



The Research Horizon

Issue 2
November 2023
to March 2024



Funding Research For Sustainable Development

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Editorial

Note from the Editor
Research Horizon Newsletter Q1

Welcome to the first this period edition of the Research Horizon Newsletter for 2024. This this period has been one of remarkable progress and dynamic partnerships, reinforcing our commitment to enhancing research and innovation across various sectors.

In March, we celebrated a significant milestone with the launch of the National Research Repository. This initiative, a collaboration between the National Research Fund and the British Council, marks a transformative step in making research more accessible and impactful.

Furthermore, our partnerships have continued to strengthen. Notably, the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) and National Research Fund aims to advance water research, reflecting our proactive approach to addressing environmental challenges and supporting sustainable development.

This this period also saw the NRF take significant strides in environmental stewardship with the tree-growing initiative in partnership with the Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya Forest Services and Konza

Technopolis Development Authority (KoTDA). This activity aligns with national efforts to combat climate change and demonstrates our commitment to ecological conservation.

This newsletter features exciting articles on the state of Kenyan Universities among other topical issues on economy and contract performance in public service.

We encourage our readers to engage with the opportunities presented by the new initiatives and to continue contributing to our shared goals of research excellence and societal progress.

Enjoy the Read!

Warm regards,

Titus Kisangau, MPRSK

Editor, Research Horizon Newsletter
Corporate Communications Lead



Message from the CEO

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

As we step into the first quarter of 2024, I am thrilled to share the strides we at the National Research Fund (NRF) are making in driving innovation and excellence across the research landscape. This this period has been marked by significant achievements and promising new partnerships, underscoring our commitment to advancing scientific and technological frontiers for national development.

The highlight of this this period is marked by the development of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 which is designed to bolster national research capacity, enhance economic growth through the translation of research outputs into valuable products and services, and align with key national and international economic frameworks, including Vision 2030's MTP IV, GoK's BETA model, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Undoubtedly the launch of the National Research Repository on March 28th is another key milestone in this this period. This pioneering initiative, a collaborative effort with the British Council, promises to democratize access to valuable research on critical subjects such as Land, Water, and Energy. With over 600 articles already deposited, the repository is set to be a cornerstone in enhancing the visibility and impact of research outputs nationwide.

Additionally, our collaboration with the Kenya Water Institute through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on April 3rd exemplifies our proactive approach to harnessing

Science, Technology, and Innovation to meet societal needs. This partnership is poised to foster significant advancements in water research, ensuring sustainability and resilience in our water management systems.

Moreover, our environmental stewardship is demonstrated through our active participation in the national tree-growing initiative. This effort not only supports the government's environmental objectives but also promotes sustainability and biodiversity, crucial for our ecological well-being.

Looking ahead, NRF is excited to hold the 1st NRF Cybersecurity Hackathon scheduled for 7-8th June 2024 which aims to elevate our cybersecurity capabilities by engaging a diverse group of talents from the research community. Additionally, the inaugural Kenya National Research Festival will be happening from 19th to 23rd August 2024 themed, Research Partnerships and Collaborations for Socio-Economic Transformation-Catalyzing National Development Through Research.

As we move forward, let us remain committed to these initiatives, ensuring that the NRF continues to be a beacon of innovation and a catalyst for change. Together, we are shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication.

Prof. Dickson Andala

| Chief Executive Officer

About the National Research Fund

The National Research Fund (NRF) is established under the Science, Technology, and Innovation Act No. 28 of 2013, mandated to mobilize, allocate and manage financial resources to facilitate research for the advancement of science, technology, and innovation. NRF is committed to the advancement of national development through R&D initiatives.

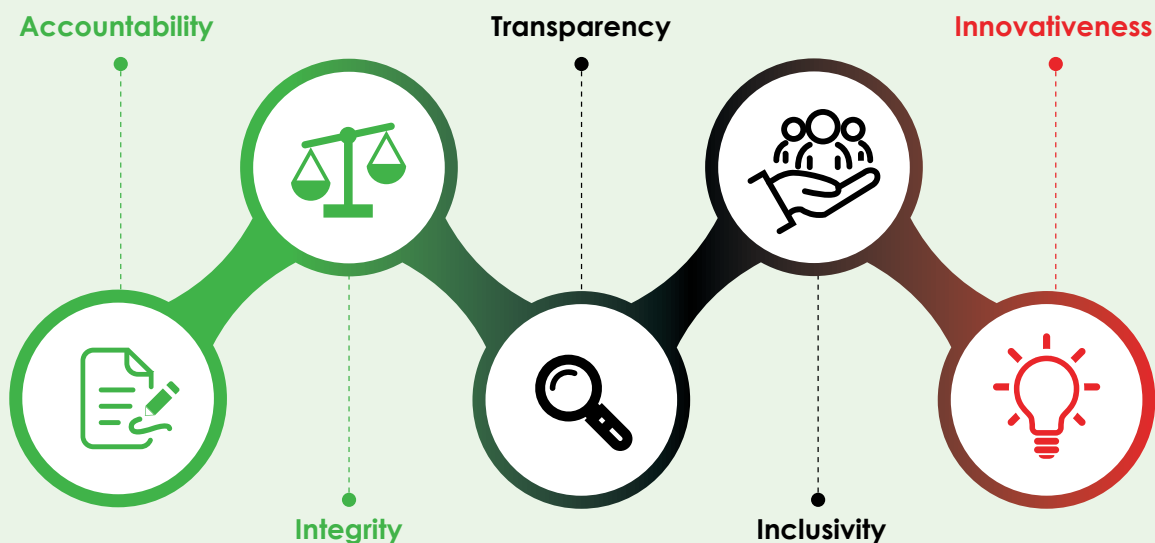
VISION

Sustainable funding of coordinated research for a better society

MISSION

To mobilise and manage financial resources to facilitate research for the advancement of science, technology and innovation for sustainable national development.

CORE VALUES



Award: NRF received DAIR award 2024 recognising our inclusivity approach in our research funding projects.

In This Issue:

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DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the National Research Fund or its management or governance structures.

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NRF Supports Fourteen New Bilateral and Multilateral Research projects



The enhance national research capacity, the Fund has continued to support Kenyan researchers to participate in international collaborative research for global competitiveness. In the first quarter of the 2024, the following key programmes have been supported under both bilateral and multilateral engagements.

