

Steps to Innovation: Africa-Europe Partnerships for Global Challenges

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The Second CAAST-Net Stakeholders' Conference on 'Steps to Innovation' was held in Dakar, Sénégal from the 24-25 April 2012.

The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for bi-regional exchange of experience and expertise on the role of innovation, and an examination of the processes of translating research outputs into goods and services, in the specific context of Africa-Europe research cooperation partnerships around topics of mutual interest. Outcomes of the conference are being compiled in a paper for regional science, technology and innovation (STI) authorities to enrich the formal bi-regional STI policy dialogue.

Over one hundred experts from government, academia and the private sectors within Africa and Europe participated in the event. Plenary session presentations given by Mr. Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Higher Education and Research, Sénégal (The critical importance of technology and innovation to development and the importance of overcoming the challenges that hinder this); Dr. Gerasimos Apostolatos (Building a National Innovation System); Dr. Erika Kraemer-Mbula (Crafting Effective Cooperation: looking at the present, moving into the future); Kees van Klooster from EAU4Food (presentations on good practice); and Dr. Hilmy Sally from Water Harvesting Technologies Revisited: Potentials for Innovations, Improvements and Upscaling in Sub-Saharan Africa (WHAteR) set the scene for the participants and the break-out sessions and workshops they were to attend and contribute to thereafter.

Four workshops were held which focused on protecting and valorising knowledge and innovations, promoting industry-academia relationships and entrepreneurship, and securing financing to foster innovation processes. The workshops, running in parallel, were held to address key questions on challenges such as: a) making STI integral to national policies; b) encouraging public and private investments in innovation; c) promoting priority innovation activities in line with country development goals and needs; d) increasing innovation within business sectors and translating it into products that bolster and sustain industry; e) cultivating and protecting technology and innovation knowledge; f) financing innovation; and g) fostering academic, entrepreneurial and bi-regional cooperation, links and collaboration.

In the workshop on 'Promoting Industry-Academia Relationships and Entrepreneurship' it was highlighted that research knowledge gained by universities was difficult to transfer to industry due to weak policy and legal frameworks. This constitutes a serious obstacle to development. Some suggestions made to overcome this were: developing policy and strategy to support these relations; creating management structures to broker and drive the cooperation between industry and academia; and developing sustainable cross regional networks.

The 'Valorising Different Sources of Knowledge and Innovations' workshop emphasised the importance of turning research results into goods or services that meet the needs of end-users. It was argued that research needs to be of value to aid development and therefore it is extremely important to strengthen links between the researchers and the end-users through disseminating information beyond creating PhD/industry connections, and implementing mechanisms for policy learning.



Participants at the Second Stakeholders' Conference on 'Steps to Innovation'

Findings in the 'Securing Financing to Foster Innovation Processes' workshop were that end-users should be part of the innovation process from the beginning, along with government, academia and the private sector. An example of good practice is the African Food Tradition Revitalised by Research (AFTER) project, funded by the European Union, which uses the dried red flower of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* to make a drink concentrate called Bissap. The dried calyx is now being shipped to Europe and the United States.

In the same workshop, participants compared different research funding models. Balancing the relatively well monitored financial risk of funding traditional research (that may lead to innovation) with innovation research that needs immediate funding (often within six months) has not been easy, and to date there has been a strong imbalance in favour of the lower investment risk. Solutions offered were: 1) set up true innovation funds; 2) get governments to match or offset the risk of private funders investing in innovation.

In relation to the value and the need to protect information, the workshop on "Protecting Knowledge and Innovations" emphasised the need for developing policies on intellectual property (IP) rights, the implementation of these rights and the need to inform innovation developers of these rights. More venture capital as well as research and development funding dedicated to the support and protection of knowledge needs to be set aside.

Good practice examples provided in this workshop were the Kenyan and Nigerian universities. Each university has a Technology Transfer Unit, free equipment and training; outcome checks and an IP policy to raise awareness and to promote patent applications.

