



East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTEKO)

**Strengthening Productive and Social Sectors to Support
Economic Development and Regional integration**

Presented by Dr. Saidi KIBEYA,
Deputy Executive Secretary,
East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTEKO)
2nd Fl, Telecom House, Kacyiru, Kigali, Rwanda



The East African Community

- Regional intergovernmental organization comprising Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, & Uganda, and recently South Sudan.

Organs: Summit, Council, Secretariat, EALA, EACJ,...

Institutions: IUCEA, LVBC, LVFO, EASTECO, ...

Political Federation

Monetary Union,
2013

Under negotiation

Common Market,
2009

Started in 2010, for free movement/people, labour, capital, services

Customs Union,
2004

Now
Operational



THE EASTECO

- EASTECO established as an Institution of the EAC by the Summit of the EAC Heads of State, in 2007;
- EASTECO operational since July 2015; Headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Overall Objective: *To promote & coordinate the development, management & application of Science & Technology to support regional integration & socio-economic development;***
- **Mandate & Functions: to coordinate and facilitate the activities of the Partner States and national science and technology institutions, for:**
 - policy development;
 - Skills development;
 - research and development;
 - technological innovation and commercialization of R&D findings;
 - programme, project and product development and implementation; etc.
 - Partnerships and resource mobilisation and utilization;
 - Administrative issues;



EASTECO's CURRENT FOCUS

Mission: *To build a knowledge and technology driven East Africa.*

2 Year Operational Plan (2015/16-2016/17):

- Develop Policy and Programming priorities
 - Regional Consensus on STI priorities
 - 5-year Strategic Plan
- Establishment & Support of Regional Technology & Innovation Centers of Excellence-> first stage: identification
- Facilitate commercialization of R&D findings: translation of technology innovations to marketable products -> sector 1: agro-process
- Facilitate and Support Partnerships between Universities-Public R&D Institutions-Private (industrial and manufacturing)



WAY FORWARD

Reference instrument for the EASTECO Strategy:

- **Harmonization with Partner States' STI Priorities**
 - National Science, Technology and Innovation Policies and Strategies
- **EAC regional policies and legal instruments:**
 - Industrialization Strategy, 2012-2032;
 - EAC Development Strategy;
 - Protocol of the EASTECO



Partner States STI priority areas

Cluster N°	Areas	Bi	Ke	Rw	Tz	Ug	Weight
Cluster 1	Agriculture, Livestock, Food security and agro-processing(industrial applications)	X	-	X	x	x	4
	Medical Science, Health and Bioscience	X	x	X	x	-	4
	Biotechnology	X	x	X	x	x	5
Cluster 2	Energy technologies	X	x	X	x	-	4
	Water, sanitation, environment, biodiversity,...	X	-	X	x	-	3
Cluster 3	Computer Tech, and ICT	X	x	X	x	x	5
	Telecommunications and microelectronics	-	x	-	x	x	3
Cluster 4	Natural products and Indigenous knowledge	X	x	-	x	x	4
Cluster 5	Science, Mathematics and Engineering Education and Training	x	x	x	x	x	5
Cluster 6	Space science and technology, Geo-information	x	x	x	-	-	3
Cluster 7	Material science, Nanotechnology	x	x	-	-	x	3



Pillar 1: Skills Development

- **2 Key Factors:**
 - Human capital-Youth population: 34% of total population (156 Million) are between 15 and 34 years, which is the active youth component
 - Natural resources: transformed into wealth by use of technology
- **Trends: The youth population is**
 - Growing (regional population growth: >2.5%);
 - Getting better education (progress of the national education systems)
- **Option: to channel the youth towards productive and innovative sectors.**
- **Target: to increase students' enrollement for Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology subjects, in tertiary education**
- **Actors: EASTECO, IUCEA, Higher learning institutions**



Pillar 2: Knowledge development (R&D)

- **Facts:**
 - Low scientific research production
 - Insufficient domestic funds for scientific research and technological development (<1% GDP)
- **Option:** To coordinate and improve the development of Scientific and Technological knowledge with quality and relevant Research and Development.
- **Target:** to support collaborative research; establish a network of Centers of Excellence in Scientific Research, for agreed regional priority areas.
- **Actors:** EASTECO, National Commissions/Councils of Science and Technology, Universities + R&D organizations



Pilar 3: enhance the use of Science and Technology

- **Key Factor:**
 - Technology and innovation as factors of sustainable economic growth
- **Option:** To support of Technology acquisition, Innovation, and Commercialization of R&D findings.
- **Intervention:** Facilitate and Support linkages/Partnerships between Universities-Public R&D Institutions-Private (industrial and manufacturing)
- **Actors:** EASTECO, National Commissions/Councils of Science and Technology, Universities + R&D organizations, Private sector/enterprises' associations, National Intellectual Property organizations



BUILDING A BROAD AND EFFICIENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Now than ever: Partnering between Partner States Universities, R&D institutions, Private/Industrial sector will foster the impact of Science and Technology on the wellbeing of the EAC citizen:

- ***Training in SMET & Skills development;***
- ***Collaborative R&D;***
- ***Bringing Technological Innovation to the Industry sector.***



The East African Community :

One People, One Destiny.



Thank you

Contact me: skibeya@eachq.org