Strengthening Linkages between Policy Research and Policymaking for African Development

Proceedings of the
STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP
16 - 18 February, 2011 | Continental Hotel | Mombasa, Kenya

Edited by
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Prof. Kevin Urama
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AFRICAN TECHNOLOGY POLICY STUDIES NETWORK

APHRC

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FANRPAN
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network

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Organizing Institutions
African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)
African Population and Health Research Consortium (APHRC)
African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET)
Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, private sector actors and policy makers promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation (ST&I) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. ATPS intends to achieve its mandate through research, capacity building and training, science communication/dissemination and sensitization, participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge brokerage, and policy advocacy.

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Acknowledgement

Executive Summary

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners including: the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN); the African Population and Health Research Consortium (APHRC) and the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), with financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation, held a workshop on "Strengthening Linkages between Policy Research and Policymaking for African Development" on 16 – 18 February 2011 in Mombasa, Kenya.

The workshop brought together high level policymakers (including Ministers, Prime Ministers, Permanent secretaries and members of parliament) on the one hand; and renowned scientists and researchers from universities; policy research institutions as well as public research institutes (PRIs) on the other. The workshop decried the weak linkages between policy research and policy making and noted that this weak linkage undermines African development. The workshop deliberated on ways of bridging the gap between policy research and policymaking drawing on the practical experiences of the policymakers and researchers. After three days of intensive deliberations, the workshop resolved that in order to bridge the gap between policy research and policy making, there is urgent need to:

> Create platforms for continuous dialogue between the policymakers and policy researchers.
> Conduct regular and sustained training and capacity building for the policymakers on emerging topical issues that require policy action.
> Establish a transdisciplinary Network of policy research institutions and policymakers for continued knowledge brokerage and science communication in Africa

As a response to this enthusiasm and demand for training and continuous dialogue, The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners (FANRPAN, APHRC, ACET) have proposed to hold an international conference on the theme "Strengthening Linkages between Policy Researchers and Policymaking for African Development" in collaboration with the African Union/NEPAD and the regional economic blocs such as the East African Community (EAC); Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); South African Development Community (SADC) and Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS). The conference also aims to derive lessons from successful linkages amongst the key stakeholders in Africa, emerging and the developed countries.

Abbreviations & Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
ACET	African Centre for Economic Transformation
ACET	African Centre for Economic Transformation
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Consortium
ATPS	African Technology Policy Studies Network
BIDPA	Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis
BOP	Balance of Payment
CEPA	Centre for Economic Policy Analysis
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
EATPS	Eastern and Southern Africa Technology Policy Studies Network
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements
FANRPAN	Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network
GDP	Gross domestic product
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IGR	Internally Generated Revenue
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NISER	Nigeria Institute of Social Economic Research

NSI   National System of Innovation

ODI   Overseas Development Institute

PRGF   Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility

PRIs   Public Research Institutes

PRSPs   Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

Q&A   Questions and Answers

R&D   Research and Development

S&T   Science and Technology

SADC   South African Development Community

SAP   Structural Adjustment Programme

SETDEV   Science, Ethics and Technological Responsibilities in Developing and

            Emerging Countries

SIDA   Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

STI   Science, Technology and Innovations

STR   Science and Technology Research

UIRI   Uganda Industrial Research Institute

UNESCO   United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

WATPS   Western Africa Technology Policy Studies network

BACKGROUND

1.0   BACKGROUND
Why this workshop? Why now?

National development is hinged on the development and implementation of appropriate policies, the building of requisite human capabilities; adequate technological infrastructure as well as enterprise capital base to bolster the various development initiatives. These should operate within a system that permits regular feedback mechanisms to appraise ongoing efforts and recommend reinforcing and/or corrective actions.

While the linkage between policy and national development is often moderated by other factors, it cannot be denied that the absence of a strong and appropriate policy framework, that incorporates solid theoretical and empirical research and the points of view of multiple stakeholders, may spell disaster for any national development agenda.

Fortunately, African leaders have seen the wisdom of the need to empower policy creators, even though this effort is in its early stages, in virtually all the domains linked to national development, particularly in science and technology, economic transformation, and health – key factors in any positive national growth agenda. Indeed, the past decade has seen the

emergence of strong political will for the use of innovation in science, technology and economic transformation as strong components of the engine of development in Africa.

In 2008, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told delegates at the Science in Africa summit that: *"No country on earth has developed without deploying, harnessing and utilizing science and technology, whether through technology transfer or homegrown solutions".* President Bingu wa Mutharika, the Malawian President branded his maiden speech as New Chairman of the AU with a slogan *"Feeding Africa through New Technologies: Let Us Act Now."* According to President Kagame, *"We in Africa must either begin to build our scientific and technological training capabilities or remain an impoverished appendage to the global economy."* These statements and political commitments including the formation of dedicated S&T units at NEPAD, and many Pan-African NGOs championing STI capacity building in Africa are all testimonies of the changing vision.

Yet, in spite of sporadic progress in some countries, the use of policy heavily informed by research evidence in critical domains in policymaking in Africa leaves much to be desired. In an ideal situation policy-making does not happen in isolation, it involves complex and sustained dialogues between a diverse range of stakeholders who include, research and science, economics and other development experts, government technocrats, civil society groups, private sector interests, policy analysts and members of parliament, to name but a few.

Further illustrative of the size of the task ahead for the African policy nexus is the scale of challenges faced by Africa in poverty alleviation – with a significant proportion of its population subsisting on less than US$ 2 per day, in the persistence of the effects of recurrent natural disasters due to flooding, droughts, crop failure, and famine, in the face of proliferation of sound scientific breakthroughs in agricultural innovations, meteorology and climate sciences, animal and plant genetics, biotechnology.

However the policy agenda in Africa has often not fully utilized the full strength of the skills of African experts, leaving the African policy landscape much too influenced by the agendas of external development agencies, consultants, and bilateral development partners. This has raised the question of whether Africa's priorities are truly at the heart of its development agenda. It has been observed by some that African governments are often seen as being too ready to overlook local research capacity in favor of expatriate researchers and ad hoc consultancies[1]. "The challenge for the new millennium is to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information, and associational energy that exist in public policy research organizations in every region of the world for public good." (Think Tanks and Policy Advice McGann 2007) No doubt, African policy research organizations are ready and able to deliver

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[1] *Hoffman j. 1995, Linking Economic Research and Policy Making: The Role of AERC*

for Africa, especially in the sciences where a significant base of science publications on poverty alleviation and pro-poor innovations has been developed.

Reconnaissance surveys show that the continued ad hoc policy-making in Africa is neither because of lack of scientific evidence in our universities and research institutions, nor an absolute lack of interest amongst African Policymakers to use African research evidence for policy making. Reviewing the existing literature might point to certain 'demand' and 'supply' factors that may have weakened the linkages between African Policy Researchers and African Policymakers over time. Some of these factors may include: the nature of research conducted and types of knowledge produced; lack of research capacity in conducting quality policy analyses; lack of professional skills in communication and policy advocacy; intellectual and occupational snobbery among experts and policymakers; a lack of confidence in locally produced knowledge; and external influence relatively uninformed as to continental research prioritization regarding the policy needs of African countries. On the demand side, one key concern has been the short-term nature of policymaking and policy reversals in Africa. As the adage goes, Ministers are 'here today, and gone tomorrow.' Inevitably and in light of the complex policy environments within which African Policymakers work, commitment to evidence-based policy making has been relatively weak.
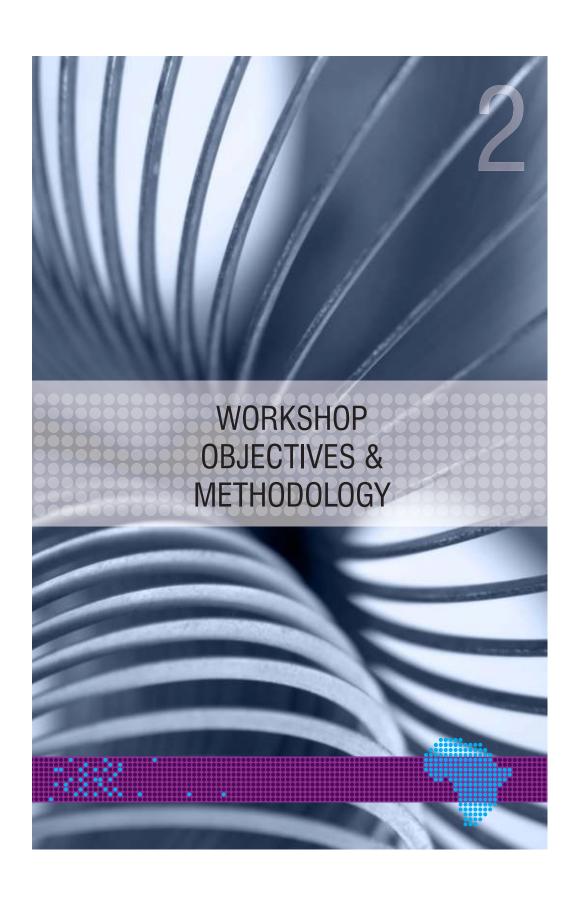
Indeed, there is no doubt that a paradigm shift is needed in the way policy research based advice is translated into successful policy if we are to achieve sustainable development in Africa. There is a myriad of literature on the factors constraining the use of policy research evidence in policymaking. Concerted efforts to bridge the gaps between policy researchers and policymakers have thrown up several angles of inquiry as to the cause of the disconnect between policy creation and its implementation.

Going into the future, African stakeholders looking to bridge this gap may profitably look at the following factors that are thought to influence the current state of affairs:
> The need to improve the supply of research outputs both in terms of quality and quantity;
> The need to strengthen the capacity in critical domains of policy research, and policy analyses;
> The need to strengthen the capacity of policy researchers in communicating results in forms that are easily understood and used by policymakers;
> The need to improve investments in interface institutions and network, focusing on knowledge brokerage and communication;
> The need to strengthen the advisory capacities of policy researchers and policy research institutions in national policy advisory positions;
> The need to scale up from basic research to serious innovation in policy research;

> The need to involve the private sector in the research prioritizations of universities and research institutions;
> The need to foster continuous interactions amongst the quadruple helix, i.e., the policymakers, the researchers, the private sector actors, media fraternity and the civil society.

It is important, going forward, to note that sustainable policy research and implementation linkages require the development of a strategic vision and a proactive approach that contextualizes the research agenda and its consequent activities. A number of success stories are emerging as key institutions begin to gain an international reputation and experience in the art of policy research, policy analyses, communications and knowledge brokerage, and policy advocacy in Africa, using this framework of vision and approach in their areas of expertise. Also encouraging is the observed growth on the other side of the equation: within many African countries forward ministers and other policymakers are also proactively championing the usage of empirical research findings in evidence-based policymaking. Examples of African countries that have demonstrated some success in linking policy to research include South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho, and Malawi. Noteworthy is South Africa's commitment to sustain investments in R&D in Africa, with budget allocations to R&D approaching the 1% mark recommended by the Africa Union. The impacts on development in South Africa vis a vis other African countries cannot be over-emphasized.

2

WORKSHOP
OBJECTIVES &
METHODOLOGY

2.0   Workshop Objectives & Methodology

The overall purpose of the workshop was to engage relevant stakeholders to address the gap between policy research and policymaking with a view to designing a proactive way forward for bridging this gap for African development. Some of the specific objectives included:

(i)   To better understand the context-specific reasons for the mismatch in developments in policy creation and implementation in Africa;

(ii) To Identify and prioritize strategies to improve the linkages amongst policymakers and policy implementers in Africa to improve the use of homegrown policy research evidence in policymaking;

(iii) To derive lessons learnt from the successive cases of good partnerships between policy researchers and policymakers in Africa and elsewhere

In order to unearth the context-specific lessons from the mix of policymakers and policy researchers; learn from the successful cases as well as identify and strategize on how to improve the linkages between policy research and policymaking, the workshop adopted multiple approaches to ensure active participation of each stakeholder groupings in the dialogue, identification of gaps and prioritization of strategies for improvement.

First, there were plenary sessions for keynote presentations led by renowned policy researchers and policymakers. These keynote presentations focused more on practical experiences and less on theoretical issues. They detailed the experiences of the presenters and their institutions (both successes as well as the frustrations) and the contextual reasons for the successes and failures.

Second, the plenary presentations were further interrogated by participants in a facilitated questions and answer (Q&A) sessions. These facilitated sessions afforded the presenters the opportunity to respond to specific issues raised by the participants using life experiences. These sessions were facilitated by senior staff from the organizing institutions (ATPS, APHRC, FANRPAN and ACET)

Third, there were country case studies highlighting the experiences of different countries in the linkages between policy research, policymaking, and policy implementation. Country cases were presented from Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa. These country case studies focused on specific policies (the formulation process – including the role of research; the implementation and any lessons learnt).
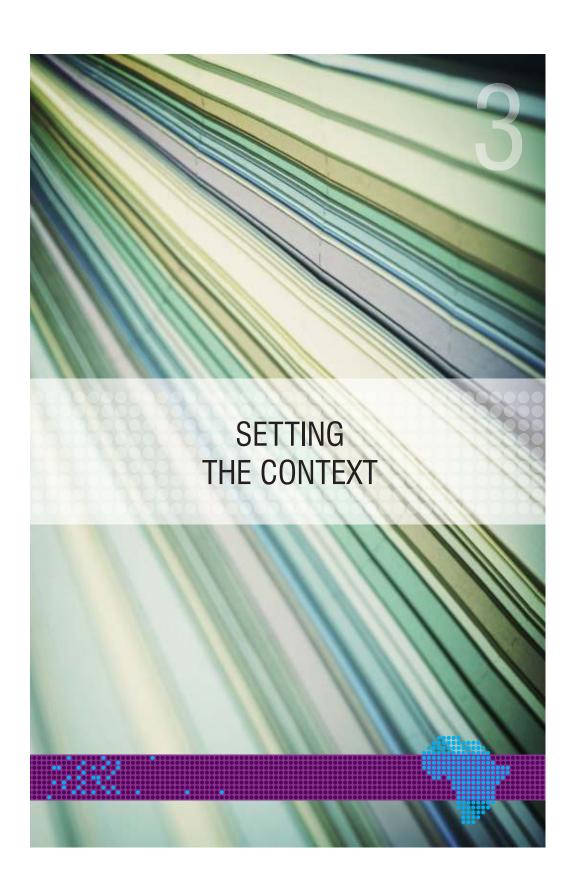
Fourth, there were presentations in the working group sessions. Participants were divided into

groups representing policymakers; policy researchers and practitioners. These working groups addressed the overarching questions:

(I)   What do the different actor groups need to do in order to strengthen the linkages between policy research and policy making?