CAAST-Net is currently working on the paper that will document the bi-regional exchange of experience and expertise on innovation which took place at the conference. The paper will be available to all on the CAAST-Net website and will be offered to the regional STI authorities, with the goal of enriching formal bi-regional STI policy dialogue.

To access presentations given at the event, open this link:
<http://www.caastr-net.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/document+library>

Coordinator's Column



CAAST-Net is now in its fifth and final year as a Seventh Framework Programme project. To bring together our past, present and future activities and achievements, the 4th CAAST-Net Assembly meeting is scheduled to take place in Mombasa, Kenya from the 18-20 July 2012. The response from partners who will be participating in the event has been excellent. A side meeting for the CAAST-Net Plus consortium partners (who include many of the CAAST-Net partners as well as new partners) will be held on 21 July at the same venue. The final CAAST-Net Assembly will be an excellent opportunity for all partners to check that they are on track in completing the implementation

of their tasks, as the project draws to a close.

The second CAAST-Net stakeholders' conference took place in Dakar, Sénégal, this April. The Conference on Africa-Europe Partnerships for Global Challenges aimed to enhance the EU-AU innovation cooperation agenda and the theme was 'Steps to Innovation'.

CAAST-Net, in collaboration with the PAERIP project (Promoting African European Research Infrastructure Partnerships), is already in the planning stage for its third Stakeholders' Conference. The event is scheduled to take place in Accra, Ghana from 3-4 December this year.

With the end of the CAAST-Net project in sight, we not only look forward to CAAST-Net's upcoming events, but look back at some of CAAST-Net's successful past activities. As early as July 2010, a consultation process between the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and CAAST-Net has been in progress, with the most recent discussions being held in Sénégal in April this year. The consultation among the ECOWAS Member States on the topic and the theme for the ECOWAS region is now in the final stage. We are very optimistic that this event will take place before the end of the year.

A dialogue between the East African Community (EAC) Member States, EAC Secretariat and the CAAST-Net project began in June last year. A series of formal and informal meetings have taken place, resulting in the identification of the Food Security theme as the preferred dialogue agenda.

As a step further, CAAST-Net facilitated an exchange between the EAC

Dr Eric Mwangi CAAST-Net Africa Region Coordinator

and European parties in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 9 May this year at the margins of the IST-Africa conference. The topic on "improved technologies for increasing production in crops, livestock and fisheries" was agreed upon as the dialogue topic, and the discussions resulted in the development of a concept note. The next step is the identification of the relevant European Union (EU) and African Union (AU) experts for the workshop, expected to take place in September 2012.

In September 2011, CAAST-Net together with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), organised an informal solar symposium in Malawi where stakeholders from Africa and Europe exchanged knowledge on science policy and renewable energy. The participants highlighted opportunities where the two regions and different sectors could work together and offer possible solutions to poverty, skill enhancement, education development and economic empowerment through renewable energy. Discussions took place on ways to encourage the private sectors' business acumen in turning science research into profitable ventures that benefit the public and governmental policies.

Furthermore, CAAST-Net partners in their national mandate attended the Joint Expert Group for the 8th Partnership (JEG8) meetings held in Dar es Salaam from 8-11 May 2012 as well as the First Bureau Meeting of AMCOST IV which took place from 28-31 May 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the goal of strengthening and guiding efforts in promoting S&T for Africa's sustainable development.

In order to be informed of the dynamics within the EU-AU science and technology (S&T) cooperation agenda, CAAST-Net has also, in the last year, made concerted efforts to engage with other EU-AU Seventh Framework Programme science and technology cooperation activities initiated by EuroAfrica-ICT, the ERA-NET for Africa (ERAFRICA), INCONTACT, Information Society Technologies in Africa (IST-Africa) and Promoting African-European Research Infrastructure Partnerships (PAERIP), among others. To compliment this agenda, a brief on the EU S&T bilateral cooperation activities in the EAC region has been presented.

As we approach the close of the CAAST-Net project, we are looking into planning additional information days, and will continue to concentrate on implementing and completing key outstanding tasks.

We thank all contributors for their valuable input to this issue of the CAAST-Net Bulletin.

What is CAAST-Net?

