.	Prof Mammo Muchie (NRF/DST Sachie Chair), South Africa MuchieM@tut.ac.za

<b>Low-carbon energy</b>		
Innovation for Energy Access in Africa: Models and Outcomes	A case studies-based project to map innovative models of new energy access. Focus on: biomass, wood fuel, Solar, wind and hydro and hybrid systems	Radhika Perrot Mapungubwe Institute (MISTRA), South Africa Radhikap@mistra.org.za
<b>Agro-industrial systems</b>		
Agricultural industrial systems: success, challenges and opportunities	The idea is to provide a scientific documentation of current and relevant research around agro-industrial innovations around the continent through a book project. This will serve as a forum to present theoretical, methodological and conceptual differences in agro-industrial innovation research in the continent. Show how these projects are enhancing socio-economic development. The project will also help publish research work which most often will otherwise end as project reports and thesis.	Samuel N. Fongwa University of the Free State, South Africa Sam4ngwa50@yahoo.com
Agro-industrial innovation systems to reduce post-harvest losses	To assess and characterize the constraints, indigenous knowledge and role of different actors in minimizing post – harvest losses among small scale farmers and food processors in SSA.	Theophilus Mutui University of Eldoret, Kenya mutuitm@yahoo.com

## Next steps

During the final session of the workshop the following next steps were identified and outlined:

1. The development of a knowledge bank on the AfricaLics website to support innovation and development scholars in Africa
2. The development and publishing of an open call for seed funding proposals for collaborative projects such as those discussed during this workshop. The timetable for the seed funding call is as follows:

Call published: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014  
 Proposal submission deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014  
 Successful projects notified: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014

## Acknowledgements

The AfricaLics Secretariat would like to acknowledge the committed participation and enthusiasm of all those who participated in the workshop and the Hotel Cardoso for service provided during the workshop. The Secretariat also acknowledges Sida funding which have made the workshop and the subsequent research and book project proposal call possible.

## Annex 1 – Research Partnership Building Workshop Final Programme



### Building Research on Innovation and Development in Africa Programme

AfricaLics Research Workshop

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique

MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2013

#### PURPOSE OF DAY:

1. TO CONDUCT GAP AND CONTRIBUTION ANALYSIS IN RESEARCH THEMES
2. TO START IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES CUTTING ACROSS THE RESEARCH THEMES

Time	Activity	Responsible Person/Moderator
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Secretariat
9:00 – 10:00	<b>Introductions and official opening</b>	Moderator: Anna Kingiri
	Welcome remarks & introductions and brief overview of workshop objective	Secretariat
	<b>Official opening : Brief speeches</b>	
	▪ Globalics and AfricaLics	BengtAke-Lundvall
	▪ Government representative – Ministry of Planning, Mozambique	TBC
	▪ SIDA	Ana Gren
10:00 – 10:30	Plenary <i>Setting the scene of research in Africa and role of AfricaLics platform</i>	BitrinaDiyamett
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	

<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Plenary Issues for forming a vibrant research network at Africa level: lessons from Latin America	Alexandre Vera-Cruz
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	Introduction to group work and future opportunities	Secretariat
<b>12:00 – 13:00</b>	Break into thematic groups <i>Introduction to the theme by the thematic leader</i> <i>Speed-dating introduction round</i> <i>Any division into sub-groups occurs</i>	Thematic champions
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	Breakout work in thematic groups <i>Discussion leading to development of a list of issues raised in each thematic area that will be used in the World Café session</i>	Thematic champions
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
<b>16:30 – 18:00</b>	'World Café' session <i>Each theme leader, including 2 cross cutting themes – finance and inclusive innovation - sits on a table</i> <i>Everyone else will move in a structured fashion to each table and inputs into the ideas.</i> <i>This will be followed by plenary feedback of issues discussed from each thematic leader and a wider discussion</i>	Rebecca Hanlin
<b>18:00</b>	<b>Cocktail followed by dinner</b>	

TUESDAY, 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2013

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**PURPOSE OF DAY:**

**TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS AND/OR RESEARCH DISSEMINATION PROJECTS**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Moderator/ Responsible Person</b>
<b>9:00 – 13:00</b> <i>(including tea break at 10.30-11.00)</i>	Thematic working groups continue <i>Focused discussion to develop concrete proposals/ ideas for development</i>	Thematic leaders
<b>13:00 –14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:00 –15:30</b>	Peer review and feedback of project ideas <i>Initial poster session of the research project(s) developed in each theme with feedback from others on posters using post-it notes plus then feedback in plenary</i>	Anna Kingiri/BitrinaDiyamett
<b>15:30 –16:00</b>	<b>Tea Break/Health break</b>	
<b>16:00 – 17:00</b>	Closing plenary <i>Discussion with next steps</i>	Secretariat
<b>17:00 – 19:00</b>	Free time/ further project development discussions	
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	

## Annex 2 – Participants list

First Name	Surname	Institution Affiliation	Email
<b>Theme 1: The role of women in STI</b>			
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