(ii) For the strategies identified in (i) above, explain how the strategies could be implemented in practice.

The different groups were chaired by senior policymakers and renowned researchers. The working groups identified and prioritized a number of strategies and recommendations towards strengthening the linkages.

This mix of approaches and presentations helped the workshop to achieve a common understanding and a systems perspective to the hindrance factors and collectively identify and prioritize strategies for bridging the gaps between policy researchers and policymakers on the one hand, and improve the use of policy research evidence in policy making, on the other hand.

3

SETTING
THE CONTEXT

3.0 Setting the Context: Preliminary Remarks from the Conveners

Chair: Hon. Dr. Anthony Akoto-Osei, Member of Parliament, Ghana

Welcoming Remarks by ATPS - Dr. Kevin Urama

In his opening remarks, Dr. Urama reiterated that the main focus of the workshop was to tie together policy research and policymaking. He emphasized that the workshop was convened as *"working sessions"* of people who have experiences on both sides (of policy research and policymaking) or in-depth knowledge on one side but willing to learn from experiences and knowledge of others from the other side, so as to bridge the gaps that may exist between them. He drew the participants' attention to two key things: One, the pronouncements of African leaders from different regions of the continent realizing that for them to achieve their goals of spearheading development in Africa, building capacity in science, technology and innovation is imperative.

Dr. Urama noted that these pronouncements were very encouraging given that traditionally, policymakers often think of researchers as too realistic, too rigorous and too time consuming for the policy arena. He further noted that he was pleased to see that there are institutions in Africa that are now growing and gaining international recognition in trying to bridge the gap that brings policy research and policy making together so that hopefully, we can eventually have policymaking that addresses Africa's problems. Dr. Urama encouraged participants to base their deliberations more on their practical experiences in this area of bridging policy research with policymaking and practice in order to identify the challenges and find solutions while at the same time learning from the success stories.

Dr. Urama decried the fact that in some cases policymaking has been ad hoc and African policymakers have tended to rely on evidence from outside the continent. In most cases, he noted, these evidence have not taken into account the context-specific factors in Africa and as a result implementation has been slow at best and in most cases, the policies have not been implemented at all.

Dr. Urama concluded by reminding the participants that the key outcome of the workshop should be to identify the road map for the way forward with specific provisions on: how to improve the current situation; to know where we are, where we are going and how we are going to get there. He also called for commitment by colleagues, researchers, institutions and policymakers to be part of the process going forward. He thanked the co-conveners (APHRC, ACET and FANRPAN) for their support to the process and urged them, *"Let's create a network that will work."*

Welcoming remarks by APHRC - Beatrice Arionget Ekallam
Ms. Ekallam introduced APHRC as an international research organization working in Sub-Saharan Africa engaged in research in a number of key areas including; population dynamics and reproductive health challenges; research programs within education issues in the region; health systems and health challenges and the debate on urbanization and the challenges it has brought forward within our continent.

Ms. Ekallam noted that in the new millennium the relevance of research has been organized by a number of development agencies across the globe. The concern however, remains impact of this research is on policymaking. She noted that at this point there may seem not to be very clear strategies, guidelines or tool kits that can help bring the marriage between policy and research but their experiences in APHRC as an institution that has been engaged in research for a period of time, shows that *"We will get there"*. She emphasized that as APHRC, they can proudly say that through their own research, they have managed to influence policies, and shape or improve a number of existing policies through various stakeholders in the region.

She noted that the workshop was very timely and expressed her confidence that this consultative workshop will help the four organizations and other stakeholders craft a way forward with commitment to move in that direction. She emphasized that APHRC was firmly behind this initiative because engaging in research alone without seeing what the results are leading to in the welfare and development of our region would all be in vain. She thanked the other partners and ATPS in particular for its strong leadership to ensure that the concept develops into a reality.

Welcoming Remarks by ACET - Dr. Edward Brown
Dr. Brown noted that ACET started in 2007 as an institution that studies policy analysis and policy advice. He said that as part of their mandate, they have been part of the team thinking through the gaps between policy research and policymaking and noted that the challenge of having this partnership between politics and analytical work has been an ongoing saga particularly in Africa. Giving examples from Europe and USA, Dr. Brown noted that think tanks emerged because the political parties felt they did not have strong analytical foundations. The dynamics in Africa are a little different but in the last 30 years there have been a lot of good research work done.

Dr. Brown emphasized that the key question facing the participants was to understand: *"Why is there such a low uptake of this research in the political arena?"* He further noted that the reality is such that *"What makes good political sense may not make good analytical sense"* and encouraged the participants to interrogate the relevance of the research being conducted to policymaking. He

hoped that this meeting would lead to concrete outcomes, creating a network which will allow the participants to think through how we influence policy decision making.

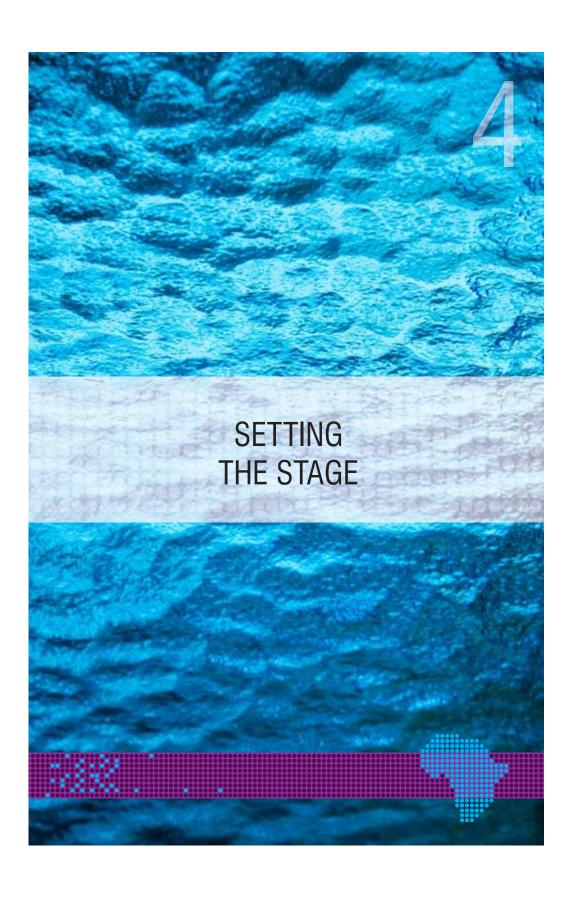**Welcoming Remarks by FANRPAN - Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda**
Dr. Sibanda informed participants that FANRPAN's main focus is on agriculture, food security and their mission is to generate evidence that will inform policy. She noted that every good idea starts with a few champions but it does not materialize until it is owned by the majority. She decried the fact that the educated are always comfortable with the space to advice but often forget the majority of stakeholders who are affected by poor health, lack of food and lack of access to technology. Yet, as the experts continue to write more and more papers to advice but they don't empower the champions who have access to the higher powers and can actually shake the corridors of power and make a difference.

Dr. Sibanda expressed her hope that the workshop would end up with the *"Mombasa declaration"* that says, *"As Africans we want to have a collective forum which brings all the key stakeholders both on the supply side and the demand side, policymakers and those that generate evidence to implement the policies"*. She emphasized that all these stakeholders should be brought to the table to understand how these policies are made; how we can bring evidence to inform the policies process. She noted that the key desire is for all the stakeholders to sit comfortably around the table but also noted that this can only happen, "After we recognize who they are, invite them to the table and equip them with the tools they will require to inform the process."

She further expressed her happiness in these words,
"Right from the onset we've got the key drivers of what Africa needs. We have got the health focused network, we've got the technology focused network, the network that focuses on economic growth and we have the network that focuses on food. I believe these are the fundamentals that Africa needs to address right from the beginning. We already have direction from our leaders in terms of the different frameworks and declarations that they made. Our role is to anchor on them and demystify the process and I want to believe all the brains we have here, we can make it happen".

She thanked the Rockefeller Foundation for jump-starting the process but also challenged the participants and conveners to bring on board other like-minded foundations or development partners who want to join this journey. She thanked Dr. Urama who took it upon himself after the first teleconference to develop the concept note, and noted that *"Without his commitment and volunteer spirit we would not have come this far"*. She appealed to all the partners and participants to bring their respective strengths forward to take the initiative ahead.

4

SETTING
THE STAGE

4.0 Setting the Stage: Towards a Common Understanding of Key Concepts and Terminologies

Chair: Dr. Graham Reid, Senior Advisor, APHRC

Keynote presentation on "Linking Research to Policy and Practice: Issues and Way Forward" by Prof. Michael Madukwe, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria
Prof. Madukwe's presentation focused on issues in the research system, policy system, practice system and the linking environment. In the research system, Prof. Madukwe decried that professional training systems do not train researchers to craft research problems with the end users in mind. Most often, the training is strictly disciplinary and there's little or no emphasis on what happen on the other levels of the value chain. The other problem with our research system follows from the incentive reward structures that base promotions and recognition on publications at the expense of the relevance of the research to the society. As such research conducted in our universities and research institutes conform more to the wishes of the researchers and less to societal demands.

The strict adherence to mandates by the universities was also identified as another weakness. In essence, universities focus on research and teaching and to some extent enterprise. These mandates leave little room for engaging with policymakers or industry.

Private sector investment in research has increased but their role is still very small but gradually they are considering the cost effectiveness of funding research. Our researchers also lack the language to communicate to policymakers. The research process lacks constant interaction and feedback between the clientele policy maker and researcher. Research issues are not related to policy concerns or national agendas, most of our researches are not tied to anything it is mainly the wish of the researcher. This is evident from the Masters to PhD level, there is no culture of having a mandate that says these universities will do this because it is tied to national policy, original policy or continental policy and you want to contribute to it. The scope of such research is too narrow to fit into policy. Our scope is narrow because the funding is from individual pockets. If the funding is from government sources, private and donor sources you would want to dig more and increase the scope.

Linking Science and Technology Research to Policy and Practice: Issues and the Role of African Governments by Dr. Nicholas Ozor, African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), Nairobi, Kenya

A. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the key issues and challenges
The paper dwelt specifically on the key issues and roles of African governments in linking science and technology research to policy and practice, deriving from past experiences and partnerships in Africa. One key issue that keeps on coming in national and international discussions on the subject is that science and technology research has not received adequate attention in terms of investment by African governments. This issue was addressed clearly in the UNESCO Science Report of 2010 showing that, in Africa, especially Sub Saharan Africa, investment in research and development (R&D) has not met the UNESCO and the African Union summit of January 2007 recommendations of up to 1% of GDP. None of the African countries, except South Africa, has up to 0.9%. The UNESCO Report 2010 further shows that most countries in Africa, especially Sub-Saharan Africa do not even have records of their investment or expenditure in R&D (Urama, et al 2010a). This remains a key challenge for African governments and unless addressed by increasing investment in R&D Africa will continue to be deprived of the gains appertaining their including technological innovations to tackle the numerous challenges in Africa.

One of the outcomes from R&D is scientific publications. Sub-Saharan Africa produced just 11,142 scientific articles in 2008. Its share of the world's output has risen, however, since 2002 from 0.9% to 1.1%. Within the subcontinent, South Africa produced almost half (46.4%) of the total, followed by Nigeria (11.4%) and Kenya (6.6%). In other words, these three countries alone produce two-thirds of the sub-continent's scientific articles, a reflection of their relatively sophisticated level of R&D. Most African countries were unable to produce 100 publications in the natural sciences in 2008 (Urama et al, 2010a). This is too poor compared to countries like Europe and America with hundreds of thousands of scientific publications. There is need therefore for African governments to increase their investment in science and technology R&D so as to be able to compete globally in S&T Research and Innovations.

Another recurrent issue in discussing the linkage between policy research and policy implementation is the communication gap between researchers, policymakers and practitioners. This has created lack of trust amongst the stakeholders as they fail to talk and understand each other. The research-policy-practice processes lack constant interaction and feedback. The challenge for African governments and pioneer organizations in Africa therefore is to build bridges that will connect research, policy and practice (see fig. 1).
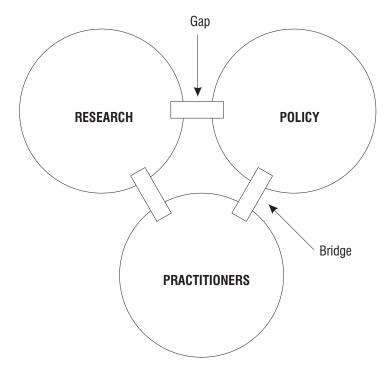

Fig.1: Gap between research, policy and practice

The issue of why researchers, policymakers and practitioners are independently failing to achieve the required development in science, technology and innovation (STI) has been emphasized but one key thing remain that researchers do not have the requisite trainings in terms of conducting multidisciplinary research or in terms of effective communication of research results to end users. Researchers do their research, publish and get promoted. That is their generic training and belief. Policymakers , especially the politicians, who have not been legitimately elected keep struggling to secure their mandates and even when they secure it, are more interested in low hanging fruits rather than investing in R&D. They employ firefighting approaches and short term measures so as to secure the people's votes for another term in office instead of investing in long term gains in research. They also fail to use research outputs from research institutions in developing policies that will support effective implementation by practitioners. Reports show that practitioners most times do not want to get involved with research institutions such as universities due to lack of confidence and trust. They claim that university researchers are not profit minded and lack the entrepreneurial spirit which drives the private sector organizations. So, for the practitioner, any policy or research that does not transform into profit will not be considered as useful. This has created serious research-policy linkage gap.