CAAST-Net is a bi-regional platform whose goal is improved quality and quantity of cooperative efforts between Europe and Africa in science and technology, targeting areas of mutual interest and benefit, particularly through greater use of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) as well as national programmes and other bilateral and multilateral instruments supporting international cooperation, and through lobbying for more synergy between research and development (R&D), and development cooperation. In support of its goal, CAAST-Net has a range of activity clusters aiming:

- to support and inform existing Europe-Africa science and technology policy dialogue and cooperation processes;
- to identify and prioritise common research areas of mutual interest and benefit, especially for inclusion in the thematic priorities of the FP7 Cooperation programme, harnessing cooperation to address specific problems faced locally and regionally within Africa as well as common problems of a global nature;
- to promote synergy between Europe-Africa science and technology partnerships and development cooperation instruments in order to enhance the creation and application of new knowledge in support of achieving the millennium development goals, poverty alleviation and economic growth;
- to undertake specific activities dedicated to strengthening the participation of African countries in the current and future Framework Programmes through events aimed at raising awareness, providing information, brokering partnerships and optimising synergies;
- to monitor the performance and impact of Europe-Africa science and technology cooperation under the FP7 to inform future cooperation policy;
- to network and encourage the sustainability of specific EU-Africa cooperation projects that respond to priorities of the 8th partnership of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy.

CAAST-Net's activities are conceived as support for the implementation of Africa's continental priorities in science and technology, as expressed for example in the AU/NEPAD continental plan of action, particularly where there is mutual EU-Africa benefit.

A key pillar of CAAST-Net's strategy is mobilising activities in cooperation with Africa's regional economic communities, recognising their vital role in regionalising the implementation of continental priorities, and leveraging international cooperation to advance those priorities.

Many of CAAST-Net's activities, such as brokerage events, conferences, information days and thematic discussion platforms, are open to participation by interested parties. CAAST-Net has an "open-door" policy with its wider stakeholder community and is dedicated to continued dialogue and networking with our stakeholder community.

The CAAST-Net Bulletin is our primary means of communicating our plans, activities and outputs to our stakeholders. We very much welcome your feedback and strongly encourage your involvement and association with the project.

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Fostering links between Africa Call projects

Melissa Plath Project Coordinator
 Finnish University Partnership for International Development (UniPID), University of Jyväskylä



In 2010 the European Commission's Directorate General for Research Technology and Development implemented a Coordinated Call for Africa (FP7-AFRICA-2010), which brought together three themes: health; food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology; and environment, including climate change. The call served to address some of the science and technology objectives of the 8th Partnership of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, emphasising 'water and food security' and 'better health for Africa'. The Africa Call funded twenty-six projects altogether, with 42 African and European countries participating in all. Of the participating countries, the UK is involved in the most projects, with 24 different partners participating in 20 projects, of which 7 are coordinated by the UK. South Africa follows, with 12 partners participating in 12 projects. Some of the other active countries are the Netherlands, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and France. Between the 26 funded projects, all regions of Africa are targeted. Eastern and Western Africa are the focus of over 20 projects; 5 projects target Central Africa.

Each of the 26 projects individually contributes to addressing some of Africa's biggest challenges, but collectively the projects make a more

significant impact. CAAST-Net is working to support cooperation between the projects by providing an avenue for networking and for identifying and exploiting synergies and complementarities that exist between the projects. To this end, CAAST-Net has held several meetings with the coordinators of the Africa Call projects to share project information and explore possible areas for cooperation. The most recent workshop, held as a side event to the 2012 CAAST-Net Stakeholder's Conference in Sénégal in April, resulted in the formation of a cluster dealing with water issues, which is comprised of several projects across the themes. The cluster is considering areas for future cooperation, which could include joint dissemination, cluster events, or even cluster-specific outputs. CAAST-Net can also serve to network the projects with appropriate science and technology leaders to enhance the potential for impact. To contribute to this, CAAST-Net is in the early stages of planning for a joint event with the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Action (MIRA) to network the projects with S&T political leadership and other initiatives across Africa.