Kenya-Eureka Globalstars Call

Eureka call for proposals was launched in January 2023, with Kenya, Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Estonia, France, Finland, South Africa, and Spain as partners. The call closed on 30th April 2023, and a total of ten (10) applications were submitted. After a rigorous national and international review process, three proposals were considered for funding. The following projects were successful:

- Banana-Based Food and Feeds: Enhancing Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods by Dr. Michael Lokuruka
- Passive cold chain: transport and storage of temperature sensitive products by Dr. Francis Xavier
- Leveraging Augmented Reality for Geothermal Resources Exploration in Africa by Dr. Nicholas Mariita

Africa-Japan Collaborative Research ("AJ-CORE")

AJ-CORE is a partnership between the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) which aims to support joint research and innovation projects in designated fields of science between researchers from Japan, South Africa and the 17 African countries whose ministries and granting councils are a participating member in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI). Kenya through NRF is a partner Third Call for Proposals. The AJ-CORE Third Call for Proposals on Environmental Science was launched in May 2023. After experts' review, the following two projects were recommended for funding by NRF for a period of 3 years:

- Advancing sustainable soybean protection and resilience to drought stress in Africa through holistic engineering of host-microbe interactions (Japan, South Africa, Kenya) by Dr. Stephen K. Wanjiru
- Geo-spatial Risk Index tool (GSRIT) to Monitor Human Nature Conflicts (Human-Wildlife Conflict; Poaching and Illegal Trade; and Climate change)- (Japan, South Africa, Kenya, Botswana) by Dr Joseph Mukeka

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Funding Pilot Call for Full Proposals

This initiative is endorsed by the Global Research Council (GRC), given the collective agreement on the importance of sustainability for our collective future. With this call the GRC is committed to taking concrete steps towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through innovative research and actions. The GRC is a virtual organization comprised of science, research, and engineering funding agencies from around the world. It is dedicated to the promotion and sharing of data and best practices for high-quality collaboration among funding agencies worldwide. A call for Concept Notes was launched on May 24th, 2022, and closed on August 31st, 2022. Full proposal was closed on Wednesday 10 May 2023. After expert review by a panel of international experts and ranking by funders, the following four (4) projects were identified for funding by NRF for a period of 3 years.

- From air quality data to actions for clean air for vulnerable populations in African developing countries by Dr. Anne Wairimu Kamau
- Advancing and implementing the multifunctional nature-based solutions (NbS) planning tool for metropolises to maximize their contributions to SDGs Prof. Japheth Ogalo Onyando
- Advancement and adaptation of agricultural biologicals to meet sub-Saharan Africa smallholder farmers' needs and build sustainable food systems by Prof. Cecilia M. Onyango
- Small fish for food and nutrition security in Africa (SmallFish4Food) by Dr. Christopher Mulanda Aura

Kenya-France Pamoja Hubert Curien Partnerships (PHC)

Kenya and France aims to strengthen the co-operation activities in Higher Education, Science, and Technology as expressed in the bilateral scientific cooperation agreement signed on 5th May 2015 known as "PAMOJA PHC" (Hubert Curien Partnership). The agreement was renewed on the 6th of October 2021 to cover the 2021-2026 period. The PAMOJA PHC is implemented by the Ministry of Education, through the National Research Fund (NRF), and in France by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MESRI).

The two countries had successfully implemented four (4) successful calls for proposals. The 5th Call was launched on 1st March 2023 with a closing date of 1st June 2023. After a national review, the 5th France-Kenya joint steering committee meeting on The PAMOJA Hubert Curien Partnership was held in October 2023. The joint committee shortlisted the following five (5) projects for funding:

- Use of nanostructured thin film materials for organic and perovskites solar cell applications by Dr. Francis Otieno
- Novel Nuclear Magnetic Resonance instruments for metabolomics in Eastern Africa: NMR4TROPIC by Dr. Baudouin DILLMANN
- Characterization of Optimal Maturity of Baobab Fruit from Different Agroecological Zones of Kenya by Dr. Willis Omondi Owino
- Mainstreaming climate change and sustainable development content in Higher Education By Dr. Jackline Nyerere
- Identification and Characterization of potent Nitrogen fixing and Phosphorous solubilizing bacteria for soil compatible fertilizer development by Prof. Muoma John Omondi
- These projects have been funded during the first quarter of 2024.

The National Research Repository Launch

Kenya's Leap into Open Access: Unveiling the National Research Repository



By Titus Kisangau



28th March 2024 marked a monumental step forward in Kenya's journey toward a knowledge-based society, with the official launch of the National Research Repository. This significant milestone is not just a celebration of progress but a testament to the collective dedication to advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) in Kenya. It's a journey that has been rich in collaboration, vision, and unwavering commitment from numerous stakeholders, including the National Research Fund (NRF), the British Council, universities, research institutions, and government bodies.

The establishment of the National Research Repository represents a pivotal advancement in how research findings are accessed and disseminated, promising to revolutionize the landscape of research and innovation in Kenya. With over 600 articles from projects funded by the NRF and other agencies already deposited, the repository stands as a beacon of open access, visibility, and impact for research in critical areas such as water, land, and energy.

This repository is not just a digital archive but a dynamic platform that will significantly enhance the accessibility and dissemination of research. It is rooted in the belief that publicly funded research should be accessible to all, aligning with international agreements and policies like the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the Berlin Declaration, and the UNESCO

Recommendation on Open Science. Such accessibility ensures that research impacts are maximized, fostering innovation and contributing to the nation's development goals.

Furthermore, the repository's role extends beyond being a mere collection of research articles. It is a catalyst for change, enhancing the quality and relevance of university education and research through a centralized platform for sharing research findings. This initiative is a critical step in upscaling research and innovation, driving positive change, and fostering synergy among universities, research institutions, and the NRF to support Kenya's Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) across sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, MSMEs, affordable housing, and the digital and creative economy.



The collaborative effort between the NRF and the British Council, with the support of UK International Development, underscores the importance of local and international cooperation in achieving these ambitious goals. The partnership aims not only to facilitate access to the repository but also to develop strong research communities through shared lessons and improved research management practices. This collaboration will pave the way for addressing socio-economic challenges, promoting inclusive growth, and breaking barriers to international collaboration through a digital open access platform.

As we look to the future, the National Research Fund has laid out strategic plans to further enhance the repository, including expanding its coverage to more research themes and ensuring continuous data harvesting. Such efforts are critical for maintaining the repository as a vital, up-to-date resource for researchers, policymakers, and the public. The commitment to allocate adequate annual budget and recruit skilled personnel for its management further demonstrates the dedication to the repository's long-term success and sustainability.

The National Research Repository is more than just a platform for sharing research; it's a cornerstone for building a knowledge-driven economy in Kenya. It embodies the collective aspiration for open access to research, the democratization of knowledge, and the empowerment of stakeholders across various sectors. This repository is a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and commitment to public good.

As we celebrate this launch, it is essential to recognize that the journey does not end here. The repository's success will depend on ongoing engagement with the research community, continuous improvement based on user feedback, and the collective determination to make it the go-to place for the latest research advancements in Kenya. Together, we can harness the power of open access to unlock the potential of the nation's research and innovation, driving sustainable economic growth and development.

Let us all support the National Research Fund and its partners in this noble endeavor, contributing to a future where knowledge is freely accessible, and innovation flourishes for the benefit of all Kenyans. Access more information [Here](#)



Empowering Diversity: NRF Clinches Top Honor at DIAR Awards for Inclusive Research Funding



By Titus Kisangau



The recent conferral of the Most Inclusive Research Funding Agency 2024 at the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition (DIAR Awards) to the National Research Fund (NRF) stands as a significant accolade in Nairobi's annual event. Organized by Daima Trust, these awards commend the efforts of various stakeholders in fostering inclusive, equitable, and sustainable environments within their organizations and the broader Kenyan society.

For the NRF, this award not only symbolizes recognition of its efforts to integrate diversity and inclusion into its operational ethos but also strengthens its mandate as a leader in the research funding arena. The NRF has consistently endeavored to ensure that its funding opportunities are accessible to a wide range of demographics, including persons with disabilities, women and girls, youth, and ethnic minorities. This approach not only amplifies underrepresented voices in the research com-

munity but also encourages studies that address diverse societal issues, thus enriching the scientific discourse in Kenya.