However, there is need to realize that policy processes are very complex and not a straight forward business. Starting from agenda setting to policy formulation, decision making, policy implementation, to monitoring and evaluation of programs is a complex process. It involves key multi-stakeholders including for instance; parliament, ministries, private sectors, civil society who have different trainings and orientation and who are supposed to work together in the policymaking process. In the ministries, they have their agenda setting, they formulate policy, decide, implement and monitor. The same also applies to cabinet and parliament. In an intertwined nature you find that each of these major stakeholders not only set agendas, make policy, decide, implement and monitor, but also interact with one another in a scatter gram showing how the network and linkage between them are so complex to understand.

B. ROLE OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

I. African Governments must recognize the importance of science and technology research (STR) and utilize them in policy making and implementation processes

African governments must recognize the importance of science and technology R&D and utilize them in policy making and implementation processes. Some basic questions that could agitate our minds are; why is it that the tree that we make paper from grows freely in Zambia but Finland for instance is the world's leading exporter of paper? Why is it that Nigeria is the world's leading producer of cassava but it is also the leading importer of starch? Why is it that Africa has its own oil but lacks the requisite skills to harness the oil, refine and sell? Why is it

that African policymakers do not have trust in the research outputs from universities or other research institutes to use in policymaking? These are questions that will help us to prove that there are serious gaps between research, policy and practice and hence, the need to forge this linkage and find better solutions.

A typical case of the lack of linkage played out during a policy side event of the 2010 African ministerial conference in Kampala where some African ministers, parliamentarians, vice chancellors and other key stakeholders sat together to discuss issues on how to foster better linkages between the stakeholders. When the vice-chancellors were asked how they can sell a typical proposal to a minister in a short time over lunch for instance, they failed to provide tactful strategies to achieve this feat. This was because by virtue of their training, they do not speak the language that the ministers understand and fail to understand how best to communicate with them. They also did not know how to go about developing a policy brief for the ministers. However, during the conference, there was remarkable evidence by African ministers on how they have used research evidence in policymaking. For instance, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a faculty of law in a public university has been involved in the formulation and review of bills that have been passed by the DRC Government. This is a very clear case of where research-policy linkage has worked out well and it is important to understand the underlying factors that led to this effective linkage and know how to replicate it in other areas. In Malawi also, it is on record that the ministry of finance has used the University of Malawi in all their pre-budget consultations to provide evidence and clear directions on how the budget issues should be addressed to sustain development. This synergy is what is required in order to produce the much desired results of effective linkage between policy research and policy implementation.

II. Provision of enabling policy and legal framework/environment to enable STR to function effectively

There is need for African governments to provide enabling policies and legal framework or environment to enable science and technology research to function effectively. As is often said, politics is superior to science; hence there is great need to policymakers to provide a conducive environment for STR to function. An example is where a government by law does not support products from genetically modified organisms (GMOs), this automatically inhibits any scientific and research development in that area in the country including importation of the products or infrastructure for its development. Researchers in such circumstance only tend to align their research efforts alongside the national priorities in order to be effective thereby undermining R&D in the areas not supported by the government.

III. Provision of adequate financial resources for STR- Incentives, Investments and Budgets

African governments also need to provide adequate financial resources for science and technology research in form of incentives, investments and budgets. We need to increase our investment in research and development. We must meet the UNESCO and AU recommendations of 1% investment in R&D because the dividends are great in real terms including economic, infrastructural, social, and environmental developments.

IV. Strengthening coordination amongst relevant ministries concerned with science, technology and innovation through the National System of Innovation (NSI)

African governments need to strengthen co-ordination amongst relevant ministries concerned with STI through the national systems of innovation. This is an interactive process of actors that provides the platform for them to work together in synergy towards sustainable development in a particular country. It prevents stakeholders from working in isolation and hence be prone to duplication of efforts and wastage of scarce resources. However, it encourages synergy and complementarities among actors which are necessary for effective development of STR in Africa. Currently only few countries in Africa including Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, have an established national systems of innovation by their governments. Other governments need to emulate this strategy in realizing a sustained growth and development through STI.

V. Advancing towards a new manifesto for science, technology and innovation in Africa by Africans and for Africa's sustainable development

African governments need to embrace the ideals and recommendations from the new manifesto for science, technology and innovation in Africa by Africans, and for Africa's sustainable development. The manifesto is envisioned by Africans and for the needs of Africa. It is part of a growing awareness on the role of STI as the engine of development in Africa. The manifesto is a tool for shaping shared visions about STI in Africa, for Africans, by Africans, in a multi-lateral dialogue (Urama et al, 2010b). The production of the manifesto was led by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) in collaboration with African, Indian and European Partners and Stakeholders, under the auspices of a European Framework VII program project, Science Ethics and Technological Responsibilities in Developing and Emerging Countries (SETDEV). The African manifesto for STI makes a case for Africa's sovereignty in science, technology and innovation. It argues for full socialization and democratic governance of STI in Africa, for Africans, by Africans as a pre-requisite for sustainable development in Africa. The manifesto makes a case for home grown solutions for Africa's multifaceted challenges and confirms that Africa has adequate resources yet untapped. What we need is political goodwill to support and use evidence from R&D in policymaking and good followership to implement policy decisions on STI and Africa will be

among the leading continents in STI. The era of waiting only for technology transfer and grants from the west is over. We need to develop new vision on STI for Africa's development.
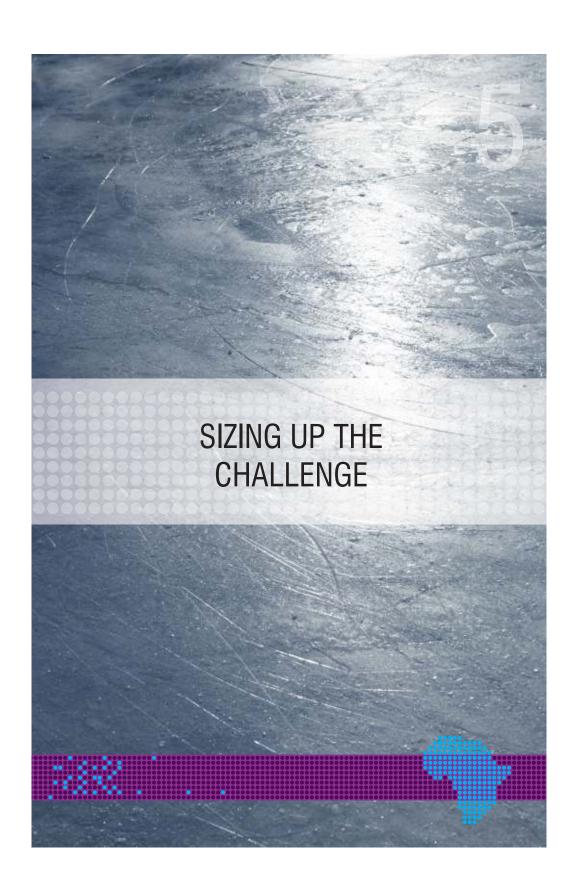
C.   CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In conclusion, it is important to re-emphasize that in order to improve impacts, African governments will need to encourage investment and commitment in STI. They will need to establish national systems of innovation. African governments need to increase investment in socializing ST&I through enhanced communication. African governments need to support entrepreneurship development in STI and support high quality research for substantive influence on policy. The time for action is now and we do not need to wait any longer.

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5

SIZING UP THE CHALLENGE

5.0   Sizing Up the Challenge: Lessons and Experiences from Convening Institutions

Linking Health Research to Policy and Practice – the case of APHRC by Graham Reid, Senior Advisor, African Population Health and Research Council (APHRC), Nairobi, Kenya

Graham Reid presented a multiple participation planning exercise which was developed to address research-evidence-policy linkages started in 2001 in Tanzania then spread to Kenya. The exercise has since been accepted by all three governments at high level.

Dr. Reid argued that the gap between research and policy persists largely because *"researchers are relatively ineffective in pushing their evidence to policy. Researchers don't do very good knowledge translation, they don't do very good pages, they don't do very good articles for newspapers they don't do very good interview in TV, they don't do very good video."*

At the same time, *"policymakers are relatively inefficient in pulling evidence, except those who may have come from a research background. I think policymakers don't even live on the same planet with researchers; they basically do not speak the same language."*

The main expectation of the 8-9 month planning exercise was the need to catalyze efficiency, effectiveness, equity and sustainability in line with the Governments' priorities. In other words health systems need to get better, they need to serve everyone not just the rich and they need to deliver essential services that address the prevailing mortality causes.

Reach Policy
East Africa in 2001 developed through a series of national and regional consultations and workshops, a joint prospectus - a manifesto: The prospectus from health policymakers and researchers for a noble institutional mechanism, for translating evidence and knowledge into effective health policies and practice. That was the birth of the REACH policy initiative. Very simply the evidence based put forward- the rationale-evidence failing to reach policy; stages are research studies, accessing this research, synthesizing this knowledge; Yet a good reason why you need a unit and not an individual researcher; an individual piece of research on its own may not be that interesting but put it together with all the other studies across the nation/ region then you get something really worthy of pushing to inform policy so without a limitation of what research needs to go to policy and who needs to take it. This is the idea of forming this unit.

Managing fora involving policymakers and researchers on a regional basis will require specific skills. Such skills are required to translate evidence into policy. We need people who can synthesize research, who can take data from publications and reanalyze it, who can write policy briefs very quickly and very well. To me these are new skills. Researchers may have the skills but I have already said that researchers shouldn't be going too much into that. We need professional units. These units will cost money. And we need policy analysts here too. Each country doesn't have to invest into this highly skilled team if the problems are shared. What it needs to do is to have a professional team that can support the national nodes and the options that the policymakers need to consider to go down to the national nodes and that's where you have your national policy dialogues between the brokers and the policymakers. Although it is a regional beast, here is a clear assumption that policies are set nationally, not regionally. So it is a linkage but there is clear job that they do. So they:
> Manage fora involving policymakers and researchers.
> Facilitate access to research
> Commission syntheses of research
> Package their results in easy to read briefs.
> Communicate and advocate to inform policy and research agendas
> Strengthen regional capacity for knowledge translation
> Monitor and evaluate their progress.

The health research domains include:

> Biomedical research that is fundamentally required and is doing fine. it doesn't need much help
> Public health doing ok
> Clinical trials are excellent, there are trial sites throughout Africa with a lot of money from welcome trust
> Social sciences are getting better, qualitative but we hardly have any understanding of linking the qualitative and the quantitative into the health systems approach
> Knowledge transfer, evidence to policy and national scale up. Research doesn't address national scale up.

APHRC does health policy relevant research and examples are:

> In the slums; on non-communicable diseases, specifically diabetes, the Kenyan government funded 10 mobile diabetes units for slum areas based on the information on the prevalence of diabetes and hypertension in slum areas provided by APHRC
> The way kids go to school in slums and many of these schools are hired so government gives in money to subsidize schools that exist and fund new ones
> The government giving 37 shillings per child in the budget this year for water and soap in response to evidence of disease transmission
> Giving the same test for school pupils and teachers simultaneously and teachers got 56% and students got 49% which was not good enough hence effects of quality in the education systems are now being looked into by the government.

Achieving Sustainable Economic Transformation in Africa through Development Policy and Practice the ACET experience by Dr. Edward Brown, Director, Policy Advisory Services, African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET), Accra, Ghana

The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) was established in 2007 to promote high-quality policy analysis and advisory services, assisting African governments in achieving long-term growth and transformation of African economies. They have a clear vision; by 2025 an African continent where countries are successfully driving their own growth and transformation agenda, supported by capable institutions and best policies for the benefit of all. "From this vision they developed a mission to promote policy and institutional reforms for sustained economic growth and transformation in Africa"; which they hope to achieve by;

> Engaging clients on policy research in transformation studies; advisory work and institution strengthening; advocacy and dissemination of their knowledge

> Championing a unique African perspective and greater local ownership of the development agenda
> Creating an unrivalled network of world class international experts and preeminent African professionals

Dr. Brown argued using World Bank Development Data, that Africa is lagging behind in its contribution in terms of production and exports which have fallen over the last 3 decades, adding that the GDP growth per capita when compared between developing regions over the last three decades indicates income growth in Africa significantly lagged the rest of the developing world and consequently poverty has not been reduced. He continued to say data from World Bank Institute indicates that Africa's exports remain geared towards low value add industries such as agricultural resource or low technology exports whereas Asian countries have been broadly successful in transforming their export sectors towards hi-tech, higher added value goods.

ACET's theory of change for African growth and transformation is based on the following fundamental beliefs;
> Government policy making: This sets the framework for economic growth and is the critical change lever for structural transformation.
> The private sector and civil society: These remain the key actors in bringing the structural transformation to life
> Governments are most receptive; when they recognize the need to change, the advice comes from a trusted source and the quality and insight of the advice is outstanding.
> Policy is reformed; when there is committed leadership, local ownership of the solution and the institutional skills and capacity are built
> Change is lasting only if; there is a relentless, long term focus on implementation, the private sector and civil society are involved and the emergence of a handful of 'beacons' which will act as catalysts to inspire and accelerate transformation across the continent.