Africa Call project examples

PROJECT

AFRICA BUILD project

The AFRICA BUILD project aims to use information technology to improve capacity for health research and education in Africa. It seeks to provide innovative learning and research opportunities to individuals and institutions throughout the continent. AFRICA BUILD will support and develop advanced centres of excellence in health care, education and research in African countries through information technology and know-how, e-learning and knowledge-sharing via web-enabled virtual communities. AFRICA BUILD is coordinated by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid in Spain.

More information on the project can be found here: <http://africabuild.eu>

EAU4Food project

The EAU4Food project seeks to develop new approaches to increase food production in irrigated areas in Africa, whilst ensuring healthy and resilient environments. EAU4Food will develop, test and implement locally-appropriate, robust and affordable innovations for improved farm performance in irrigated areas. This will build on existing and traditional practices and irrigation strategies and will be driven by farmers and key stakeholders. EAU4Food is coordinated by Alterra at the Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands.

More information on the project can be found here: www.eau4food.info

WHaTeR project

The WHaTeR project seeks to contribute to the development of sustainable water harvesting technologies under dynamic global and regional pressures of current trends that strengthen rain-fed agriculture, rural livelihoods and food predication and security in sub-Saharan Africa. The project will conduct a situation analysis based on revisits to water harvesting sites in fifteen African countries that have been studied previously by the participating organisations. WHaTeR is coordinated by the VU University Amsterdam.

More information on the project can be found here: <http://whater.eu/>

CAAST-Net and social media

Many organisations are actively embracing social media to effectively communicate their activities and general news to a much wider audience. Now CAAST-Net has its own social media platforms.

- We have a Facebook page called CAAST-Net (Seventh Framework Programme). Please "Like it" and comment on updates.

- We also have a Twitter Account @CAAST-Net. Please follow us if you have an account. Feel free to suggest organisations we should follow.
- Finally, we have a Linked-In group called CAAST Net. Please join us and stay networked.

We would appreciate your input on CAAST-Net's social media.

Calendar

Event	Location	Date	Website	Contact
Networking Visits for African NCPs events	Ankara, Turkey Germany Sweden	26-27 June 2012 TBC TBC	http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/en/ot/10	Güliz Sütçü Email: guliz.sutcu@tubitak.gov.tr
Information Meeting about the new Calls for Proposals under the FP7 2013 Work Programme of the Activities of International Cooperation (Capacities programme)	Brussels, Belgium	11 July 2012	http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls	Alessandra Pellini Email: alessandra.pellini@ec.europa.eu
CAAST-Net Assembly	Mombasa, Kenya	18-20 July 2012	www.caast-net.org	Andy Cherry Email: andy.cherry@acu.ac.uk
CAAST-Net KBBE info day	Arusha, Tanzania	9-10 August 2012		Eric Mwangi Email: emwangi23@yahoo.com
ERAfrica project meeting	Bonn, Germany	20-21 September 2012	http://www.erafrica.eu/en/212.php?id=7&#viewanc	Sabrina Legies Email: sabrina.legies@dlr.de
BRAGMA project workshop on 'Marine and Coastal areas'	Mombasa, Kenya	September 2012	http://www.slideshare.net/nunopontes-cunha/bragma-newsletter-1	Ana Morgado Email: anamorgado@iict.pt
EAC-Europe Food Security Thematic Policy Dialogue Workshop	Arusha, Tanzania	September 2012		Eric Mwangi Email: emwangi23@yahoo.com
JEG8	Cape Town, South Africa	6-8 November 2012		
Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT	Lisbon, Portugal	28-29 November 2012	http://bit.ly/JhJGzC	Email: forum_lisbon@euroafrica-ict.org
CAAST-Net/PAERIP joint Stakeholders' Conference	Accra, Ghana	3-4 December 2012	www.caast-net.org	Andy Cherry Email: andy.cherry@acu.ac.uk
CAAST-Net/MIRA workshop on innovation in the context of water security research clusters in EU-Africa cooperation	Egypt	TBC		Andy Cherry Email: andy.cherry@acu.ac.uk
CAAST-Net info day - West Africa	TBC - CAAST-Net is committed to running two info days in 2012. An info day to be held in West Africa is in the early stages of planning.	TBC		

Upcoming events

CAAST-Net/PAERIP stakeholders' conference on research infrastructures

CAAST-Net and the PAERIP project (Promoting African European Research Infrastructure Partnerships) are jointly hosting the Steps to Research Infrastructures Conference on Africa-Europe S&T cooperation. The event, which is CAAST-Net's third stakeholders' conference, is set to take place from 3-4 December this year in Accra, Ghana.

