

**Strengthening Institutions for Science, Technology and Innovation in Uganda.**  
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***Abstract***

In the recent years development initiatives have centred on the role of science and technology (S&T) in promoting and sustaining development. It is further emphasised that development distances between different countries is explained not by the volume of natural resources in these countries but by the technical abilities to exploit the natural resources (see for example, Patel, Ahooja-Patel and Patel, 1995). The need to develop science, technology and innovation calls for investment in institutions. Avoiding definitional debates institutions are taken to refer to formal arrangements and the political habits, practices, norms and rules, regulating relations and interactions among people.

The paper is guided by the following questions;

- a) What technology do we need
- b) What institutions are required for science and technology to develop and to transform Uganda?
- c) What institutions do we have in Uganda?
- d) How can these institutions be strengthened for S and T to be effectively generated and utilised?

The paper proceeds as follows: Section one conceptualises institutions for Science and technology and innovation (S,T&I) making a clarification between narrow and broader conceptualisations. Section two discusses the different institutional requirements for the promotion of S, T and I in Uganda. Section three discusses different institutions for promoting S, T and I in Uganda and how they can be strengthened not only to develop science and innovations, but to develop relevant technology and one that responds to development needs of Uganda. Section four discusses the institutional challenges in Uganda. Section five provides conclusions with a view that where as there is a need to have science and technology for the social economic transformation of Uganda, getting institutions “right” remains the challenge.