



Strengthening Institutions for S and T in Uganda

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Introduction

- Recently development initiatives have centred on the key role of S &T.
 - The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD)- Johannesburg 2002 emphasised the role of S and T.
- Development distance between nations largely depends on their ability to innovate and S and T capabilities
- “Right” institutions for S and T has become a new lending conditionality



Introduction

- Efficiency with which S,T and Innovation are created depends on the right institutions.
- The failure to innovate and promote benefits of S&T is influenced by failed institutions
- What institutions are required for the development of S and T, and for Uganda's, transform?
- What institutions do we have in Uganda?
- How can these institutions be strengthened for S and T to be effectively generated and utilised?



What are institutions?

- Narrow view – formal bodies, research institutes and professional bodies, technical and other schools teaching S&T
- Broad view – include political habits, practices, norms and rules regulating relations and interactions among people.



What institutions do we need?

- Institutions for co-ordination
- Governance and accountability institutions
- Local systems to absorb S,T & innovations
- Reward systems
- Legal and Quality control
- Policy institutions and subsystems

Strengthening S and T institutions in Uganda



- Institutionalisation of S,T, research and innovation took place in 1990 with the creation of UNCST
- UNCST is among other functions charged with coordination of research and to carry out strategies to integrate science and technology in the national development process

Strengthening S and T institutions...

- Research and professional bodies are many including NARO, UNAS, IRI

These bodies coordinate different researches. However coordination between them still remains a challenge

- Institutions of learning and innovation
 - Demand driven science and innovative teaching should be emphasised
- Family/community and exploitation of indigenous knowledge
- Governance systems; e.g. Ministry of education and sports, the parliament should be strengthened to oversee proper utilisation of research grants and also to improve on the reward system for scientists.



Challenges

- Coordination between different institutions
- Creation of a supportive environment for T & T generation, sustainability and diffusion of scientific knowledge is still a challenge
- Budgetary constraint
- Institutional monotasking and monocropping challenges the effectiveness of S and T in transforming Uganda



Conclusion

- S, T and Innovation is vital for development
- We need the right institutions in the area of governance, coordination and above all those that would coordinate S, T and innovation at the local level exploiting the indigenous knowledge