Economic transformation is a complex process which requires leveraging of multiple contributors. The three main focus areas of ACET's activities can be grouped into;
> Transformation studies
> Client Engagements
> Advocacy and Dissemination

Dr. Brown added that over the last decade Africa has experienced some real economic growth. Although some of this has been driven externally, there are also encouraging signs of domestic reforms which now need to be supported by structural economic transformation. ACET believes that governments can influence economic growth through proactive policies

and sound economic management. Economic transformation according to ACET is measured by;

1) Real per capita growth
2) Productivity growth
3) Diversification of production and exports
4) Technological upgrading of production and exports
5) Export competitiveness
6) Employment growth
7) Wealth Distribution (i.e. poverty and inequality)

The Africa Transformation Report aims to promote the focus of policy on economic transformation-in Sub-Saharan Africa, bring data and analysis to inform discussions and policy action on the topic and compare countries along various dimensions of economic transformation so as to spur competitive action by policymakers. This will be achieved by Country Case Studies, Sub Sector Studies and Thematic studies on the fundamental drivers of transformation.

Dr. Brown added that ACET's advisory engagement model follows a proven formula for effective delivery and as a result have managed to engage with Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Rwanda and the Africa-China Initiative. He added a major approach to ACET's work is to forge partnership with country-based think tanks to collectively promote economic transformation. These partnerships will lead to knowledge sharing and will deepen our collective understanding of African economies for greater impact.

Practice without Policy: The Bane of Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa – the case of FANRPAN by Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda and Tebogo Seleka

FANRPAN is a policy network that was formed in response to a call that was made by the ministers of agriculture. These ministers were grappling with issues of regional integration and they felt that they needed independent advice that will inform policies for a food security region. The call was made in 1994. In 1997, a group of academics from schools of agriculture met in Harare and defined their focus. They agreed that there was need in the region to improve policy research analysis, there was need to develop institutional capacity and there was need to enhance the desire by policymakers to use evidence. Even though the initial meeting comprised deans of agriculture from the region, they recognized from the onset that they couldn't achieve the vision alone. They needed farmers, the private sector but most important they needed

government to be a member of the network. This is what makes FANRPAN unique – the realization that you cannot be an activist outside otherwise they will look at you suspiciously. That's what makes FANRPAN a multi-stakeholder platform. FANRPAN is present in 14 countries but now its mandate has been expanded.

BIDPA is an independent policy research institute that was started by government in 1995. It provides policy analysis, advises government and also builds capacity in policy analysis. We have five areas in poverty, international trade, public sector reforms; macroeconomics and microeconomics. It has regional linkages with FANRPAN and coordinates the FANRPAN's Botswana Node. It serves government, the private sector and NGOs but the bias has been to do work for government because of the need to generate income. Currently 50% of our funding is from government 15% ACBF and we have to raise the remaining 35% which is a challenge through mainly consultancy work.

Agriculture in Botswana contributes little to GDP it is about 1-3% currently. It is unique in African sense because Botswana is a mineral based economy; however, it is the main economic activity in rural areas. If you look at food, employment and poverty reduction you can't reduce poverty if you ignore agriculture. Outside of mining, agriculture is an important foreign exchange earner. It only contributes 2% of foreign exchange but it is the second leading after minerals so you can see that when we lose minerals we only have agriculture. Mainly agriculture has rain-fed crops such as sorghum, maize, cowpeas, sunflower and traditional livestock such as beef cattle and small stock. Beef cattle are dominating. The 2% is largely due to beef exports to the EU market. We also have Non-traditional agriculture such as horticulture, dairy, poultry, piggery and so forth.

Agricultural policy since 1991 has aimed to improve food security, to diversify agricultural production base, increase agricultural production and productivity; to increase employment opportunities; to provide a secure and productive environment for producers and to conserve resources. A number of instruments have been used to try and achieve these objectives. One of the economy-wide programs is the financial assistance policy which operated from 1982-2000. This just gave free money to investors. Close to 90% to invest unconditionally.

However, there are a number of policy gaps in Botswana. The first one is the Lack of coordination among government agencies such as agriculture, lands, water, SIDA, Infrastructure, and Health. You find that for example SIDA can give youth funding but if you are under 21 you cannot get land so the policies are not synchronized. Other areas are neglected for example, only NGO's do research and extension on the dairy products. Government does nothing about it.

Funding limits: SIDA can set the maximum amount for developing an industry at 5,000 but if you have a youth who wants to start a dairy enterprise that will not be adequate. Agricultural Infrastructure development generally ignored. There is also Lack of accountability in program implementation in other words we don't have effective monitoring and evaluation systems. Programs sometimes introduced without assessment, some of them are not relevant; R&D agenda has remained unchanged for long hence it hasn't yielded anything.

BIDPA's experiences in linking policy research to policymaking:
BIDPA has had some successes and some failures. Our success mainly has been with respect to demand driven work done for government. If you do work for government it is because they want it done so they are going to listen to your recommendations. We have done well in the agricultural sector i.e. we did the agricultural sector review, we did the review of social safety nets we did the Livestock viability study and the Agricultural Infrastructure study. Then we recently did the Review of the national strategy for poverty reduction. All these have led to some policy change because government wanted the study done.

Success factors:
We have to build strong linkages with clients within government and the donor community such as UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank but this should be well managed since if you're too close to government it may take away independence. Partnering with other policy researchers is good to complement or supplement existing capacity. Some challenges include lack of adequate capacity. Capacity within a policy research institute could be a serious limitation. Substandard work may cause the government and other clients to not take a local institute seriously. If you don't do a good job then that's the end of you. The need to generate income increases demand work and decreases supply-side work. Supply side work has low impact as government interest and response to such work is low.

Linking policy research to policymaking and practice – the ATPS Experience by Dr. Kevin Urama

ATPS is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, private sector actors, policymakers and civil society actors promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion.

The ATPS Vision was to become the leading international Centre of excellence and reference in science, technology and innovation systems research, training and capacity building, communication and sensitization, knowledge brokerage, policy advocacy and outreach in

Africa. The idea of forming ATPS came from IDRC in the early 80's. There was a workshop where this gap was identified as a major problem and then they formed two networks namely: Eastern and Southern Africa Technology Policy Studies Network (EATPS) and a Western Africa Technology Policy Studies network (WATPS) to be housed and incubated under IDRC secretariat. Our mission is to improve the quality of what we do by strengthening capacity for Science and Technology knowledge generation, communication and dissemination, use and mastery in Africa.

ATPS National Chapters were spread across 23 countries in Africa before as at 2009, in 2010 we had four more countries joining as focal points and at the end of 2010 we had 5 extra countries and also chapters in diaspora for knowledge circulation in the US, and the UK for friends of Africa not born in Africa and the Africans in the diaspora.

WHAT WE DO
Knowledge generation; we do this by policy research capacity building. The research is not to produce papers only but to produce Africans who can do policy research well so that it can have impact. So we focus on building the capacity of the researchers who we put together every year so that they can grow and become good policy researchers. We do training and sensitization for users of policy research and sensitization on key issues the science community is urging the policymakers to focus on and what are the issues that the African policymakers are looking for and are getting consultancies from outside because African scientists are not addressing them. We try to broker that knowledge in identifying and prioritizing what needs to be done by both parties and how can we bring them together
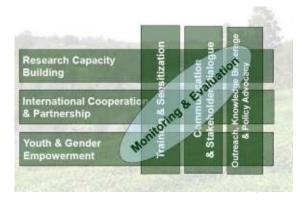
Knowledge brokerage; we do that by building partnerships for research policy and practice to address particular issues on different themes and topics that are important for Africa. We do stakeholder dialogue to identify the needs of different stakeholder groupings and then be able to produce special papers or policy briefs or synthesis papers that try to synthesize what those things are supposed to be. In all those programs there is knowledge circulation we don't believe in dissemination we believe knowledge is a pluralistic term and we try to ensure knowledge circulation from the beginning. Then there is Knowledge networking and also trying to identify research policy and practice champions in the different sectors.

Knowledge dissemination and outreach; we have to do publications but ATPS does not really rely so much on the scientific publications that are produced from the work it supports but we use the publications in order to synthesize them and have policy briefings that go to the policymakers. We also do STI Journalism. We train science journalists in Africa who will be able to communicate to the masses. we have been talking about influencing policy, policymakers listen to their constituency and if you are not a significant member of their

constituency you can't influence them so we are trying to train policymakers to understand the need of using research based evidence to make policies by creating pressure from the bottom. We do radio and also radio in vernacular but there is a problem since scientists cannot communicate in their own language. We also do print media. The challenge we have had in the trainings for policymakers and journalists is because there is always a fight because the journalist want to speak to the masses in the language they understand while the scientists claim that the journalists are polluting their science. In ATPS we try to do policy advocacy which is lacking in Africa

Knowledge valorization; dynamic engagement and we have the PQRP model. The first P stands for Participation. We do not engage in any research until we have discussed it with the policymakers and the concerned parties. The Q stands for the Q methodology - Qualitative research sifting system. the methodology tells the key issues coming out of a research so that it is manageable, the R is the normal test of hypothesis (Research) when you finish your research, there is another participatory (last P) mode where you come back to all the stakeholders and present your result. Science communication is a dedicated activity. If one is a good scientist, he is not a good science communicator. For our science to get to the policymakers we must engage the science communicators. Innovation challenge programs - the policymakers must be able to see how whatever you are doing is going to make an impact.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

ATPS Strategic Priorities

We have thematic research capacity building programs and cross cutting non thematic facilitative activities to facilitate the research policy linkages.

Our six programs are:
Research and Capacity Building
International Cooperation and Partnership
Youth and Gender Program

Crosscutting programs include:
Training and Sensitization
Stakeholder Communication
Dialogue
Outreach Knowledge brokerage and Advocacy

Monitoring and evaluation is then done for each of the programs

Our target stakeholders are policymakers, the science experts, the private sector actors and the civil society; which describes the quadruple helix.

Quadruple Helix (Urama, 2009)

Organizational Structure

ATPS Organisational Structure

> We have government officials, consultants, NGO's and the rest which form the national chapters
> We have a regional council; the Regional Steering Committee that handles issues at regional level

> The secretariat is more of a co-coordinating arm
> The board
> Because of the international expertise we have a responsible STI committee that is global which identifies the global issues to be taken to African governments and researchers.

Models we have used that we think have worked
> The research model-dynamic participatory research
> Capacity building in how to do participatory research
> Science communication and outreach - we have publications such as working papers from researchers, special papers from international experts, research papers from the researcher and policy concept notes
> Engaging the policy process through parliamentary breakfast, round tables, media engagement i.e. TV programs, civil society and pressure groups
> Knowledge networking
> Training of Journalists e.g. AFSJ
> ICT and social media

Case examples
1. Engaging policymakers in research prioritization
> Policy prioritization in Nigeria
> Climate change in Kenya
> Launch of the African Manifesto in Egypt
2. Knowledge Networking
> The ISEE global meeting at UN Headquarters in Nairobi
3. Engaging Policymakers in Policymaking Processes
> We have done it in Nigeria, Ghana etc.
4. Empowering the champions
> The parliamentary staff training from 17 African countries on doing policy concept notes

Common challenges and opportunities
> Mindsets
> Suspicion
> Nature of funding
> Nature of incentives
> The language of science
> Language of policy making
> Access convening power and interest groups
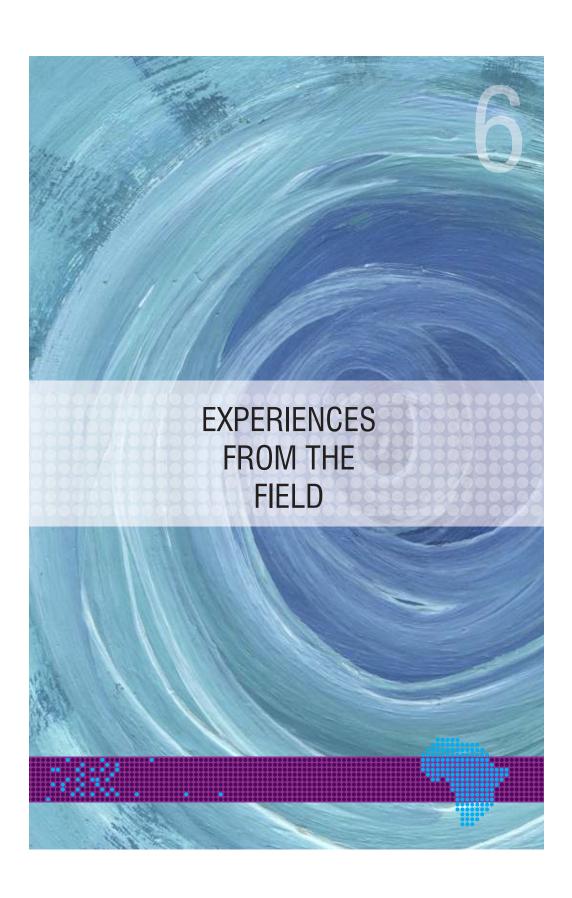
> Low value addition
> Linear vs. systems model for knowledge flow
> Lack of collaboration and systems thinking

HOW CAN WE GET THERE?

> We need new forms of governance of science self-rule self-reliance and ownership
> Transparency accountability and responsibility - we need to have some form of shared responsibility
> Social inclusion
> Trans disciplinary and systems thinking- we need to start thinking beyond what we know. Knowledge is more plural

Can we achieve this?