The acknowledgment by the DIAR Awards enhances the NRF's reputation as a progressive entity, attracting more diverse applications and promoting collaborations across different societal segments. It underscores the importance of diversity in driving innovation and scientific inquiry, thereby supporting the NRF's mission to develop sustainable solutions for local and global challenges.

As James Maina, the executive director of Daima Trust, noted, such recognitions spur further commitment towards creating environments where every individual has the chance to contribute and thrive. The award reaffirms the NRF's role as a change agent, committed to fostering an inclusive research landscape that not only addresses but celebrates diversity.

Partnerships for Enhanced Research

Partnerships and collaborative relationships contribute to the NRF's service delivery and are therefore critical to resource mobilization for sustainable research funding. Since its operationalization, NRF has worked with a broad range of partners, both national and international, to achieve its mandate. During the first quarter of 2024, the National research formalized the following partnerships

Partnership Between the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency and the National Research Fund



By Jacob Njagih



The Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA) and the National Research Fund (NRF) have embarked on a collaborative journey to advance Kenya's nuclear power and energy sector. This partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on the 13th day of February 2024. The MoU aims to harness the synergies between NuPEA's role in promoting, developing, and coordinating Kenya's Nuclear Power Program and NRF's mandate to manage resources for innovation in science and technology.

Together, these organizations will focus on several key areas of cooperation, including joint research projects on nuclear and oth-

er energy technologies, enhancing capacity through scholarships and training, refining policies for the energy sector, and elevating public awareness about the benefits of nuclear power. Additionally, they will support the development of research infrastructure, collaborate with international entities on nuclear research, protect and commercialize sector innovations, and develop a comprehensive database for energy technology research.

This collaboration signifies a strategic effort to strengthen Kenya's position in nuclear science and technology, ensuring a sustainable and informed approach to its energy future.

Boosting Kenyan Research: NRF and Research Beeline Launch New Funding Partnership



By Robert Gicheru

The National Research Fund entered a partnership with the Research Beeline Ltd (RBL) that came into effect on the 18th day of January 2024. This collaboration will leverage RBL's innovative digital platform to enhance access to a wide range of research funding opportunities for Kenya's research community. By integrating public universities, public constituent colleges, and public research institutions into this platform, we aim to empower researchers with essential tools and information to pursue funding for their projects.

The partnership will also involve extensive training programs focusing on both the effective use of the digital platform and the skills necessary to write successful grant proposals. This initiative not only seeks to increase the visibility and accessibility of funding opportunities but also to build capacity within the Kenyan research community, enhancing their ability to secure and manage research funds effectively.

This collaboration will greatly contribute to advancing research and innovation across the nation.



KEWI and NRF Forge Partnership to Advance Water Research and Sustainability in Kenya



By Mitchel Akinyi and Emmanuel Lutomia



The National Research Fund (NRF) and the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) entered a partnership on 3rd April 2024. The partnership is aimed at bolstering scientific research and innovation within Kenya's water sector. This collaboration will leverage the strengths of both institutions to address critical challenges in water management and sustainability.

Key areas of cooperation will include the development of joint research proposals targeting water and climate research, water and energy studies, watershed protection, sustainable water infrastructure, chemical and microbial risk assessment, nutrient management, and health-related water studies.

Additionally, both institutions will organize joint scientific seminars, conferences, and workshops, enhancing the exchange of knowledge and fostering the implementation of joint research and development programs. This partnership reflects our commitment to enhancing science, technology, and innovation to meet societal needs and stimulate sustainable economic growth in Kenya.

Science Granting Councils Initiatives

Innovative Science Councils Advance Gender Equality in Research Funding



By Faith Wakhungu and
Titus Kisangau



From March 18th to 20th, 2024, the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sandton, Johannesburg hosted pivotal discussions on integrating gender equality and inclusivity (GEI) into research funding frameworks. This gathering was a key part of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), launched in 2015 to empower science granting councils (SGCs) across sub-Saharan Africa.

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, led by Dr. Dorothy Ngila, shared significant advancements in embedding GEI into its operational frameworks since 2016. Dr. Ngila highlighted the critical role of patience and activism in effecting systemic changes, with the NRF's adoption of an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity (EDI) framework marking a major step forward.

Parallely, NRF Kenya's participation, represented by Ms. Faith Wakhungu and Mr. Titus Kisangau, underscored the workshop's importance for enhancing the council's GEI strategies. Their engagement exemplified the collaborative spirit intended to permeate SGCs across the continent, demonstrating NRF Ken-

ya's commitment to leading by example in the regional push for inclusive research funding.

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) of Germany, through Eva Reichwein, also showcased its efforts to promote gender equality and diversity within German academia. The DFG's multifaceted approach included supporting work-life balance and actively mitigating decision-making biases.

Interactive sessions further enriched the event, with councils from Kenya, Uganda, Botswana, and Zimbabwe critically refining their funding proposals under the guidance of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). These councils were encouraged to develop compelling pitches for their projects, illustrating the conference's dual focus on theoretical discussions and practical application.

As the conference wrapped up, the emphasis on actionable changes and inter-council collaboration was clear, with NRF Kenya playing a pivotal role in championing GEI within the region's research funding landscape.

Management of R&I for Impact



By Jacline Muyalo

The Heads of Science Granting Councils in Africa met in Dar es Salaam to discuss effective ways of funding and managing research projects in the continent. The heads of the funding councils met under the umbrella of Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI). Research and Innovation Management (RIM) project funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and being spearheaded by African Centre for Technology Studies, is meant to help research funding institutions under SGCI to evaluate and fund projects that bring out more positive impact to academia and development of communities.



Research Capacity Building Programme



By Robert Gicheru

As part of resource mobilization for research, the National Research Fund has developed a programme for capacity building of its researchers, equipping them with the necessary skills to attract funding. Capacity-building workshops are either organized periodically or on a need-by-need basis.

From 18th to 20th March 2024, the National Research Fund conducted a specialized training workshop on proposal writing, access to research funds and grants management at The Nyeri National Polytechnic. The training was in response to a request made by the institution.

The main purpose of the organized workshop was to enhance the capabilities of its staff in writing compelling research proposals, managing grants, and effectively mobilizing resources. Twenty-five (25) staff members participated in the three-day capacity-building workshop.



Embracing Excellence: NRF's Leap Towards Enhanced Performance Management

NRF Staff Trained on Performance Management



By Faith Wakhungu and
Titus Kisangau

This February, the NRF team participated in a vital three-day training on Performance Contracting, a cornerstone of the Kenyan government's Performance Management process. From the 7th - 9th, staff drawn from different departments gathered to sharpen their skills and align with national and organizational priorities, including the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda and Vision 2030 flagship programs.

The government has adopted performance contracting as a key tool for enhancing accountability and improving service delivery across various public sector entities. The government undertakes performance contracting in the following: Implementation across the Public Sector; Strategic Alignment, Setting Clear Targets, Monitoring and Evaluation, Accountability and Transparency, Rewards and Sanctions, and Capacity Building and Support,

Dr. Javan Mwiti, the session's lead, emphasized the critical role of performance contracting in boosting organizational efficiency and service delivery. He highlighted the importance of timely submission of reports and adherence to performance contracting cycles, urging all staff to support the digitalization of government services, aligning with the Board's strategic directives.