The conference is an excellent opportunity for participants to contribute towards strengthening the Africa-Europe science, technology and innovation cooperation relationship, and to share their experiences on the role of research infrastructures (RI) and related policies which serve to enhance bi-regional cooperation. Currently there are no initiatives dedicated solely to RIs between Africa and Europe, nor is there much awareness on this. This has been a hindrance in the development of African and European STI collaboration and cooperation.

While PAERIP works to fill this vacuum and to promote RI partnerships between Europe and Africa, one of CAAST-Net's objectives is to enhance policy dialogue between the two regions on how to effectively respond to global and local research and innovation challenges.

About 100 invited stakeholders and experts from Africa and Europe are expected to attend the two-day stakeholders' conference. Invited guests will include policy stakeholders, financial and legal experts, international organisations, academics and research scientists, among other groups.

At the end of the conference, participants will have an improved understanding of the roles, perceptions and success factors of policies related to RI in Africa and Europe. They will also have discussed scenarios for creating successful Africa-Europe cooperation partnerships in the field of RI. A peer-reviewed policy paper on RI and bi-regional STI cooperation relationships will be formulated and offered to regional and bi-regional structures as input for enriching and informing their policy debates.

CAAST-Net/MIRA workshop on innovation in the context of water security research clusters in EU-Africa cooperation

CAAST-Net and its sister project, the Mediterranean Innovation and Research Coordination Action (known as MIRA), are hosting a joint workshop on EU-Africa innovation in Egypt in the last quarter of this year.

The objectives of the workshop will be to link water clusters to African science and technology leadership to support the uptake of research results and to come up with policy recommendations which focus on the implementation and uptake of research results.

The MIRA project will contribute on the water security theme from knowledge acquired at the water FORUM held in Casablanca, Morocco at the end of 2011, while the CAAST-Net project will be able to assist in linking Coordinated Call for Africa projects, focusing on water issues, to a wider network of experts, coordinators and policymakers. The event will be an opportunity for European and African delegates to develop ideas on regional sustainability in the implementation of water projects.

Expected participants include representatives from the projects funded under the Coordinated Call for Africa, various CAAST-Net and MIRA project partners, private sector and policymakers from Europe and Africa (both the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa), water experts, Research Driven Cluster Initiative (RDCI) experts, and civil society.

The organisers of the workshop include the Egyptian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR), the Finnish University of Jyväskylä (JyU), the Ghanaian Science and Technology Policy Research Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-STEPRI), the International Bureau and National Contact Point Life Sciences of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (PT-DLR), and the British Council.

Networking visits for African NCPs events

One of the objectives of CAAST-Net is to enhance participation of African countries in Framework Programme actions, and increase opportunities for Africa-Europe partnerships under those actions.

To achieve its objective, CAAST-Net conducts a series of activities to

improve the quality and quantity of coordinated practical support to African participation in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) projects. Activities are implemented by CAAST-Net partners in coordination with existing infrastructures, which also aim at raising African participation in FP7 to create synergies wherever possible, and particularly with existing National Contact Point (NCP) support networks with which there is commonality of purpose.

With this in mind, CAAST-Net is implementing three Networking visits for African National Contact Points (NCP) to Turkey, Sweden and Germany over the course of 2012.

The objective of these visits is to further bi-regional cooperation by:

- Informing African NCPs on opportunities for international research cooperation within the FP7 and the Horizon 2020 framework, which comes into effect in 2014, as well as introducing African NCPs to EC development cooperation services and instruments that assist in matching NCPs skills with needs;
- Facilitating networking opportunities among African and European NCPs;
- Providing a platform for African and European NCPs to share their knowledge and experiences;
- Providing additional exposure on relevant cooperation instruments;
- Informing African NCPs on how European NCPs organise activities at national level.