Barrack Obama said that the journey has never been of shortcuts and settling for less. Let us not think about shortcuts but take the risks and do something about it to make things happen. In conclusion, effective research policy and practice linkage is complex and challenging and is resource intensive and hardly do donors fund it and time consuming. It requires specialized skills and long term commitment. It requires an autonomous but a networked institutions dedicated to knowledge brokerage between PMs and PRs. It also requires Dynamic and sustained participation of all actors.

6

EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD

6.0 Experiences from the Field: Country Case Examples of Successes and Challenges of Linking Research to Policy

Country Case Examples

Challenges of Research Linkage to Policy and Practice in Nigeria by Dr Godwin Akpokodje, NISER, Nigeria

He outlined the three classes of research as:

> Basic Research: work undertaken to acquire new knowledge without a particular application in view
> Applied research: work which is undertaken to discover new applications of existing or new knowledge
> Strategic Research: work which is carried out to discover new knowledge which might provide for future application

The objectives of his presentation were to examine the nature of research in the context of Nigeria and how it applies to Nigeria's development; and to identify the challenges of research linkage to policy and practice in Nigeria and make suggestions on how to address them.

In Nigeria, He noted that there are two main locations for basic and applied research, which are the universities and the public research institutions. The total number of universities in Nigeria are 113, most of which are privately owned, while there are 27 public research institutions. There are also a number of private research institutions and Non-Governmental organizations that carry out research work.

He categorized the post-independence context of development policy practice into five periods which are:

> Immediate post-independence period starting from independence in 1960 to the advent of the first military regime in 1966;
> Post-civil war oil economy starting from the end of the 30-month civil war in 1970 to the handover of government by the military to civilians in 1979;
> Transition to austere economy that emerged in the second republic and resulted in the adoption of World Bank/IMF led economic Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986;
> The era of SAP and guided economic liberalization starting from 1986 to the advent of the new democratic dispensation in1999; and
> The regime of further economic liberalization starting from 1999 and resulting in emergent macroeconomic stability in recent years

In all the five periods, he noted that there was a common characteristic of lack of research linkage to policy practice and that at best; development policy consultation or linkage to research has been adhoc, and lacked consistency or systematic trend.

He said that NISER is the major development policy research institute or platform in Nigeria and has been in existence since 1950, as a research institute of the University of Ibadan until 1977 when it gained autonomy.

It is the largest research institute in Nigeria with highly skilled researchers in every part of the economy.

Functions
> NISER provides consultancy services to the federal and state governments, their agencies and other organizations, in the field of economic and social development;
> It conducts research into the economic and social problems of the country with a view to the applications of the results;
> It organizes seminars and conferences on problems of economic and social development in the country, whether on its own accounts or on behalf of the > government of Nigeria or their agencies;
> Cooperates with Nigerian universities, research institutes and other institutions in the mobilization of the country's research potentials for the task of national development and dissemination of research findings for the use of policymakers at all levels. Federal state and local government.

Organization
Before 2010, NISER had five departments, 11 divisions and nine units. The departments include:
> Agriculture and Rural Development Department that is responsible for research on issues related to Agricultural development
> Economic and Technology Development Department
> Human Resources and Utilization Development Department
> Social, Governance and Physical Development Department
> Administration and Finance

The first four departments are research based while the rest are non-research.

Resources
NISER has highly experienced research staff with expertise that cut across every aspect of development policy research.

It has over forty two research staff in various fields such as economics, social, education, manpower development, physical infrastructure, environment, technology, ICT, political science, among others, that fit into the four research departments.

It has a high visibility among global donor agencies as evidenced by the grants and donations received from them, examples being the World Bank and the IMF.

It is currently experiencing a decline in the local visibility but the institute is presently addressing the problem.

Policy Research at NISER

NISER research is:
> Discipline specific
> Multidisciplinary
> Poverty (which is usually examined by its impact in different perspectives such as economic, agricultural, etc.)
> Climate change
> Global financial crisis

The 42 researchers are allowed to conduct conceptualization of progress within the economy and write proposals which if approved they are funded to conduct research in the areas. Over the years they have not necessarily been policy oriented and the present governing council is trying to change this.

National Planning Commission:

It has three institutions:
> The National Bureau of Statistics for data generation
> The Centre for Management Development for training and
> NISER for policy research

NISER liaises with the Natural Bureau of Statistics to generate information or goes into the field when necessary.

NPC was previously headed by the Chief Economic Adviser and Deputy Chairman but in the recent times, there is the ministry of National Planning with a minister who is distinct from the Chief Economic Adviser. The overall boss of NISER is therefore the minister of economic planning.

How NISER engages policymakers:
> The organization conducts policy research
> The research results are presented at NISER in-house seminar by the research staff
> Policy memos are then written and sent to minister of National Planning – through the permanent secretary
> Policy memos also go to other ministers, depending on the subject of the research e.g., Agriculture related policy memos are sent to the Ministry of Agriculture.
> The ministers then present the policy memos at the Federal Executive Council where cabinet members attend as one way of influencing policy. The memos can be accepted or rejected
> Round table policy dialogue with the executive and legislature are also held. These are funded by external bodies. The house committees relevant to the specific issue at hand are invited to represent the legislature
> Policy briefs, occasional papers, NISER monograph and Research for Development journal are the other ways that NISER is able to engage policymakers

Some of the Outcomes of the NISER's Research
> The development of the first to the fourth National Development Plans
> Establishment of Ajaokuta Steel Company in 1979
> Development of National Industrial Master Plan in 1991
> Public Service Reforms in the 1990s
> Shaping the present monetization programme of the Federal Government
> Establishment of the Raw Material Research and Development Council
> Various presidential initiatives such as those on rice, cassava etc.
> Preparation of the NEEDS-2 Document
> Drafting of the National Vision 2020 document
> Drafting of some states' Vision 2020 document such as that of Delta state

Challenges faced by NISER
1. Poor infrastructure to support service delivery in the head office and zonal offices, mainly technology infrastructure and power supply. - Up to three years ago NISER did not have zonal offices, it was located only in the Niger state but as a result of the economic reforms program NISER inherited zonal offices of Manpower Board that was dissolved during the reforms.
2. Poor visibility among key government stakeholders and the organized private sector. - In the past NISER used to have industrial cons department in Lagos advising those in the private sector. The department was closed 8 years ago which reduced NISER's contact with the private sector.

3. Weak platform for policy engagement and policy appraisals, which is partly responsible for frequent policy reversals by government.
4. Underfunding of core activities (development policy research) by government.
5. Competition from private sector organizations providing similar services as NISER.
6. Progressive loss of research staff to universities.
7. Lack of adequate institutional support for research staff's interaction with peers internationally (e.g. no fund for participation in international conferences/workshops).
8. Governing council with no commitment to policy research and lacks skill to project NISER at policymaking level.

How NISER meets the challenges
1. Organizational structure has been reformed.
2. The institute is now along program lines instead of the Erstwhile University departmental lines.
3. A new Policy Engagement Division to manage NISER's communication and stakeholders' engagement strategies- has been set up- in order to increase visibility in the marketplace.
4. Regular dialogue between NISER and Ministry of National Planning.
5. New funding mix from current Government (85.5%), Donor (14.2%) and IGR (0.2%) to Government (65%), IGR (10%) and Donor (25%)
6. Proposal before government to permit the institute utilize part of its IGR – the IGR goes straight to the government.
7. New governing council with experience in policy research and engagement.
8. Increasing collaboration with both public and private universities.
9. Staff development.

Country Case Example of Challenges to Successful Research Linkage to Policy and Practice - the case of Uganda by Prof Charles Kwesiga, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Kampala, Uganda

He started by saying that UIRI is autonomous but fully funded by government. It operates under the ministry of industry but they have their own independent board and an independent budget board.

He said he is interested in policy because policy, as defined by Grahm in his book Losing Time: The Industrial policy debate; denotes "a nation's declared, official, total strategic effort to influence sectorial development." Policy is therefore sector specific. He said that UIRI concentrates on industrial policy. He noted that collectively, policies

should guide the pace and direction of overall development of a nation in conjunction with other initiatives and attributes such as governance, infrastructure etc. without which the policy will be of no value to national development. In his presentation he said that it is focused on two policies:

> The National Industrial Policy of November 2007 which was Prepared by Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry
> National Oil and Gas Policy of February 2008 which was authored by Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

He mentioned that he did not consider the STI Policy since it is not approved by cabinet because the parastatal in charge of the policy had a difficulty pushing it through cabinet because of the relationship between the parastatal and its line ministry which happens to be the ministry of finance that has no good appreciation of STI.

He noted that while preparing the National Industrial Policy, the ministry had consulted widely before coming up with the recommendation while the consultations for the preparation of the National oil and gas Policy were not done very widely hence his choice of the words 'prepared by' and 'authored by' in highlighting the two policies.

The National Industrial Policy subtitle reads "A framework for Uganda's transformation, competitiveness and prosperity" and its foreword, which was written by H.E. President Museveni reads "The policy, attempts to provide long-time perspectives needed for Uganda to achieve sustained transformation of the economy".

He pointed out that the words used for the title and the foreword is so clear that they leave very little queries on what the policy is all about.

In giving the background under which the National Industrial policy was developed, he said that Uganda had an Impressive record of sustained economic growth and stability over the last two decades whereby:

> The average GDP growth was at 6% per annum
> Uganda had a single digit annual inflation rate
> There was a general reduction in population below poverty line

He also noted that there were also challenges during the period such as Uganda Still being an "undeveloped and third world" country with a large sector of the households relying on subsistence agriculture and that at that time, Uganda had a hard time meeting the MDG's.

He also noted that Uganda was ranked among the least developed countries and at number

147 in the Human Development Index. In giving the background under which the National Oil and Gas Policy was developed, he noted that it was during the period that commercial petroleum resources were discovered in Uganda, a lot of debate was generated with the discovery of oil hence a policy had to be developed to ensure that the discovery of oil became beneficial.

He said that the Policy was approved by cabinet in January 2008 and is intended to guide the development of oil and gas sector with emphasis on exploration, development, production and utilization of the country's oil and gas resources.

Linkage between Policy and Practice
He noted that the translating policy into practice continues to face serious challenges:
> Costs of implementation (e.g. USD 5.13 billion for oil and gas policy over ten years). It's very significant amount of money for Uganda since the current budget stands at about 3bn and the reliance on Foreign Direct Investment is quite doubtful.
> Inadequate Infrastructure (road/rail network, communications, connectivity, electricity. etc.).
> Human capital - lack of skilled manpower makes it difficult to implement policy. People tend to attain the best academic qualification and little attention is paid to the technical skills. A petroleum institute has been proposed to address the skills gap; the donor community is however reluctant in funding such an initiative. The gap is currently being addressed in Uganda an implementation team for a petroleum Institute has been set up to address the gap in human capital but development partners are not forthcoming to support such initiatives.

He outlined the following pillars of industrial success that the policy must address:
> Technology
> Human capital
> Financial capital
> Industry

He said that any policy not addressing the pillars is not worthwhile. He outlined the roles played by different groups in policy making as
> The political class is responsible for setting policy
> Technocrats understand the technical language and the information required. They carry out the research and contribute the document for endorsement by the political class
> Private sector has to work with the political class to address problems that they may face while trying to set up enterprises and effecting industrialization

> Knowledge brokers, researchers and others must work with all sides to make sure that things do happen

The Way Forward
> Increased support for R&D
> Implementation of Uganda Petroleum institute Kigumba (UPIK)
> Investment in improvement of infrastructure
> Involvement in regional development strategies and enhanced collaboration especially with other members of East African Community (EAC)
> Expanding global alliances example the MOU signing between UIRI and CSIR
> He noted that there is a lot of difficulty with dealing with the political class but the success depends upon how we can devise means of communication with such types.
> He also noted that for the issue of visibility and acceptability institutions must let their work speak for them instead of begging from the donor community.

Challenges to Successful Research Linkage to Policy and Practice in Ghana by Fritz A. Gockel, Department of Economics University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana

He started by stating that his presentation is not institutional based but looks at the policy perspectives in general, how they were implemented, why disquiet arose and why some of them were not implemented.

He then proceeded to attempt some of the questions that had been raised in earlier sessions as below:

What is policy and who initiates policy?

Policy is initiated by development partners on behalf of Government and its agencies. Typically, SAPs and PRSPs within the RAPID framework, which is an ODI framework, tries to ensure that research is done within the PRSP framework locally, to inform policy.

He continued underlining factors for increasing emergence of independent research institutions, largely to improve ownership of policies and programs.

He defined the ODI Framework as a Research and Policy in Development that states that Policy-makers and their policies can be said to have succeeded only if the observed outcome is the desired goal.

This is where the question of a good policy comes in. It is to ensure success for the outcomes

that research is undertaken to remove or reduce the bottlenecks in the transmission mechanisms and to make the hardships bearable.

This is tersely put by ODI in its RAPID Framework: Research and Policy in Development that "Better utilization of research and evidence in development policy and practice can help save lives, reduce poverty, and improve the quality of life…indeed, the impact of research and evidence on development policy is not only beneficial – it is crucial"

He said that the ACET Model is based on The RAPID Framework which is to investigate the various aspects of PRSPs to ensure that they are locally engineered to fit the policy implementation process. ACET has Interplay among three inter-related factors that are produced from a fourth set situated in an external, social and cultural context which are the political context, the evidence and the links between policy and research communities.

The ODI framework within which ACET is situated to function is to investigate the issues that are raised in PRSPs and the conclusion is that PRSPs are evidence based and founded on good theoretical arguments and have become the policy amnesia for Ghana since 1963. Ghana was the first African country to have started economic reforms from SAPs.