The discussions covered a range of essential topics, from the cascading of performance contracts to all levels to ensuring every team member feels a strong sense of ownership and accountability. The training also stressed the importance of a robust monitoring and evaluation system to track the effectiveness of these initiatives and make necessary adjustments.

A significant focus was also placed on aligning activities with ISO 9001:2015 standards to enhance our Quality Management Systems, directly impacting our service delivery efficiency. The staff gained insights on the implementation of the NRF Service Delivery Charter and the resolution of public complaints, emphasizing user-centred service approaches.

While officiating the training, Prof Dickson Andala, NRF CEO underscored the importance of the training, "This training is not just about compliance or fulfilling a requirement; it is fundamentally about transformation and excellence in our service delivery. As we align our operations with the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda and Vision 2030, it is essential that every member of our team not only understands their role but also feels empowered to execute it with precision and accountability".

Looking forward, the NRF is committed to developing a comprehensive mitigation plan for performance contract implementation, regularly conducting service charter audits, and maintaining a proactive management approach to meet and exceed our performance targets. Through these concerted efforts, we aim to not only meet our strategic objectives but also contribute significantly to national development goals.



A Greener Kenya: Towards 15 billion trees



By Emmanuel Lutomia

In a strategic move towards environmental sustainability, Kenya's National Research Fund is leading a robust tree-growing campaign in collaboration with various institutions across the country. This effort is a critical part of President William Ruto's broader initiative to combat climate change by planting 15 billion trees by 2032, aiming to increase the country's forest cover to 30% by 2030.

Konza Technopolis



In a bid to implement the presidential directive on planting 15 billion trees and building greener and sustainable cities, NRF staff joined the Open University of Kenya in partnership with Konza Technopolis in planting more than 1,000 trees in the upcoming technological metropolitan. This will go a long way in boosting the outlook of Konza and its environments.

Dairy Research Institute, KALRO- Naivasha

In NRF's continued support towards the government's initiative of planting trees, KALRO DRI Staff members led by Dr. Mbuku a principal investigator in one of the projects, hosted the NRF board members on 26th January 2024. Together, they took part in a tree planting exercise where both the medicinal and fruit trees were planted.



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What is
good for
the climate
can be
good
for the
economy
too

Ngong Ecosystem



Adding to its collaborative efforts, in early January 2024, NRF also partnered with the Kenya Forest Services, which serves to extend the reach and enhance the effectiveness of the tree-growing campaign. Prof Dickson Andala, CEO, NRF led the staff in a tree planting exercise at Ngong Forest, Nairobi. These initiatives are not just about hitting planting targets; they also focus on restoring degraded landscapes, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable economic growth. These efforts are geared towards the conservation of endangered ecosystems such as Ngong.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST)

On April 5th, 2024, the NRF collaborated with Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) to plant 500 trees on the university campus. The event was led by Prof. Ratemo Michieka, NRF Chairman, and MMUST's Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Josephine Ngaira, emphasizing the significant role educational institutions play in reaching sustainable development goals and mitigating climate change.

The significance of these tree-growing events is captured in Prof. Michieka's words, "When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and hope." This sentiment underscores the profound impact these initiatives are intended to have on building a sustainable future for Kenya. By engaging students, faculty, local communities, and various stakeholders, the NRF is fostering a collective approach to environmental conservation, demonstrating the power of partnership and dedication in tackling ecological challenges and moving towards a more sustainable and greener future.



Conferences:

Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Finance: Insights from FINAS 2024 with NRF Partnership



By Mitchel Akinyi



In partnership with Rootoba, we had interactive engagements at our exhibition booth during the Financing Agriculture Sustainably Conference (#FINAS2024). The Conference brought together actors in the agricultural sector to engage on financing the sector and on the appropriate models for funding agricultural activities. It was themed positioning Kenya for resilient Agricultural Enterprises.

The landscape conversations brought out challenges that informed subsequent discussions with financing solution providers and beneficiaries. The discussions included designing financing solutions to ensure relevance to the wide range of beneficiaries, and de-risking approaches for injecting capital such as blended financing.

The objectives of the conference were;

- i. Government's priorities for agricultural progression
- ii. Financing Transformation and Governmental Incentives and Frameworks
- iii. De-risking Investment in Agriculture
- iv. Technologies & Digitalization & Research
- v. Private sector involvement and needs of SMEs and Financial Institutions

v. Leading from the Front, honouring commitments

The participation of the National Research Fund (NRF) in the Financing Agriculture Sustainably Conference (FINAS 2024) was crucial for several reasons. Firstly, as a key stakeholder in research funding, the NRF's involvement ensured that the latest scientific and technological advancements could be directly integrated into the financial models and solutions being discussed. This is particularly important in the context of agriculture, where innovative approaches can significantly impact productivity and sustainability. Secondly, the conference's focus on de-risking investments and developing resilient agricultural enterprises aligns with the NRF's objectives of promoting sustainable development through research.

By participating, the NRF was crucial towards influencing the frameworks and strategies that will shape the future of agricultural financing, ensuring they are grounded in solid, research-based evidence and tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities within Kenya's agricultural sector.



Feature Articles

Navigating the Complex Landscape of Kenyan Universities: Past Achievements, Present Challenges, and Future Directions



By Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka, KNAS, EBS,
Chairman, Board of Trustees, NRF

Kenyan universities stand at a critical juncture, reflecting a rich history of academic excellence and grappling with contemporary challenges that threaten their future viability. My tenure as the founding Vice-Chancellor of the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) provided me with firsthand insights into the dynamics of higher education in Kenya, which I recently discussed at a training workshop for Vice-Chancellors and college principals in Mombasa.

The Historical Context of Kenyan Universities

The trajectory of higher education in Kenya mirrors the evolutionary paths observed in older universities worldwide. Notably, institutions such as the University of al-Qarawiyyin and the University of Bologna laid foundational models that universities globally, including in Kenya, have emulated. Kenya's own university education began with the establishment of the University of Nairobi in 1956, marking the commencement of an era that would see the establishment of several public and private universities, each aimed at addressing the growing demand for higher education.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Kenya saw a boom in higher education with the creation of universities such as Moi, Kenyatta, Egerton, and later JKUAT in 1994. This period was characterized by an enthusiasm for expanding academic frontiers; however, it also introduced complex challenges that persist to this day.

Current Challenges Facing Kenyan Universities

Today, Kenyan universities confront numerous challenges that include inadequate fund-



ing, outdated infrastructure, a brain drain of talented faculty, and issues surrounding the quality of education. These problems are exacerbated by political influences that often prioritize short-term gains over long-term academic excellence and integrity.

Inadequate funding and outdated infrastructure hinder the ability of universities to provide quality education and conduct cutting-edge research. Additionally, the emigration of skilled academics to countries with better opportunities has depleted the intellectual capital necessary for nurturing innovation and academic excellence.

The quality of education remains a pressing concern, with outdated curricula and insufficient practical training failing to meet the evolving demands of the global job market. Moreover, pervasive corruption in various forms undermines the integrity of educational institutions, eroding public trust and compromising academic standards.

The Path to Recovery: Strategies for Renewal

Despite these formidable challenges, the potential for recovery and excellence remains viable. Key strategies for revitalization include increasing government funding, modernizing infrastructure, addressing the brain drain, enhancing the quality of education, and rooting out corruption.

Substantial investment is required to upgrade educational facilities, which would help attract and retain top-tier faculty and students. Moreover, curricula need to be continuously updated to reflect current realities and future opportunities, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to contribute effectively to society.