The first of the three visits will take place in Ankara, Turkey on 26-27 June 2012. The remaining event dates will be announced shortly by CAAST-Net.

This event will focus on networking activities for African NCPs and provide information on Turkey's NCP system. Additionally, opportunities to share knowledge and meet with coordinators of international EU-projects at both a Turkish university and research institute will be set up. The travel and accommodation costs of the African NCPs will be covered by CAAST-Net.

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CAAST-Net Assembly

Planning is currently underway for the last CAAST-Net Assembly, which will be held at the Whitesands Beach hotel in Mombasa, Kenya from 18-20 July this year.

The event will be attended by the CAAST-Net project partners and advisory panel members. The organisers of the CAAST-Net Assembly include Eric Mwangi, the CAAST-Net Africa Region Coordinator from the Kenyan Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology, and Sara Calamassi, the CAAST-Net Project Administrative Officer from the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

The assembly agenda is currently being prepared, and will be made available on the CAAST-Net website (www.caast-net.org).

Following the CAAST-Net Assembly, a one-day planning meeting for the CAAST-Net Plus consortium will be held on 21 July. The planning meeting will be held at the same venue as the CAAST-Net Annual Assembly.

2012 Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT

The Africa-EU Cooperation Forum on ICT will take place from 28-29 November 2012 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The forum is being organised by the EuroAfrica-P8 Partnership in the framework of the EuroAfrica-ICT Initiative (under the aegis of the European Commission and the African Union Commission) and with the support of the Portuguese National Science Foundation. The event is being organised in the framework of the Africa-European Union Strategic Partnership and will be hosted by the Portuguese government through the ministry of education and science.

The objective of the fifth forum is to strengthen the development of collaboration between Africa and Europe on information and communications technology research. Themes of discussion include regional economic communities (RECs), e-learning, e-health, e-governance, e-infrastructures, and Living Labs.

Bilateral science and technology cooperation with EU member states in the East African region

Eric Mwangi, African Region Coordinator of CAAST-Net
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MoHEST)

The European Union (EU) and many EU-Member States have long been development partners of the East African Community. They have funded programmes to improve road networks, increase agricultural productivity and promote democracy and good governance in the region.

For example, in March this year the EU and the government of Tanzania signed an agreement worth 51.51 million Euros to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) initiative for improved access to drinking water and sanitation in Tanzania.

The funding was made available under the 10th European Development Fund and is additional to the 555 million Euros that has already been made available under the Country Strategy and National Indicative Programme. The funding is meant to assist Tanzania in achieving the MDG of environmental sustainability by 2015.

EU Member States which provide donor support to Tanzania include: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Finland, Sweden and Norway focus on supporting ICT-related initiatives.

A number of EU member states provide donor support to Uganda, namely: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. For example, Belgium focuses on supporting interventions in the areas of decentralisation, health, environment, education, private sector development and good governance; France focuses on water and sanitation, rural development and civil society with projects managed by

the French Development Agency; Italy focuses on health, water, education and training, and agriculture, while Denmark supports ICT initiatives by encouraging partnerships between Ugandan and Danish companies.

Norway has a bilateral agreement with Uganda as well as with Tanzania. To cite one example, Tanzania and Uganda, among other eastern and southern African countries, have benefitted from funding from ict@innovation, an African capacity building programme which supports small and medium IT-enterprises and aims to encourage the expansion of African ICT industries. The main partners are the Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa, the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa and InWEnt-Capacity Building International on behalf of German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation, which donated 1.6 million Euros to the programme when the first phase was implemented from 2008 to 2010. Germany supports infrastructure for ICT initiatives in African countries as part of its focus in the areas of education and capacity building.

EU support programmes are also ongoing in Rwanda and Burundi. Other international programmes which focus on the environment, climate change, agriculture and forestry are funded through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations regional offices.

