

Despite the disparity in skills and infrastructure among AU Member States, Africa has leveraged on the existing skills, indigenous and traditional knowledge to design, develop and produce inventions with a wider reach beyond her borders. For example, M-Pesa, a mobile money transfer and microfinancing service, invented by a student in Kenya, is now being used by over 20 million Kenyans and 42% of Kenya's GNP flows through it. Also, it has extended beyond Kenya to other African countries and on to Asia and Europe.



Other significant innovations in Africa:

1. **Health** – Equipment for early disease detection and diagnosis, cheap temperature measuring devices;
2. **Water** – Specially designed containers providing solution to water collection problems, Antibacterial creams usable in place of bathing
3. **Waste management** – Recycled to fuel
4. **Agriculture** – High yield seedlings, disease-resistant species, and crowd-funding for agribusiness ventures, etc.

Expected Impact

The impact and expected results of inclusive innovation in Africa would be:

- Large-scale solution to basic needs
- Global Influence and Recognition
- Increased life expectancy
- Enhanced food security
- Cleaner and healthier environment

- Increased integration among Member States

Way Forward

- * To build Inclusive Innovation capacities, Africa needs:
- * Policies and legislation on Inclusive Innovation
- * Capacity and capability building – training of African STI practitioners to address challenges on Inclusive Innovation
- * Redirecting Corporate Social Responsibility of the private sector towards Inclusive Innovation
- * Advocacy and popularization strategy targeting African STI practitioners
- * Smart funding mechanisms geared towards Inclusive Innovation products and services
- * Strategic collaboration on Inclusive Innovation for the scientific community intra or inter Africa.

CONTACT US:

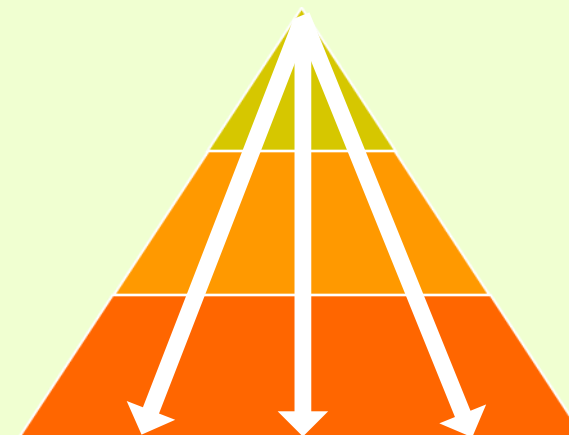
African Union
 Scientific, Technical and Research
 Commission
 Plot 114 Yakubu Gowon Crescent
 Asokoro,
 Abuja – Nigeria

Email: HamdyA@africa-union.org;
 KyariM@africa-union.org;
 Website: www.austrc.org

INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

The route for Africa's Economic Prosperity and Competitiveness

INNOVATION



Background

The most successful economies in the world are innovation-driven, because creation of new ideas and technologies leads to invention of products, services, machinery, infrastructure, which improve human standard of living or quality of life.

Regrettably however, Africa has not experienced significant and widespread development due to lack of innovation. As a continent, between 2005 and 2010, Africa contributed only 1.8% of the world's total research output, way below countries like USA (27.2%) and China (16.7%). UNESCO Science Report states that Africa contributed only 0.1% of the world patent.

Research output plays a key role in national or continental development, by revealing new or better techniques to solving problems and contributing to global innovation system.

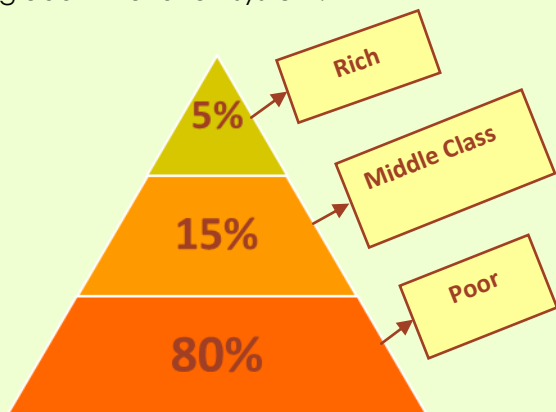


Figure – Wealth distribution in Africa

In Africa, the population majority is at the

Base of the Pyramid (BoP). The BoP to over 970 million Africans with a daily income below \$4. They lack proper access to basic needs of food, water, housing, sanitation, education, electricity and healthcare. Furthermore, the African population is increasing with a ripple effect on these basic needs. Hence, an aggressive but effective approach is crucial.

What is Inclusive Innovation?

Inclusive innovation is any innovation that leads to affordable access to quality goods and services for the poor on a sustainable basis, serves a real need, effective and with extensive outreach.

“Inclusive” implies involvement or participation. In this regard, it refers to development that is equally available and sometimes specifically targeted at those without access to innovation either because of financial reasons or distance, i.e., the poor and those in the rural areas.

Innovation and entrepreneurship is a fundamental pillar of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA-2024) that is to accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy.

Why Inclusive Innovation?

- * Africa needs innovation to benefit the BoP
- * Cost effective and affordable
- * Consumer-based, satisfying specific needs
- * Scalable – start on a small scale and upgrade to a larger scale
- * Highly lucrative – 80% of the population

are prospective customers

- * Requires little expertise/knowledge – can make use of Indigenous Knowledge

Components of Inclusive Innovation

⇒ Affordable Access

Inclusive Innovation must be reasonably priced for the poor to afford it.

⇒ Sustainable Basis

In the long term, the ‘affordable access’ should be able to run on its own benefits and market principles, not depending on government subsidies or procurement support systems.

⇒ Quality Goods and Services

Inclusive Innovation should result in the creation of quality goods and services recognizing the basic rights of the BoP, i.e. the poor. It harnesses sophisticated science, technology or truly creative non-technological innovation to invent, design, produce and distribute quality goods and services.

⇒ Access to Excluded Population

Inclusive Innovations should target the excluded population, at the base of the pyramid. This includes the poor, the disabled, the elderly etc.

⇒ Significant Outreach

Benefits of inclusive innovation should reach a reasonable portion of the target population.

Does Africa Stand a Chance to Compete Globally on Inclusive Innovation?