Conclusion: A Call to Action for Kenyan Universities

As we look to the future, Kenyan universities must adopt a more holistic and rigorous approach to addressing the challenges they

face. This involves not only securing necessary resources but also fostering a culture of integrity and excellence that transcends the educational landscape.

The role of leadership in this transformation cannot be understated. As university leaders, vice-chancellors have the responsibility to steer their institutions towards sustainable growth and renewed academic vigour. By embracing visionary leadership and collaborative strategies, we can ensure that Kenyan universities not only reclaim their past glory but also achieve new heights of academic and social contribution.

In closing, the path forward for Kenyan universities is fraught with challenges but also ripe with opportunities. It is through concerted efforts and resilient leadership that we can navigate these turbulent times and emerge stronger, more innovative, and globally competitive.



This article is derived from a paper presented by Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka at the Vice Chancellor's Retreat In February 2024, Mombasa. Edited by Titus Kisangau

Transforming the National Research Fund through Performance Contracting



By Faith Wakhungu, PC Coordinator

In a bid to ensure accountability and improve efficiency in service delivery, the Government of Kenya has consistently embraced and championed performance management tools, with performance contracting standing out as one of the major flagship approaches. Within this framework, the National Research Fund (NRF) has adapted the tool, showcasing steady but significant strides in its performance and accountability measures.

In an ecosystem where accountability and efficiency are paramount, Performance Contracting is pivotal in ensuring accountability in resource management and enhancing service delivery efficiency by holding individuals accountable for results.

The implementation of performance contracting at NRF follows a rigorous process that aligns the Fund's goals with the strategic plans, approved budgets, and annual work plans. The planning division oversees the coordination of the PC annual cycles spanning from July 1st to June 30th. The cycle involves several stages including review and identification of targets, negotiations, vetting, signing of contracts, cascading of contracts to lower levels of implementation, monitoring, and reporting of performance contracts as well as evaluation. This meticulous process aims to enhance performance, foster accountability, and ensure prudent resource utilization in delivering quality services to citizens and stakeholders.

During the financial year 2021/2022, NRF achieved a grade of "Good," securing position 176th among 249 state corporations in the country. This accomplishment served as a catalyst, prompting the leadership of NRF to intensify efforts towards optimizing the efficacy of performance contracting in fostering excellence. As NRF charts its course towards the 21st Cycle, it is imperative to recognize that the overall success hinges on the collective efforts of every individual within the Fund. Under the esteemed oversight of the Board of Trustees and visionary leadership of Top management, NRF has embarked on a journey of continuous im-



provement and stringent performance management practices. Embracing a culture of inclusivity through the cascading of performance contracts is key to propelling NRF towards unparalleled heights of achievement and distinction. Such an inclusive approach is essential for fostering a culture of accountability and driving the Fund's excellence across all levels of operation.

In the grand tapestry of national progress, NRF continues to evolve steadily igniting a transformative journey towards a future defined by accountability, efficiency, and unyielding dedication to service delivery.

As NRF eagerly anticipates the release of the FY 2022/2023 evaluation report by the Public Service Performance Management Unit, it looks forward to substantial improvement that will serve as crucial insight for guiding future strategic decisions and operational enhancements. Concurrently, NRF is actively engaged in implementing the 20th Cycle for the FY 2023/2024, while also preparing for the upcoming 21st Cycle set to commence in July 2024. The anticipation of continuous improvement underscores the Fund's commitment to excellence.

Echoing the words of Churchill Winstone "It is no use saying, "we are doing our best." You must succeed in doing what is necessary." In the realm of performance contracting, this translates into a commitment to deliver on agreed-upon targets. Success is defined by the accomplishment of pre-determined goals.

Unlocking Growth: Embracing Digital Transformation



By Laura Odhiambo



In today's rapidly evolving landscape, embracing digital transformation isn't just an option; it's a necessity for survival and success. It's a fundamental shift in how we operate, innovate, and deliver value to our stakeholders. By leveraging digital tools and technologies, we enhance efficiency, streamline processes, and create more meaningful experiences for our stakeholders.

Over the past year, we've made significant progress in our digital transformation efforts:

Revamped Digital Interfaces: We've redesigned our websites to create frictionless and engaging user experiences. These platforms now have contemporary features that make interaction and navigation simpler.

Enhanced Cloud Infrastructure: We have upgraded our IT infrastructure, transitioning to a more robust cloud environment. This enhancement not only improves our operational efficiency but also provides our team with flexible and scalable tools to work more effectively.

Integrated Data Platforms: By centralizing our data platforms, we have streamlined our data management processes. This integration allows for more cohesive data analysis and better decision-making capabilities, enabling us to make informed decisions, personalize experiences, and identify new growth opportunities.

While we've made great strides, our journey towards digital transformation is ongoing. In the coming months, we'll continue to:

Enhance Cybersecurity Measures: With the increasing digital footprint comes the need for robust cybersecurity measures. We'll prioritize cybersecurity to safeguard our data, systems, and reputation.

Foster a Culture of Innovation: Digital transformation is not just about technology, it's also about mindset. We'll continue to foster a culture of innovation, encouraging experimentation, learning, and adaptability across the organization.

Digital Training and Development: We will implement extensive training programmes since we understand how important skills are in advancing digital transformation. With the help of these programmes, our staff will be prepared to work and play in a digitally enabled world.

Digital transformation is a journey, not a destination. We must all continue to evolve, work together, and be devoted to it. By working together, we can rewrite the rules of what's feasible and open up fresh opportunities for development and achievement.

How researchers can boost their career through science communication



By Titus Kisangau



Science communication is an essential tool for researchers aiming to enhance their careers beyond the traditional confines of academia. Effective science communication can transform a researcher's career by increasing the visibility and impact of their work among the public, policymakers, and peers. This increased visibility can lead to numerous professional opportunities, including higher citation rates, additional funding, and influential collaborations.

At its core, career success for a researcher may include advancements such as achieving higher academic qualifications, attaining greater job positions, or securing a higher salary. However, it extends further to more intrinsic values such as the enjoyment of work and making a meaningful impact on society. Communicating science effectively enables researchers to reach these varied goals by bridging the gap between complex scientific concepts and the general public's understanding.

One of the major avenues through which researchers can communicate their findings is the mainstream and social media. Platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and blogs offer re-

searchers direct access to a broad audience that goes beyond their academic circle. For instance, engaging actively on Twitter has been shown to correlate with higher citation rates of academic papers, as per the study "Can Tweets Predict Citations? Metrics of Social Impact Based on Twitter and Correlation with Traditional Metrics of Scientific Impact." Studies indicate that researchers active on social media can see citation rates increase by up to 200%, and 70% of scholars believe public engagement has a positive impact on their careers. Furthermore, engaging with media results in a 35% increase in research visibility, illustrating the tangible benefits of communicating science effectively to the public and peers (Costas, Zahedi, & Wouters, 2015).

Moreover, the personal benefits of science communication are significant. Researchers can overcome professional isolation and burnout by engaging with a community interested in their work. This engagement fosters a supportive network, boosts motivation, and often leads to the acquisition of new ideas and insights that can propel their projects forward.

Effective science communication also involves making research relatable and under-

standable. By avoiding jargon and presenting information in clear, concise terms, researchers can make their findings accessible and interesting to non-specialists. This not only enhances public understanding but also increases the likelihood that policymakers will notice and act on their research, leading to changes that could have a profound societal impact.