Some of the developmental challenges of SAPs and PRSPs that gave birth to local research institutions are as follows:

Since 1983 when the SAP started they were focused largely on market driven policies but unfortunately when Ghana started implementing, poverty was at ascendancy and as a result Ghana became the first country to come up with a social policy framework in spite of the SAPs which was called the program of action to mitigate social costs of adjustment.

SAPs and PRSPs regarded as too narrow in scope with emphasis on price stability and sustainable BOP through fiscal austerity measures, tight monetary policy with exchange rate as nominal anchor in the dis-inflation process to the detriment of export competitiveness and import-competing industrialization - various researches done by local institutions later tended to suggest that because of the narrowness of scope and the trade-offs between SAP's and PRSP's ignored, the conditions worsened off in Ghana and the basic objectives could not be achieved.

SAPs tend to ignore unemployment issues completely and consider economic growth a residual of stabilization and that's why anytime microeconomic stability is achieved the cabinet would want to change the purpose and increase its expenditure to increase employment and instability comes in again since employment was not considered in SAPs.

Ownership of SAPs and PRSPs

The programs were implemented without effective local content and participation. The general disquiet against PRSI was that it was an imposition hence the implementation became a problem and information was not well disseminated. For instance, a Minister of State did not know what GPRS was, while another did not know what Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) were.

Initially, policies and programmes were kept out of public domain and only the implementing agencies were aware of what was happening.

ECA criticized the programs and in the late 1980s it came up with the African Alternatives to SAPs. But since they did not have the power to implement this, it was discarded but today the PRSPs have taken into account some of the issues raised by ECA except that the structural bottlenecks/imbalances in African Economies have not been addressed.

Some of the disquiet against SAPs and PRSPs

The senior minister in charge of the National Development Planning Commission changed the name from Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy to Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy to create some ownership

Further disquiet was shown in 2007; Ghana went off IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) because the conditionality's were too harsh - they did not allow for flexibility of domestic policies to be implemented but it had to come back due to certain conditions that arose.

To ensure local ownership the Centre for Economic Policy Analysis (CEPA) was established to look at the issues

These issues became topical when the research institutions started coming out with alternative policy solutions. CEPA was supported by development partners. CEPA had a strong link with the government hence the research of CEPA fed into government directly. Then came IDEG then ACET which has persons on the government economic advisory council which they use for policy interaction.

Possible Suggestions for stronger link between Research and Policy
> The recognition that we have Heterogeneity in African conditions
> Lessons learned from successful researches can be cross cutting issues which must be put together
> Africa wide regional polices must be investigated first

In conclusion we should be able to take control over policy issues and fit these into government machinery so that policies can be home grown.

Country Case Example of Challenges to Successful Research Linkage to Policy and Practice: Tanzania's case by Dr. Salatiel Moyo Simon, FANRPAN Tanzania NODE-ESRF

He stated that his presentation will not concentrate on his institution but will be generally about his experiences and the experiences of his institution.

He said Tanzania, just like any other countries spent a lot of money but there is very little impact on policy hence questions such as:
> What really influence policy? Is it hard facts or is it stories?
> What are these policymakers looking for?
> Who do they listen to? and
> When are they ready to receive evidence?

He gave an example of Tanzania where the key issue at the moment is the constitution and if you talk about it you will be considered as supporting the opposition.

He said that according to the RAPID program the following lessons have been learnt:
> We want to influence policy and some of the things required to influence policy are very complex
> The processes itself is weakly informed by evidence
> Research based evidence have a very significant impact
> We need to be entrepreneurs with holistic understanding of the context in which we work in order to influence policy

He outlined the following as problems faced by the African Policy Environment:
> Rapid increase in urbanization
> Poor policies, uncoordinated, contradicting, ever-changing before any impact assessment of the previous one is done
> External pressure
> Unstable institutions' regime change lead to change of everything
> The democratic process that continue to fuel hatred, discrimination, fracas and fight which is another cause of poverty and alienation

The impact has been as follows:
> Food insecurity (seasonal hunger)

> Poverty
> Social insecurity
> Instability

In order to address some of these challenges in Tanzania, the following has been done:
> Set up of agriculture research institutions in zones. – Up to 7 zonal research institutions have been established and at a university, Sokoine University which supports agricultural research
> Set up of Social, Economic, and other research Institutions
> There are also Commodity based research institutions

Research objectives
We need to generate more productive and profitable technologies
We need to generate evidence to target the population, factor in the environment and other stakeholders but then you must be supportive of the current regime
He classified the Implications of Research findings into two:

1. Overall society
> Efficient use of resources such as Natural resources and labor
> Improved productivity and value addition
> Food security
> Poverty reduction (wealth creation)
> Implications to the bureaucrats, policymakers

There is a Dilemma whether research will work but with evidence there is more work to do to implement the right policies and push for more resources for policy implementation. Efficient use of resources against mismanagement Changes focus from political interest to developmental agenda.

2. Technological challenges on policy
He noted that policies need to have following characteristics:
> Easy to understand policies and technologies
> Cheap so as to exert less pressure on budget
> Superior to the current policy or technology
> Widely acceptable by diverse stakeholders
> Supportive to the current regime
> Faster on showing results

Sources of Development policies

He outlined the following as the major sources of development policy:

> The UN with its institutions is a major driver and they'll bring the policy and ensure that it is accepted whether you like it or not.
> Donor countries
> Domestic researches
> The private sector

What influences policy making

He outlined the following as some of the factors that influence policy:

> Resources for implementation of the policy
> External pressure e.g. policy against terrorism, multi-party system, gender and child labor
> Who benefits - usually if the benefits go to the poor then it is poorly accepted, usually it should be benefiting the ICPS or the bureaucrats.

What ESRF does

He outlined ESRF work as follows:

> To work with MEDIA from early stages of research/project planning to make results demand driven
> To do research with stakeholders to make them understand the process
> To work with advocacy and other pressure groups
> To conduct policy dialogue
> To generate and distribute policy briefs
> To train government leaders and policymakers to build capacity
> To produce publications in different forms

Challenges faced by ESRF

Senior government leaders and politicians are not interested on policy dialogues, training or participation in research so they send junior staff to such meetings.

Sitting allowance syndrome - politicians will go where there is more pay.

Lacks of reading culture - policy briefs are not read and appointments are rarely dependent on education, experience, knowledge or ability but how one supports the current regime.

Conclusions
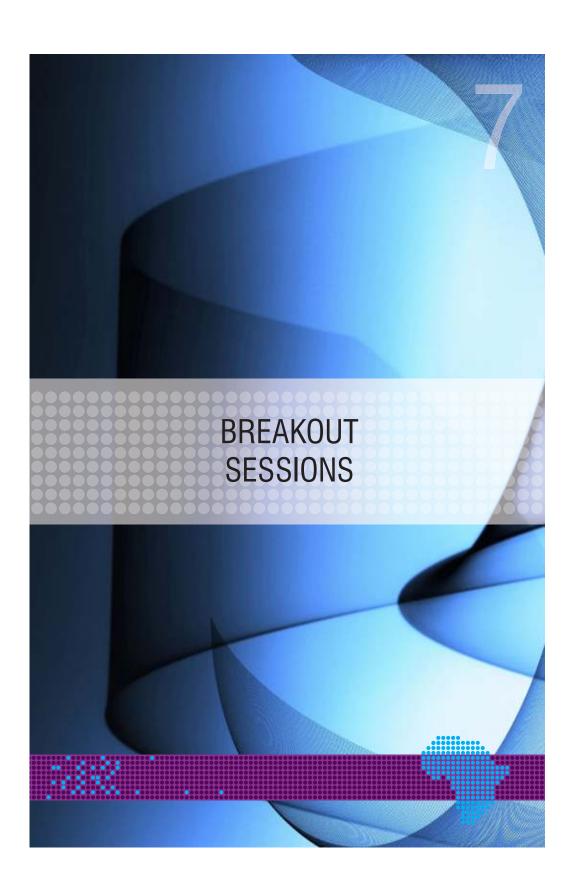
Influencing policy is a struggle against many stakeholders. Politicians understand and appreciate the importance of evidence in policy formulation, but they will need what they

need at the time they need it and at whatever cost. Together with all the difficulties, policy influencing researches are important since policies informed by evidence have higher returns.

Donor community use stronger weapons to influence policy e.g. Policy adoption instruments, policy implementation and development funds while PRIs rely on quality evidence, rapport, networks, advocacy, pressure groups among others with no funds.

Recommendation
Increase more research funds for networking and other requirements for advocacy and dissemination activities.

7

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

7.0   Breakout Sessions

7.1   What works and what doesn't: learning from participants' practical experiences

Group 1: What research institutions need to do to strengthen linkages with policy and practice in Africa presented by Hannah Adari, ATPS

The following questions guided the group discussions:

> What can research institutions do to strengthen linkages with policy and practice in Africa?
> How can research institutions strengthen linkages with policy and practice in Africa?

Key recommendations from the group activity include:

1. Research institutions need to consult national policies and use them to tailor-make their research in order to fit into the policies and plans of the Country.
2. Researchers felt they need to have institutional reforms with regards to mandate and incentive structures so as to address national priorities, as it was noted to be lacking in their institutions.

3. The universities should encourage social problem solving as the key objective for research and research funding to ensure that the research carried out solves local problems.

4. Researchers need to advocate for more research funding by lobbying, this will encourage interactions between the policymakers and the researchers, thereby strengthening linkages.

5. Researchers need to engage knowledge brokerage institutions and include them in their budgets in order to communicate their results effectively to policymakers. Since normally they use a lot of technical terms which may lead to miscommunication between researchers and policymakers.

6. Researchers felt there needs to be a standardize research evaluation method that includes measuring local impact.

7. Researchers should not be in the habit of working alone since different results end up confusing policymakers, therefore increased collaboration within the knowledge systems is important.

8. Policymakers have their own language and it is critical for researchers to learn the language of policymakers in order to strengthen the linkages.

9. Data analysis should be part of policy research institution collaborations since it can be very expensive.

10. Researchers need to tackle more implementation research projects, since currently they do not focus on post policy issues.

11. The participants recognized the need for another forum to bring in more policymakers who will converse, bridge the communication gap and help in assimilating research policy.

12. Universities should align their research with the development agenda to contribute to policy as they have a role to play in policy research. They should also collaborate with research institutions to ensure effective dissemination knowledge.

13. Research institutions should build competencies around specialized areas to enable them be policy relevant.

14. Policy analysis institutions should have a backup research institution whose mandate is a broaden research and analyze policy to ensure only relevant data is used to influence policy.

15. Research institutions need to know how to market themselves aggressively e.g. through conducting open days to inform other stakeholders on the type of research outputs they have, this will encourage partnerships and collaborations.

16. Research institutions need to partake in building the capacity of policymakers. A case was cited in Uganda where Members of Parliaments (MPs) are linked with university professors in the country to provide guidance in specific areas of policymaking for the MPs.

Group 2: What policymakers and practitioners need to do to strengthen linkages with research for Africa's development presented by Dr. Maurice Bolo, ATPS

Key recommendations from the group activity include:

1. There is need for policymakers to reduce political interference in research projects.
2. There is need to pursue continuous dialogue with policy researchers and other stakeholders.
3. There is need to ensure implementation of policy is carried out effectively and timely.
4. Reduce bureaucracy and avoid gates keeping so as to stifling the progress.
5. Leaders need to be bold and embrace new approaches to Africa's development.

Two case examples were given about successful linkages between the policymakers and practitioners on the input support subsidies in Malawi and in Zambia as follows: When these two countries were faced with issues of drought and food security, the government took bold steps to provide input subsidies to the farmers a lot of times against advice from the donors and on the backdrop of refusal to fund by donors. In both countries, research had shown that actually the cost of providing subsidies was going to be a sixth of what it would cost the countries to provide food aid to their countries. When donors refused to fund the subsidy programs the executives of the countries took bold steps to go ahead and use government budget to provide subsidies in the two countries.

In Zambia for example farmers raised the issues with the ministries, a cabinet paper was then prepared through the Ministry of Agriculture which was sent to the cabinet and to the president and then after approval it went to the ministry of finance for action.

The group noted that in influencing policies, policy making processes and decisions, it is important to note that situations are different and so policy influencing map would differ from case to case but the important thing is to make sure that the relevant people or champions are primed to accept these policies and to push them forward. The key word here is priming the relevant people and equipping them with the requisite information that they need. In one example in the case of the cabinet memo, there is the secretary to the cabinet that needed to be primed, fellow PSs and the ministers in charge.
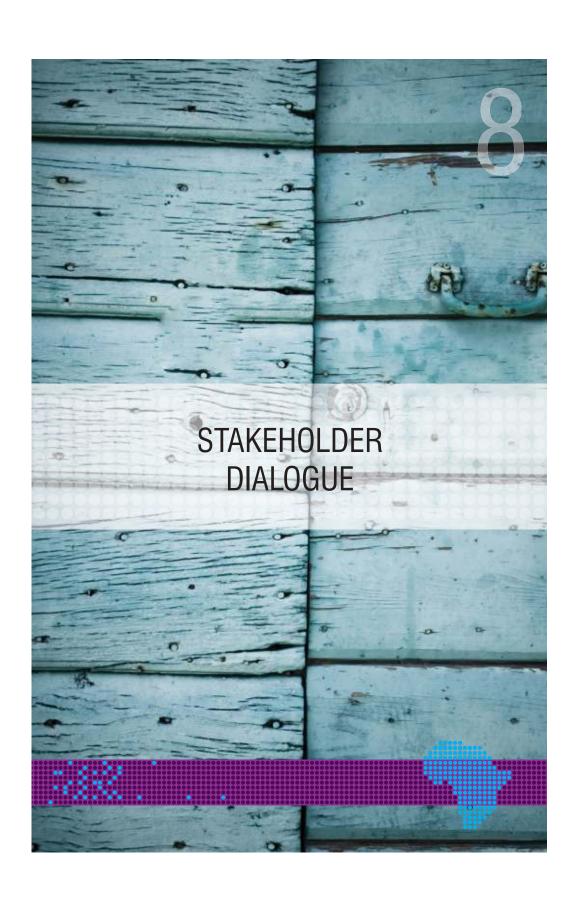
The group further recognized the need to be careful on the language of communication with the policy researchers and other stakeholders. There was an example in Ghana where a researcher was timely reminded that in the civil service, they communicate to power, not necessarily to people.