Partner profiles and funding landscapes

Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology

Eric Mwangi, African Region Coordinator of CAAST-Net



Ministry of Higher
Education, Science
and Technology

The Kenyan-based Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology (MoHEST) spearheads the national science, technology and innovation (ST&I) agenda. The core function of MoHEST is to stimulate global competitiveness through international and regional cooperation in ST&I. MoHEST has a well-defined ST&I policy which outlines the priority areas for international cooperation which the government must invest in in order to enhance rapid socio-economic development through ST&I.

More recently, the government has created the Multi-Sectorial Research, Science and Innovation Sector to guide the application of science and technology (S&T) in the country's vision for 2030. The government sees ST&I as a crucial driver of the global economy, social development and provides solutions that address global and national challenges. This is taken into account in the guide which aims to integrate S&T in production and service sectors. Consequentially development goals such as poverty alleviation and wealth creation will be furthered. This sector is coordinated by MoHEST and its policy has already been developed, including aspects of international cooperation for strengthening national capacities and capabilities as well as resource mobilisation.

The Kenyan government has bilateral development cooperation agreements with a large number of European Union (EU) member states. These support the Kenyan government's strategy to advance skills development within national priority areas and subsequently enhance national capacity in ST&I. The programmes are broad in nature but cover aspects of research and development within various sectors such as agriculture, health, environment, energy and

education. MoHEST is a key interlocutor in this process.

MoHEST also has specific S&T cooperation agreements covering a wide range of thematic areas, with respective institutions in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands. Actively developing strategic collaborations and linkages with relevant national and international organisations expands local ST&I knowledge and furthers the Kenyan government's aim to become a strong contributor to global ST&I thought.

Kenyan scientists have significantly increased their participation in the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) projects, as reflected in the recent Call for Africa which aligns with the Kenyan government's priority areas for international cooperation. MoHEST is also a partner in several FP7 projects, namely: CAAST-Net, ERAfrica, IST-Africa, Promoting African-European Research Infrastructure Partnerships (PAERIP) and Bridging Actions for GMES and AFRICA (BRAGMA). MoHEST has been the African Regional Coordinator of CAAST-Net since 2008.

MoHEST has bilateral S&T agreements with African countries, including South Africa, Nigeria, Egypt, Sudan and Botswana. Through MoHEST, Kenya was the previous African Ministerial Council on Science and Technology (AMCOST) Chair and currently sits on the AMCOST Bureau. The country is therefore at the forefront of implementing the African Union Commission-Consolidated Plan of Action initiatives, which include the EU-AU eighth partnership under the Joint

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Africa-EU Strategy. MOHEST is therefore active in the JEG8 strategies. The implementation of a coherent strategy and policies as well as prioritising scientific capacities are crucial to the development of an inclusive information society in Africa that retains its experts and integrates ST&I with national development. MoHEST also has strategies to enhance international cooperation in ST&I

with other regions, including the entire African continent. One example includes flagship programme clusters which focus on themes such as energy, water and desertification to build sustainable capacities, support development and share knowledge.

Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness

Armela Dino, MINECO



The Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) heads the proposal and implementation of economic governmental policy and reforms to improve competitiveness, scientific research, technological development and innovation in all sectors. MINECO is also responsible for the trade policy and support of the business sector.

Spain and sub-Saharan Africa collaboration flourishes

Over the last decade, Africa has become a strategic and political priority for Spanish foreign policy. Two plans were implemented to further this collaboration, namely: Plan Africa and the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation

Plan Africa is a framework of strategies for bilateral and multilateral cooperation and has three transversal objectives: the protection of human rights; gender equality; and environmental sustainability. Under this plan, collaboration with sub-Saharan Africa is highlighted, despite the traditional cooperation between Spain and Northern Africa.

The Spanish government launched the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, which aims to foster partnerships and scientific collaboration in order to further development in certain sub-Saharan countries.

Finally, the Law on Science, Development and Innovation (approved in 2011) includes a strategic line on internationalisation and cooperation for development. This has strengthened the Spanish government's priority towards collaboration with sub-Saharan Africa.