In conclusion, for researchers, mastering the art of science communication is not just an added skill, but a strategic career move. It amplifies the reach and impact of their research, opening doors to new opportunities and enabling them to contribute more effectively to society. This holistic approach to career development in research emphasizes the importance of visibility and engagement with a broader audience to achieve both professional growth and societal impact.

The Intersection of Humanity, Research and Technology: Revolutionizing Our World with AI



By Lewis Ndila

Occasionally, a revolutionary technology that changes everything comes along. When open AI launched chat GPT in November 2022 it became abundantly clear that they had set in a wave that transcended our wildest expectation. Ever since it has been clear that AI has the potential to continue transforming our lives in profound ways by intersecting humanity and technology.

AI continues to evolve and shape our future in ways we couldn't have imagined before. AI has been used for tasks such as data analysis, pattern recognition, and automation. As technology progresses, AI is becoming more integrated into our lives, with applications like virtual assistants, automation and personalized recommendations.

AI has become an integral part of our lives and changed our lives forever. It is important to note that, AI will not replace humans but humans with AI will replace humans without AI. AI holds the promise of solving complex problems, enhancing human capabilities and driving innovation.

Original Work Written with Heart and Balance by:
Lewis Ndila



Science Granting Councils Initiative and Global Research Council Sub-Sahara Regional Meeting



Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) and Global Research Council Sub-Sahara Regional Meeting was held at Pride Inn Paradise Beach Resort and Spa, Mombasa from 13th to 17th of November 2023.

This is one of the several high-level gatherings that include both local and international partners from more than thirty (30) countries. This forum gave attendees and opportunity to participate in high-level panel discussions on matters of science, technology, and innovation (ST&I). Additionally, it provided a platform for both seasoned and early career researcher to network with partners and research funders across the globe. Participants were drawn from different fields of academia,

business, government, and intergovernmental organizations. Key highlights from this conference included a Masterclass working paper on the state of ST&I and research funding in and for Africa. This was a learning session discussing successes, lessons learned, and best practices.

During the last 2 days of the conference, there was the Academic Symposium and the GRC meetings. While the Academic Symposium highlighted, displayed, showcased research outcomes, and offered training specifically aimed at SGCI sponsored research projects, the GRC meeting included subjects related to sustainable research.





Notable outputs and outcomes from SGCI Forum, 2023 were,

- Coordinated and well aligned R&D plans and priorities to the national agenda and organisational strategies.
- Methods and data on research funding flows in Africa are used by key stakeholders—particularly SGCs—to support new funding and partnership efforts, and enhance management of ST&I (Science Technology and Innovation) portfolios at a national level
- Shared lessons, experiences and best practices from the Councils and other ST&I stakeholders

In conclusion, the SGCI/GRC meetings presented an incredible opportunity for networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration. The participants were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the event in insightful discussions, inspiring key-note speeches and productive breakout sessions.



Investing in Sustainable Research + Innovations



By Emmanuel Lutomia

Building sustainable and resilient communities needs concerted efforts from each sector of society. We continue to witness and appreciate the outcomes and impact of research in the spheres of food security, environmental conservation in combating the effects of climate change, technological advancements through cutting-edge innovations, and evidence-based policymaking among others.

The disruptions that came with COVID-19 pandemic, for example, stand out as some of the reasons and lessons for sustainable investment in research. During these pressing times, we witnessed how each one of us played an important role in adapting and building resilience. As a nation, we must review our research investments beyond the grant awards and funding processes. These are investments in the future generations that can be implemented through capacity development and training of upcoming junior researchers, promoting a research culture among school-going children, and availing the necessary infrastructure that will act as an enabler towards various research activities.

Modern problems need modern solutions, as it has been emphasised several times. Research plays a pivotal role in providing a clear pathway to some of the issues that exist in our society today. In this regard, the global research landscape is evolving rapidly, and Kenya needs not to be left behind. The intricate nature of societal problems requires multifaceted transdisciplinary research to provide lasting solutions to a myriad of challenges. This can only be achieved through cohesive collaborations and partnerships with researchers across different disciplines, development partners, the community and policymakers.

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Strengthening Organizational Integrity: The Imperative of Internal Audit and Zero-Fault Approach



By Faith Osoro



In today's dynamic and competitive landscape, organizations like the National Research Fund stand at the forefront of innovation and progress. With a mandate to drive impactful research initiatives, ensuring organizational integrity is paramount. At the heart of this integrity lies the indispensable function of internal audit. Let's delve into why internal audit holds such significance, the concept of zero-fault audit, and why unwavering support for this department is crucial.

The Importance of Internal Audit

Internal audit serves as the custodian of organizational governance, risk management, and compliance. It acts as an independent assurance function, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of internal controls and the efficiency of operations. By systematically evaluating processes, identifying vulnerabilities, and recommending improvements, internal audit strengthens the fabric of the organization.

Moreover, in entities like the National Research Fund, where transparency and accountability are paramount, internal audit plays a pivotal role in safeguarding stakeholders' interests. It ensures that funds are allocated judiciously, research endeavours are conducted ethically, and resources are utilized optimally, thereby fostering trust and credibility.

Zero-Fault Audit: Raising the Bar

Zero-fault audit embodies a proactive approach to risk management and compliance. Rather than merely addressing deficiencies after they occur, it aims to prevent errors and irregularities altogether. This entails implementing robust control mechanisms, promoting a culture of compliance, and fostering continuous improvement.

We conduct internal audits to enhance the value of National Research Fund activities and verify the effectiveness of internal controls supporting our organizational roles, aiding NRF's pursuit of a Zero Fault Audit Regime.

The Rise of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)



By Emmanuel Lutomia

Kenya has continued to redesign and develop its education system and invest in higher education and research, we take cognizance of the role played by TVET institutions in both training and capacity development of the youths. The future of workforce highly depends on the technical skills being engraved in students who pass through these institutions.

We have had an opportunity to attend some of the Open Day events that are hosted by the Kiambu National Polytechnic, formerly Kiambu Institute of Science and Technology. From the presentations and exhibitions, it was evident that the TVET institutions and colleges have a greater potential to spur development in both the public and private sectors. Some of the exhibitions ranging from automatic irrigations systems which are solar supported, art and design, and food science technologies amongst others emphasizes the strategic importance of TVET institutions in Kenya's development journey.

Collaboration and partnerships have propelled the European and American institutions of higher learning, coming together for the better of mankind. It is a great sign to see such being inculcated in the cultures of our tertiary institutions. At this very event there were more than ten (10) TVET institutions coming together to learn and showcase innovative skills and most importantly, learn from each other's best practices.

As we continue to march into the future of technological advancement and research, the skills and knowledge being developed through these institutions will be very pivotal during the uptake of research outputs and outcomes for a better society.



Why Girls Should Embrace Science and Mathematics for Future Career Opportunities

By CEMASTEА



Cake cutting ceremony during the mentorship event

From Right: Mrs Jane Mwangi ,Chief Principal, Tumutumu Girls ; Mr. Sammy Nganga, Nyeri County CQASO; Dr. Purity Ngina, Regional Manager of Zizi Afrique Foundation,; Eng Jacinta Mwangi ,Urban Roads Authority director of planning and development,; Madam Beatrice Macharia Coordinator, Special Programme and Student learning at CEMASTEА; and a student at the school

In a rapidly evolving world, the importance of science and mathematics cannot be overstated. These fields are the backbone of countless innovations, paving the way for exciting career opportunities. Yet, many girls hesitate to pursue these subjects due to a lack of mentorship and support. It's time to change that narrative and empower girls to seize the limitless possibilities in STEM.