The group also recognized the need to be sensitive to cultural contexts in strengthening these linkages. For example, the word NGO is as good as forbidden in some African contexts. So in those cases one can use alternative words such as non-state actors, civil societies, or NGOs in context where it is acceptable. The point here is that one should ensure that one's language speaks well in the context in which it is being applied.

The group also noted that there is the need for researchers and other actors to have a better understanding of the policy process and how the policy change takes place. They noted that the process is complex and requires the priming of all the relevant stakeholders.

The group further discussed the role of practitioners in strengthening the policy research-policymaking process. It was recommended that practitioners need to organize themselves to have a bigger voice and articulate their demand. An example of how farmers' organizations have led to successful linkages of private sectors to policymakers in Kenya with reference to KEPSA was cited. There was also an example in Ghana where the ministry of trade and industry holds half year meetings with practitioners and development partners and this makes things work.

The group recommended the need to create platforms for interactions amongst the key stakeholders. For example, the round tables between KEPSA in Kenya and PMs which serve as platforms to interact with policymakers. It was further recommended that policymakers should champion the interaction role since they have an upper hand. In Zambia there is the agricultural consultative forum that sets the pace and demands for private sector issues. It is also important that research and the private sector demonstrate relevance and value to sustain the interests of the policymakers.

8

STAKEHOLDER
DIALOGUE

8.0 Stakeholder Dialogue on the Strategies for Strengthening Linkages between Policy Research and Policymaking for African Development

During the workshop, participants deliberated on key issues driving the process of linkages between policy research and policymaking in Africa and provided answers to relevant questions with a view to understanding the undercurrents in the linkage. This dialogue provides a framework for strengthening the linkages between stakeholders in the policy research and policymaking process.

1. What is a policy research?
> Research that answers the why, how and relates issues with implementation in society
> It is applied research geared towards informing/influencing policy decisions
> It is the generation of knowledge to tackle and/or improve an existing negative situation within a specific sector/region
> Policy research is what addresses sectoral priorities voiced by the government and translated into research questions. Prioritization is important for example, public health system cannot address all illness conditions
> It is using analytic tools to address a problem that is properly defined
> It is research that addresses a problem and has results that are in the form of options and consequences of pursuing each option
> It is research that ends up with policy recommendations
> It is the gathering of facts and evidence based on information that is needed to formulate the appropriate and relevant policy that addresses a specific developmental sector of government/country.

2. What is a policy relevant research?
> This is research that addresses the issues arising from implementation of policy or explores the impact of a particular policy being implemented
> This is research that can be applied to some of the problems that affect various sectors of society. It should be relevant to those who are impacted by the research or who implement the findings. It should be relevant to policymakers and society.
> Policy relevant research address clearly the user/client; it is timely; has been debated by key stakeholders and communicated to specific stakeholders; fits into a country's framework.
> This is research that answers the why and how, taking into consideration all the issues in the environment. It is relevant to end-users.
> The indicators of relevance are; timing; demand; applicability; cost and acceptability.

> It is research that addresses existing social, technological, economic, political and institutional issues. It should be relevant for society as a whole and development priorities.
> These are indicators that are aligned to current issues; aligned to global problems; and involve coming up with recommendations easily understood by policymakers
> The indicators of policy relevant research should lead to; policy change/influence; entrepreneurship opportunities; open up new markets and industries for investors to exploit and patent
> Policy relevant research must be relevant to improving the conditions of life for those persons for whom the policies are intended
> Policy relevance sounds oxymoronic. Research is multi-faceted often unbounded.
> Relevance is in the eye of the beholder and should not be binding on researcher
> The key indicators of relevance have to be a measure of influence within multi-level stakeholder environment. Ultimate indicator of relevance has to be its ability to share the actionable policy
> Policy relevant research is research whose outputs are largely needed by policymakers for policymaking, review of policy or clientele
> Policy relevant research is geared to national/regional and international targets e.g. MDGs and largely address public delivery systems supporting for example education, health, agriculture, environment with awareness of scaling up best practices and budgetary limitations therefore relevant to the well being of the population
> This is an important form of codified knowledge that is/can be incorporated into policy deliberations. It helps to establish standards and modes of verification in service design/delivery
> It is a policy that is relevant to the local environment in any discipline - pertaining to any country
> It is the targeted, integrated and consultative method of bringing different policy research providers, to come and tackle a larger problem collectively

3. **Why is there a low uptake of policy research results to inform policymaking in Africa?**
> The policy research carried out rarely involved relevant stakeholders
> There is a tendency for the policy research to be misunderstood by the policymakers
> There is no systematic way of communicating policy recommendations to policymakers
> It takes a lot of time for Policy changes to be effected
> The Policymakers have their own agendas serving political interests which may not be in line with the policy research
> There is a lack of knowledge about the relevance of research in development amongst the policymakers

> The linkage between researchers and policymakers is very poor
> There is lack of information on policy research and how to access the (databases) information
> The differences in leadership styles, institutions and political cultures across the African regions may affect the uptake of policy research by policymakers
> There is lack of accountability in the linkage between policy research and policymaking
> There is lack of understanding of what policy research is
> There is lack of institutional capacity to collect, interpret and produce outputs from policy research for policymaking
> There is a lack of multidisciplinary research teams to tackle policy issues
> There is political pressure to have fast results for policy recommendations
> There are inadequate resources to finance recommendations already made
> There is a tradition of not appreciating the value of research which in turn creates a tendency to leave matters to fate resulting in lack of adequate planning
> There is lack of collaboration between players and a lot of individualism amongst institutions
> There is poor communication and no research policy proposals to help guide the policy researchers

4. **Should there be a marriage between policymakers or policy advisors and policy researchers and practitioners?**
> Yes! Linkages are key and necessary. Assuming advisors are wise they should collaborate with other stakeholders but maintain autonomy
> There is need for Policy advisors to link policymakers with policy researchers
> Policy makers and policy advisors should jointly set the research agenda to improve relevancy and uptake. However, some work could be done independently by researchers to promote independence.
> Communication between the stakeholders is important to create trust.
> There is need for a marriage because policy researchers will know what problems policymakers are facing and agree on how they can solve them. They would also know about budgets available and other political constraints
> There must be a strategy for researchers to open a simple dialogue with political leaders through other regional groupings on policy proposals
> There is need for a marriage because there is a strong need for knowledge transfer where research information is exchanged between the research community and the community of potential users, through interactive engagement and participation.
> The policymakers and policy advisors are meant to serve a common purpose, they must work together and therefore their purpose should be to implement policies

> There should always be interaction between the relevant stakeholders. This way, the work of all will be dynamic and relevant to the society
> The Policy researchers should advice and engage policy makers
> No! There should be no marriage. Marriage will likely bring about biasness. Policymakers may not be pro-active
> We do not need a marriage between evidence producers and users but a catalyzing, staffed, and skilled knowledge brokering unit
> Policy researchers should work in a puritan environment, do what is academically best. Then the bridging team can come and marry the ideals with practical

5. **Should we aim to build linkages between Research, Policy and Practice and who should champion it?**
> A "knowledge broker" who should be able to link the people, who create and use knowledge, assist the research community in identifying research problems that are relevant to policymakers and facilitate the uptake of research knowledge by policymakers. This is because of the better understanding of research-policy and practice process by knowledge brokers
> We should aspire for the linkage and it must be championed by government because the tax payers give them the jobs to be responsible for growth of their societies. The Government needs to set up structures that ensure this happens
> Policy research institutions should be the champion but should be given the mandates
> Linkages are important and should be championed by research institutions, advocacy groups and politicians, among others
> Champions should be those with coordination functions
> Yes! All parties (researcher, policymakers and practitioners) should aspire to champion it. The biggest beneficiary should champion it
> It should be championed by interested or affected stakeholders
> Champions need to be multidisciplinary organizations that set up and share national or regional knowledge brokering units
> Every actor must champion the course on the basis of their competitive advantages
> We only need to have agreed rules and regulation that govern relationships
> Championing research, policy and practice has to be through networks. Researchers cannot do it alone and should not. We need a level playing field where everything is set on the table
> Policy advocacy should be championed by all the players.
> The Champion should be a non partisan entity that understands the relevance to national development. The Researchers should be aware of broader issues but should be relatively unconstrained
> Yes! The Question is how!

6. **Why are researchers reluctant to undertake policy relevant research? And why are policymakers also reluctant to use outputs from policy research?**

> Traditionally in Africa, policymakers are above everyone in society and in many cases are untouchable. On the other hand, researchers are often intimidated

> Politics is a dirty feat of stigmatization, ivory tower mentality. Know-it-all mentality and lack of awareness of available policy relevant research

> The issues raised by researchers may put them in trouble with policymakers

> There is a likelihood of politicization – victimization, resulting in unappreciated research work

> Researchers are not mandated to undertake policy relevant research. They serve their own intellectual needs leading to policy irrelevant outputs. They do not research on issues of national importance. Yet policymakers serve their political interests and there is no systematic communication processes between the two.

> Researchers are reluctant because of existing skill gaps, where their training assumes that all reasonable and proven solutions to a problem should be taken up without much issue but that is most often not the case. Policymakers are most often "politicians" who focus on popular opinion.

7. **What are the current skill gaps, and how can they be addressed?**

> There is lack of collaboration between the key stakeholders in the research, policy and practice process

> Skills gaps are many but need to introduce new curricula into universities such as "problem based learning" to foster team and multidisciplinary research geared towards addressing actual problems of public or private delivery of key services

> Communication is a major skill gap the researchers need to learn to write for target audience other than for other researchers

> There is a lack of understanding of policymakers' language by policy researchers. Attributes of policymakers include among others concise and focused presentation; lobbying, advocacy, dialogue and consensus-building

8. **Should universities be trans-disciplinary, and what are the trades-offs?**

> Universities should be trans-disciplinary but should be careful to ensure that at the micro level, they develop their research to be very specific in the problem-solving before bringing it to the level of "relevance"

> Trans-disciplinary is challenging but this is the nature of science

> Universities need to foster research mixed skill teams through new types of curricula such as "problem based learning"

9. **Should there be strict dichotomy between policy research and policy making?**

\> The dichotomy is important, but the need to create a "gluing" structure is equally more important

\> Dichotomy will create autonomy and professional integrity

10. **How do we communicate research results and the policy needs?**

\> The communication from research to policy should be via a professional knowledge brokering unit, staffed with knowledge transfer skills and feeding back to both sides

\> By disseminating copies of reports; policy briefs/summaries; seminars; lobbying through media – electronic, print, radio

\> By content packaging and targeting a feedback loop

\> By writing policy memos; publications; organizing workshops/seminars; policy dialogues and strategic planning processes involving policymakers to determine research

\> By facilitating the media i.e. print, electronic etc. to influence the policymakers to ensure implementation

\> By investing in communication expertise. Researchers should allocate part of the research grants to communication/advocacy to approximately 10%

\> Communication should be symmetric i.e. flow both ways and be in simple understandable language

\> The oral culture of communication cannot be ignored, it is a key avenue; and should be formalized with a 1 page document

11. **What are the mechanisms to influence development of effective policy implementation?**

\> One can show case the impact of research findings; supply policymakers/legislators with evidence of impact of research

\> Most policies need to be accompanied by regulatory framework and resources

\> Mechanism should be the entire linkage ecosystem therefore, doing linkage optimization enhances the ability to influence regulatory process

\> We have no regulations or systems for effective policy implementation. The latter should also be subject to research. These mechanisms can be addressed through a knowledge broker unit.