Uganda National Council for Science and Technology



Ismail Barugahara, Assistant Executive Secretary
Deborah Kasule, Representative at UNCST

UNCST mandate

The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) is a semi-autonomous government agency established in 1990 under the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. UNCST is mandated to develop and implement strategies for integrating science and technology (S&T) into the national development process. The council advises the Ugandan Government on policy matters necessary for advancing S&T and coordinates research and development activities in Uganda.

UNCST programmes

UNCST operates its mandate through programmes and projects in the following three broad functional areas:

Corporate Affairs and International Cooperation Programme

UNCST cooperates with the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research and Technological Development, which is the EU's main instrument for funding research over the period of 2007 to 2013. UNCST participates in the CAAST-Net project to share experiences and collectively nurture mutual interests in ST&I development. Together with other project partners, UNCST is involved in policy studies and analytical work on the EU-Africa ST&I landscape to establish the links between ST&I and development and to explore areas of potential synergy between the European Development Fund, Framework Programmes and other instruments of development cooperation in enhancing research productivity across the two continents.

UNCST's Corporate Affairs and International Cooperation Programme builds and maintains strategic S&T partnerships at a regional and international level on behalf of the government of Uganda. Moreover, Uganda's National Science and Technology Programme (NSTP) supports the strengthening of cooperation with other developing countries in the various fields of S&T.

S&T policy and coordination

S&T policy coordination includes the programmes for S&T expenditure analysis, S&T human capital development and scientific and industrial policy analysis.

UNCST has developed a sector strategic plan for S&T statistics, with support from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and the Department of International Development (DFID) of the United King-

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dom. Uganda, like many developing countries, is prioritising development programmes in higher education and S&T-based entrepreneurship in a bid to achieve S&T-led development.

Science and technology management

UNCST administers competitive grants for scientific research, training and product development in identified S&T priority areas through the S&T Grants Management Programme. The programme super-

vises the National Innovation Fund (NIF) and Millennium Science Initiative (MSI) grants, among others, and provides training in grant proposal writing to applicants.

Uganda MSI, a strategy to strengthen scientific and technological capabilities to meet the country's development needs, is managed by UNCST. It is co-financed by the Ugandan Government and World Bank for US\$ 33.35 million. Under the MSI Project, substantial support is targeted at public-private sector partnerships, vocational and technical training and internship opportunities. This has enabled private firms to access technology and skills, which has helped strengthen links between academia and industry.

UNCST supports the development of local science-based enterprises by bridging the existing gaps between the scientific research-innovations-product development and commercialisation continuum, and by providing advice for the protection of intellectual property rights. The S&T Outreach and Information Management Programme of UNCST engages policymakers, scientists, secondary schools, universities and other tertiary institutions, civil society, entrepreneurs and the general public in activities aimed at raising public awareness and appreciation for S&T and their role in national development.

SADC-Europe solar energy symposium

'Advancing mutual understanding of renewable and solar energy research and their supporting policy frameworks in Europe and the Southern Africa Development Community'



Participants at the SADC-Europe solar energy symposium which was held in Lilongwe, Malawi in September 2011

The Southern African Development Community (SADC)-Europe solar energy three-day symposium was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 20-22 September 2011. The symposium was attended by approximately 60 participants from Europe and SADC, including the organisers from the CAAST-Net partner countries and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Malawi.

The aim of this informal symposium was to share knowledge among experts on the renewable energy policy environments within the SADC and European regions, to clarify regional solar energy strategies as well as to explain policy drivers and targets that influence solar energy research. European and SADC experts gave presentations that compared the existing national and regional

landscapes, many of these can be found on the CAAST-Net website under the following link:

<http://www.caast-net.org/xwiki/bin/view/Main/document+library>.

Discussions also centred on African-European bilateral scenarios for cooperation at national member state level. One of the suggestions was to increase and strengthen the National Contact Persons list within SADC. The list, updated in November 2011, can be found on the SADC website:

http://www.sadc.int/files/3313/2143/1851/SADC_NATIONAL_CONTACT_POINTS_Updated_on_Nov_11_2011.pdf.



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