Breaking Barriers and Stereotypes: A powerful message resonated during the International Day of Women and Girls in Science celebrations at Tumutumu Girls on 11th February 2024: girls should not shy away from science and mathematics hosted by CEMASTEА. Eng. Jacinta Mwangi, Director of Planning and Development at the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA), highlighted a crucial issue. "Many

girls are still not entering these spaces, so continuous mentorship about the importance of mathematics and science is essential. Parents also need to be reminded that STEM courses are not reserved for men," she said.

The lack of female representation in STEM isn't just a local issue; it's a global challenge. Girls often face societal and cultural barriers that dissuade them from pursuing these fields. Eng. Mwangi's call to action underscores the need for collective efforts from parents, educators, and professionals to provide ongoing support and mentorship.

The Future is STEM: Dr. Purity Ngina, Regional Manager of Zizi Afrique Foundation, highlighted the future job market's realities. "Our projections as a country show that 60 percent of

our workforce will be in STEM fields. The government is steering us towards STEM courses, and it would be a mistake for girls to be left behind," she explained.

The message is clear: STEM skills are not just an advantage but a necessity. As technology continues to advance, the demand for professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics will only grow. Girls who embrace these subjects will be well-positioned to thrive in a competitive job market.

Empowering the Next Generation: CEMASTEА, represented by Beatrice Macharia, emphasized their commitment to promoting STEM education and gender equality. "CEMASTEА has a mission to promote STEM education and to promote gender equality in STEM education," she said. Through initiatives like STEM Outreach programs and school visits, CEMASTEА is actively working to inspire and support girls in STEM.

One shining example of this inspiration is Ivy Waitheга, a form four student at Tumutumu Girls. Ivy has chosen to study Chemistry with dreams of a career in Biotechnology. "I urge my fellow girls to embrace STEM subjects as they offer numerous job opportunities and can fill the gap in engineering fields," she shared.

Celebrating Women and Girls in Science: The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, celebrated annually on February 11, is a reminder of the incredible contributions women and girls make in STEM fields. It's a day dedicated to promoting gender equality in these areas and encouraging more girls to break historical barriers and stereotypes.

Girls and STEM in Kenya: Current Data and Trends: In Kenya, like in many parts of the world, there is a significant gender gap in STEM fields. Various initiatives and programs are actively working to encourage more girls to pursue STEM education and careers.

Educational Participation: In secondary education, there is a noticeable drop in the number of girls taking up STEM subjects compared to boys. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), women make up about 30% of the student population in STEM-related courses in universities and colleges. Fields like engineering and technology have particularly low female enrollment, while biological sciences tend to have higher female representation.

Barriers to Participation: Traditional gender roles and stereotypes often discourage girls from pursuing STEM subjects, with a common belief that these fields are better suited for boys. There are fewer female role models and mentors in STEM fields, which can dissuade girls from pursuing these careers.

Initiatives and Progress: The Kenyan government, through policies like the Kenya Vision 2030, aims to promote STEM education and increase female participation in these fields. NGOs and international organizations are also running programs to support girls in STEM. For instance, the African Girls Can CODE Initiative and the Technovation Challenge Kenya encourage girls to develop coding and tech skills. CEMASTEА conducts outreach programs in schools to encourage girls to take up STEM subjects. Companies in the tech and engineering sectors are offering scholarships, internships, and mentorship programs specifically targeting female students.

Encouraging girls to pursue science and mathematics is about empowering them to be innovators, leaders, and change-makers. The future is bright for girls in STEM, but it requires a collective effort to provide the necessary support and mentorship. Let's embrace this challenge and ensure that girls are not left behind in the race towards a technologically advanced future.

NRF in the NEWS



Wito watolewa kwa taifa la Kenya kuongeza fedha za Utafiti

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The government has been urged to increase its funding on research

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K24 TV LIVE NRF SGCI Mombasa

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Kenya hosts regional conference on science and research

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President William Ruto Impressed by Innovations Exhibited at the MMUST Stand During the Inaugural KAIICO Conference Hosted at MMUST

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Janga la funza lavamia wakaazi wa Kaunti ya Vihiga

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British Council and NRF Collaborate on National Research Repository Launch

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NRF Launches National Research Repository For Research Information

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The National Research Repository Launch | Facebook

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The National Research Repository Launch | Youtube

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Kenya hosts regional conference on science and research

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NRF kuandaa kikao cha kila mwaka cha mabaraza ya kutoa ruzuku za kisayansi Afrika

[Click Here to Read](#)



Plans to develop a national research repository underway

[Click Here to Read](#)



State To Establish A Research Work Repository Centre

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Wakulima wa maembe waanzisha mtambo eneo la Kwale

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Wadau wa elimu watoa wito wa kutumia deta zilizopo katika hifadhi ya taifa ya utafiti ambazo sasa zinapatikana

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NRF launches national research repository for research information

The National Research Foundation (NRF) has today launched the National Research Repository (NRR) for research information. The NRR is a digital platform that will house all research outputs generated by researchers in Kenya, making them easily accessible to the public and other researchers. NRF CEO Dickson Andala said the NRR is a landmark achievement that will significantly enhance the visibility and impact of Kenyan research. He noted that the repository will serve as a central hub for research data, reports, and publications, ensuring that valuable knowledge is preserved and shared. The NRR is expected to revolutionize access to research findings, fostering innovation and collaboration across various disciplines in Kenya.

Pastoralists in Samburu County benefit from a Sh25 million project

Pastoralists in Samburu County are benefiting from a Sh25 million project aimed at improving their livelihoods. The project, funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF), focuses on enhancing the resilience of the community through various interventions. These include providing training on modern pastoralist practices, improving water and pasture management, and supporting the development of value chains for livestock products. The project also emphasizes the importance of community-based organizations in planning and implementing development initiatives. NRF CEO Dickson Andala expressed his appreciation for the county government and the community's commitment to the project. He stated that the project is a testament to the NRF's commitment to supporting research and innovation that directly benefits the people of Kenya.

Ministry unveils automated data information system for children

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has unveiled an automated data information system for children. The system is designed to streamline the collection, management, and analysis of data related to children's education and health. It will enable the ministry to make data-driven decisions and improve the quality of services provided to children. The system is a significant step towards digitalizing the ministry's operations and enhancing its efficiency. NRF CEO Dickson Andala congratulated the ministry on this achievement and expressed his confidence that the system will play a crucial role in advancing the well-being of children in Kenya.

Clique & Clicks Get Spotted

FOR SOCIAL COHESIVENESS

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JKUAT-led consortium of research and industry players receive NRF grant for indigenous vegetables project

A consortium of research and industry players has received a grant from the National Research Foundation (NRF) for a project on indigenous vegetables. The project, led by JKUAT, aims to improve the production and marketing of indigenous vegetables, which are rich in nutrients and have health benefits. The grant will support the consortium in conducting research on the cultivation, processing, and distribution of these vegetables. NRF CEO Dickson Andala congratulated the consortium on receiving the grant and expressed his confidence that the project will contribute to the growth of the indigenous vegetable sector in Kenya.

British Council and NRF Collaborate on National Research Repository Launch

The British Council and the National Research Foundation (NRF) have collaborated on the launch of the National Research Repository (NRR). The NRR is a digital platform that will house all research outputs generated by researchers in Kenya, making them easily accessible to the public and other researchers. NRF CEO Dickson Andala and British Council CEO in Kenya, Sarah Johnson, announced the launch of the NRR. They stated that the collaboration between the two organizations is a testament to their commitment to supporting research and innovation in Kenya. The NRR is expected to revolutionize access to research findings, fostering innovation and collaboration across various disciplines in Kenya.

Friday, March 29, 2024 | The Mt. Kenya Times

NEWS 13

British Council and NRF Collaborate on National Research Repository Launch

By: Cynthia Masbo
@themtkenyastimes

In a groundbreaking partnership, the British Council and the National Research Foundation (NRF) have joined forces to unveil the National Research Repository (NRR). This initiative aims to revolutionize access to research findings, fostering innovation and collaboration across disciplines in Kenya. The launch of the NRR comes with a multifaceted purpose, serving as a virtual repository for a wealth of research data and scholarly outputs. Spearheaded by CEO Dickson Andala, the NRR promises to be a cornerstone of Kenya's knowledge economy, offering researchers, policymakers, and the public unprecedented access to cutting-edge research. During the launch event, CEO Dickson Andala emphasized the significance of this initiative. He stated that the NRR is not just a repository of data; it is a catalyst for change, fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The NRF paves the way for a brighter future for Kenya and its citizens. In the coming months and years, stakeholders across academia, government, and industry will undoubtedly monitor the progress of the NRR with keen interest. Its success will not only be measured in terms of metrics such as publication outputs and citation rates but, more importantly, in its impact on society—empowering individuals, transforming communities, and shaping the trajectory of the nation. As Kenya embraces the digital age and positions itself as a hub of innovation and research excellence, initiatives like the NRR are poised to play a pivotal role in shaping the nation's future. With visionary leadership, strategic partnerships, and unwavering commitment, the NRF has the potential to be a beacon of progress, inspiring generations to come.

The national research fund committee members addressing the media.

NEWS 13

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The national research fund committee members addressing the media.

NRF in the NEWS continuation...

SGCI/GRC Conference

13th -17th November 2023 - Mombasa



NRF hosted the annual SGCI Conference, a platform that brought together researchers, science granting councils and other stakeholders to share outcomes and the impact of research activities on the African continent. Furthermore, it was also used to discuss the research funding landscape across Africa and the way forward. This event provided an opportunity to researchers, upcoming scientists and other stakeholders to network and share best practices.

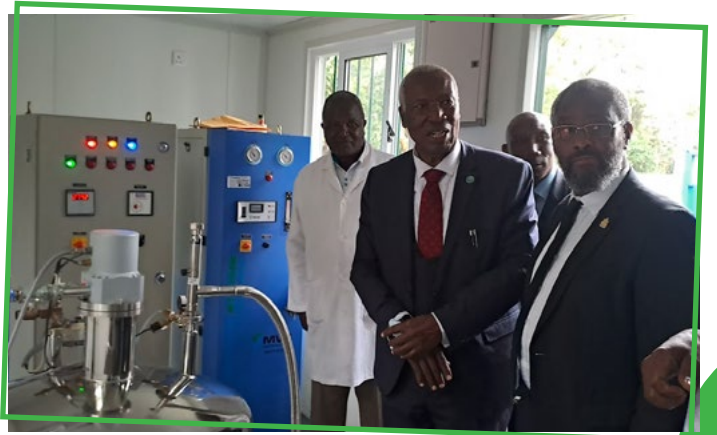
NRF Pictorial



NRF Pictorial



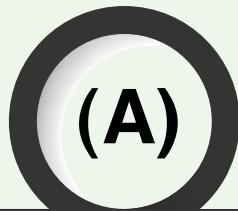
NRF Pictorial



NRF Pictorial



National Values and Principles of Governance



Patriotism,
National unity,
Sharing and
devolution of
power, The rule of
law, Democracy
and participation
of the people



Patriotism,
National unity,
Sharing and
devolution of
power,

The rule of law,
Democracy and
participation of
the people



Good
governance,
Integrity,
Transparency and
Accountability



Sustainable
development

Each individual must be committed to these National Values that are enshrined in the 2010 Kenyan Constitution so as to enhance Nationalism and promote Social Cohesion.

Road Safety Mainstreaming



ntsa_kenya

Slow down, fika salama
#FatalSix

USALAMA BARABARA

The project is funded by the European Union

NTSA Road for roads

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Never drink and drive
#FatalSix

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ntsa_kenya

Check the brakes
#FatalSix

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Remove stalled vehicles
#FatalSix

USALAMA BARABARA

The project is funded by the European Union

NTSA Road for roads

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Upcoming Events



Kenya National Research Festival 2024

Theme:

Research Partnerships and Collaborations
for Socio-Economic Transformation

Catalyzing National Development
Through Research



19th - 23rd August 2024



The Edge Convention Center

Online Registration

<https://festival.nrf.go.ke/>



Upcoming Events



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

NATIONAL OUTSTANDING RESEARCHERS AWARDS (NORA)

The National Research Fund (NRF) invites outstanding Kenyan researchers to the inaugural National Outstanding Researcher Awards (NORA) competition. The NORA awards seek to celebrate achievements of Kenyan researchers, spur economic transformation through cutting-edge research and increase interest in research careers and opportunities for the young generation. Eligible applicants are expected to have attained exceptional achievement in research, new scientific discoveries and accomplishments.

The awards will be in each of the following three scientific sectors:

- a Biological Sciences, Technology and Innovation
- b Physical Sciences, Technology and Innovation
- c Social Sciences, Technology and Innovation

The awards for each of the three sectors will be in the following five categories

1. National Outstanding Researcher
2. National Outstanding Researcher (Persons with Disabilities)
3. National Outstanding Woman Researcher
4. National Outstanding Young Researcher
5. National Outstanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Researcher

Eligibility

1. The nominees must be **Kenyan citizens** from both public and private sectors.
2. **Overall Researcher award** targets outstanding researchers with exceptional achievement in advancing knowledge, solving societal challenges as well as contributing to Kenya's social economic development.
3. **Overall Researcher award for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** targets outstanding researchers with exceptional achievement in advancing knowledge, solving societal challenges and registered with the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPWD).
4. **Woman Researcher award** targets excelling woman researcher with exceptional achievement in advancing knowledge, solving societal challenges as well as contributing to Kenya's social economic development.
5. **Young Researcher award** targets excelling young researchers of 40 years and below by 30th August 2024.
6. **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Researcher award** targets excelling researchers working in a TVET institution.

Nomination Process

Interested institutions can only nominate one (1) researcher per award category through an official letter to awards@nrf.go.ke. Nominated researchers will fill an online application form available at www.festival.nrf.go.ke; for a competitive selection process. Applications should be submitted by **Tuesday 28th June 2024**. Only nominated researchers will be eligible to fill the application form.

Successful awardees will be celebrated at the inaugural **Kenya National Research Festival (KNRF)** to be held from **19th to 23rd August 2024** at the Edge Convention Center, Nairobi.

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