12. **Who needs policy research and who should supply it?**

\> Policymakers; business/entrepreneurs; research institution all need policy research which should be supplied by researchers

\> Policymakers and implementers of the practice. It informs knowledge based programmes

>   Policymakers need policy research. Policy researchers should supply it

>   A government needs policy relevant research and should foster/fund it. Innovative research should also be largely funded by private sector

13.   **What is the role of policy research institutions in addressing policy research linkages?**

>   University researchers have the ability and capacity to formulate a programme for encouraging linkages

>   Policy Research Institutions are suppliers. They should be in the playing field to review the agenda and interact with the users in crafting results to meet customer needs

>   They should focus on training, advocacy and outreach to policymakers

>   They are central to policy research linkages as fountains of knowledge, information and technical expertise

>   They are responsible for conducting relevant research; simplifying results; communication; engaging various stakeholders in the research process; and conducing environmental scans for relevant research targets

>   Their role is to make available their research results to the policy makers and advice them

>   Building capacity of policymakers to understand the importance of evidence in policymaking

>   Universities should train the researchers and foster research teams but should not engage directly with evidence to policy engagement

>   Policy Research Institutions need to create knowledge brokerage platforms which are multi-sectoral and perform specific links between research and policy

>   Policy Research Institutions have self-interest in being strongly involved in developing and optimizing linkages. Their role should be leadership of process and thinking

>   Their role is to conduct evidence based research in order to promote success; and strengthen dissemination through various models (conferences, workshops, policy briefs, seminars, etc)

14.   **Should research be politicized? If yes, what are the implications?**

>   YES! If research is to be relevant, it must be politicized

>   Currently in the African context, it is the main means of reaching the top decision makers. However, the success depends on the research focus and results generated

>   Research should be politicized for it to be relevant and move beyond the narrow knowledge generation need for research

>   If research is to be relevant, it should key into the political machinery. The implications is that researchers must learn new skills

>   Policy relevant research needs to be politicized and resulting evidence used to inform policy and practice

> NO! Policy research should never be politicized but at the relevance level, must engage politics
> Not politicized as politics has no scientific underpinnings/processes. But to know the political processes
> No! But researchers must respond to political agenda if relevance and support are to be considered.
> Research should not be politicized to ensure universal acceptability for successful implementation
> Politicizing research will make it lack integrity and limit appeal and scope of utilization.
> It will make research to lack objectivity leading to biased findings

15.   Why is policy research a problem?
> There is lack of linkage between supply (research side) and demand (policy side). There is lack of funding and support for research in Africa
> Policy research is not a problem. Linkage is a problem and of a large magnitude
> African governments have weak demand. Hence not interested in financing research and development
> It adds more work to politicians. It directs politicians to long term benefits than short term benefits that are politically more appreciated (cheap and quick popularity for elections). It demands more resources that could otherwise go into peoples' pockets
> Lack of awareness of what policymakers need
> It is a problem because it must engage the stakeholders, be inherently multidisciplinary and also have the evidence with regard to cost effectiveness
> Low capacity in research institutes; unclear modes of communicating the results; limited funding and lack of coordination among researchers creates challenges for policy research
> Policy research is a problem because it is a preserve of the elite, economists and the government
> Stakeholders are not carried along. Most of the researchers lack requisite skills

16.   What are the benefits of addressing the problems of policy research?
> It leads to the development of a functional, acceptable and implementable policy
> It allows for free flow of knowledge to policymakers, entrepreneurs and the society at large
> It improves information for evidence-based policies for faster development
> Leads to improved research career pathway, higher appreciation for research; improved national funding of research priorities and much better policies resulting in national well-being improvement.

17. **Should research agenda be politicized by policymakers and if yes to what extent?**
> In order for research results to be more relevant and tailored to development agenda of the implementers.
> In order to enhance ownership, identification and commitment to the research outcomes, as well as implementation of research outcomes.
> It should be, to the extent at which the policymakers want problems affecting the society addressed.

18. **Should development partners influence research agenda?**
> Development partners should desist from influencing research agenda because they lack in-depth knowledge of development areas of priority, problems and needs in specific localities.
> Their motive to impose their own, externally development agenda and market oriented perspectives limits the implementation of internally developed priorities
> Development partners' influence should be marginal, and subject to critical review by our own knowledgeable experts. Locally generated knowledge is paramount.

19. **What are the factors driving change in the research – policy linkage?**
> The emergence of autonomy and independent policy research institutions
> The donor arrangements or funding models, and direction of programs emphasizing impact at policy level
> The increased recognition of the complexity of the policy making arena and need for impact
> The increased emphasis on value addition and impact
> The enhanced participation of the academia and researchers in public governance
> Existence of improved networks between researcher and policy makers
> There is increased research commissioned by governments
> Social media and ICTs
> Global challenges (food and fuel price hikes, climate change, population growth, etc.)
> Increased awareness of research as an important tool in policy making
> Enhanced democracy and multi-stakeholder dialogue at all levels of governance
> Increased awareness of important linkage between research, policy and practice
> The emergence of specialized research institutions/agendas anchored within socio-economic, technological health challenges within Africa
> Improved attitudinal change on the part of donor community and policy makers
> Enhanced awareness by all stakeholders and better appreciation of the value and relevance of research

> Involvement of Private sector sources of funding research such as Bill/Melinda Gates foundation

20. What constitutes the mutual interest that will facilitate Research Policy and Practice linkage?

> When the research agenda is aligned to national priorities
> When research generates tangible solution rather than just criticism
> When there is common development problems, challenges and common agenda
> Mutual interest in delivery and implementation of the policy that must have been formulated through collaboration and consultation
> When both researchers and policy makers have the interest in getting policies right and implemented effectively
> When both researchers and policy makers "work for the people" and the "well being of society"
> When both researchers and policy makers want "high impact, workable, affordable and implementable solutions to problems"
> When researchers and policy makers define clear indicators for evidence based research and framework to measure progress/success towards realizing the desired goals between research and policy.
> When both parties want to have an impact on society and bring about positive change

21. What constitutes the trade-off that will impede Research Policy and Practice linkage?

> When both parties want to be seen as relevant and superior in the research-policy dialogue.
> When long term policy goals of researchers clash with shorter term focus of policy makers.
> When both researchers and politician/policy makers viewed their work as mere surviving activity rather fostering real research policy impact.

22. What constitutes the differences between Policymakers and Policy Researchers and what are the trade-offs

> The divergence in goals or agenda; Policymakers work to popularized themselves or score political points, while Policy Researchers may work for the course of research
> Policymakers may have short term interest while researchers may have a long term view
> Politicians are subject to influence of donors while researchers are somehow independent
> Their motivations- politicians always seek re-elections while researchers always seek new knowledge

> Researchers may have long term career while policy makers may have a time-bound career
> The Policymakers want immediate, visible impact at their constituencies whereas researchers engaged in the long term process of change
> There is a Trade-off in fear of loss of power on policy makers' part versus fear of loss of influence on the researchers' part.
> The larger vision of coherence among both policy makers and researchers is not difficult but their pathways to converge may be the challenge
> Political expediency on the part of policy makers
> The presence of Social and professional disposition including ego on the part of politicians and arrogance on part of the academia

23.   What lessons are there for Africa to learn from? How have the success stories happened?
> We learn that think tank institutions could use a single regional or national Knowledge Transfer/Knowledge Brokerage platform
> Better strategic interactions by both the policy makers and policy research
> Collaborate, Cooperate, and Coordinate
> We learnt that simplicity is the approach
> We learn that we need to find common ground and that timing can be everything
> It takes courage to 'break the ice' and 'bring down the walls'
> Research works must be known and trusted to influence policy
> Policy relevancy of institution is important
> Quality work is important for sustainability
> Demand driven research is highly appreciated
> More networking and interaction between policymakers and researchers so that they can understand each other's interests, challenges and forge common ground
> We must invest time and effort in building the necessary networks and capacity to bring the necessary changes.
> We see that policy relevant research can be catapulted into policy decision-making
> We learn that research institutions engaged in policy need to be multidisciplinary and also have the capacity to broker and translate knowledge.

24.   How should Policy research institutes be set up and run?
> They should be Independent to avoid bias
> They should ensure autonomy, well-resourced and utilize the results of their efforts.
> Policy research institutes must be within universities for synergy
> Policy research institutes should have a strong grounding in pure science/research through linkages with universities but also have autonomy to do their work
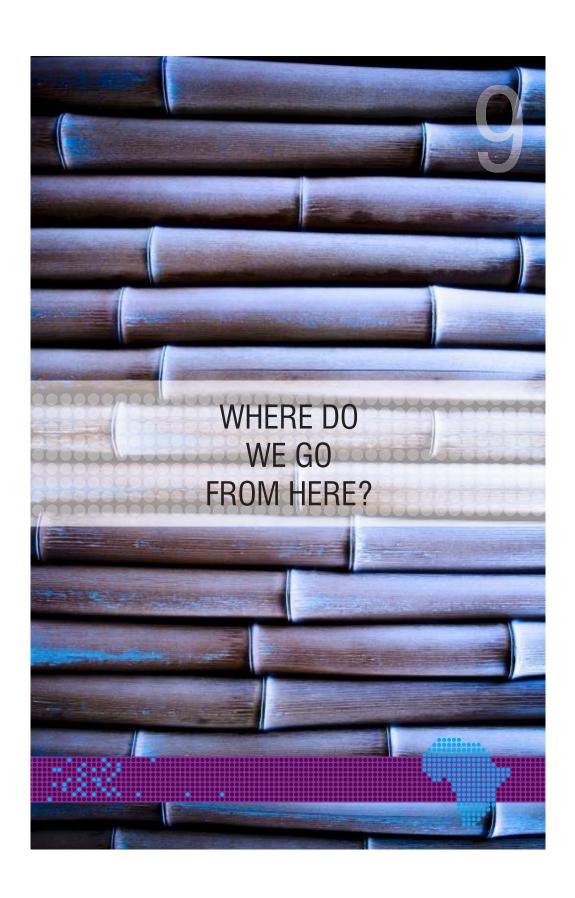
> Given the African context, policy research institutes can take several forms, autonomous, university centered, depending on the specific context
> They should be setup on specialized research priority areas and closely linked to a relevant government ministry.
> They should define the niche for all stakeholders and create a network platform for interface between supply and demand
> They should be skilled to deal with the intricacies of the policy world/domain

25. Do policymakers consider research evidence important
> Policy makers consider research evidence second to development priorities stipulated by their manifestos
> They view research evidences as important but it is used opportunistically
> They consider it important but tend to blame limited funds as constraints to implementation.
> They consider research evidence important if influenced positively on their bid in the electoral process.

26. How do we improve networking amongst policymakers and Policy researchers?
> By setting up regular forums for interaction/multi-stakeholder dialogue on research and national priorities to ensure researchers & policy makers are on the same page
> By underscoring their mutual benefit, relevance and complementarity in development
> By Investing time in building networks and understanding the key drivers and motivation of each other
> By creating a harmonized agenda which addresses each other's goals. This can be achieved through participatory/collective process
> Improving networking with policymakers, providing them with simple, clear language and concise reports on the status of the current research evidence.

9

WHERE DO
WE GO
FROM HERE?

9.0 Where Do We go From Here? Setting the Agenda for Longer-term Strategy on Strengthening Linkages

Resolutions

Resolutions of the consultative workshop on strengthening the Linkages between Policy Research and Policymaking for African Development held at the Sarova Whitesands Beach Resort and Spa, Mombasa, Kenya on 16 – 18 February 2011

We, the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and the African Centre for Economic Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET);

Being aware that national development advances through a complicated and interlocking series of initiatives and outcomes;

Recognizing the importance of appropriate policies in fostering national priorities for development;

Conscious of the demand for research based evidence to support policymaking;

Cognizant of the gap between policy research and policymaking and its negative influence on policy developments;

Recalling your commitments of African leaders to the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) flagship programmes including:
> Agriculture and food security;
> Climate change and natural resource management;
> Regional integration and infrastructure;
> Human development;
> Economic and cooperate governance; and
> Gender and capacity building.

And African leaders' further pledge to allocate 10% of national budgets to agriculture, and 1% of GDP for research and development (R&D) in support of the above programmes;

We convened a consultative workshop to address the gap between policy research and policymaking with a view to designing a proactive way forward.

The workshop recognized the need for:
> Better engagement, collaboration and coordination amongst policy research institutions and policymaking arms of government to improve effectiveness and value addition in policy development in Africa;
> Better knowledge sharing and knowledge brokerage amongst policy research institutions, policymakers and development partners in Africa;
> Harmonization of financial and human resource investments in policy research and policy making for the development of Africa; and
> Greater support of the African agenda for development through evidence-based policy development led by Africans.

Following recommendations from the workshop, we the conveners do hereby commit to the establishment of a trans-disciplinary consortium of policy research institutions and policymaking arms of governments in Africa to:
> Promote more effective policy development;
> Enhance collaboration and coordination of financial and human resources;
> Facilitate the development and sharing of knowledge amongst the stakeholders; and
> Enhance the capacity for evidence-based policy development.
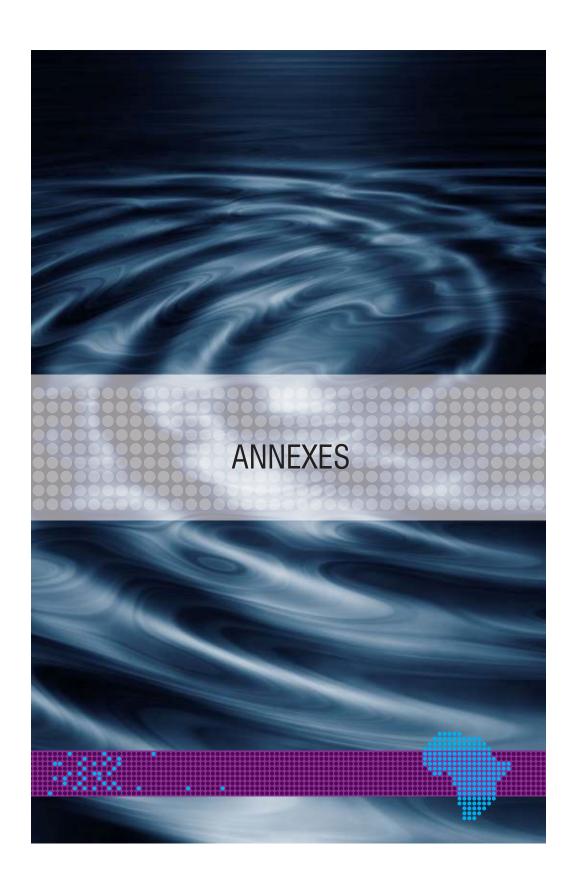
We therefore request your full commitment and support to this consortium aimed at strengthening linkages between policy research and policy making for African Development.

Signed on this 18th day of February, 2011

Dr. Kevin Urama
Executive Director
African Technology Policy Studies
Network (ATPS)

Dr. Alex C. Ezeh
Executive Director
African Population and Health
Research Center (APHRC)

Dr. Lindiwe M. Sibanda
Chief Executive Officer
Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)

Dr. E.K. Brown
Executive Director
African Centre for Economic
Transformation (ACET)

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: About the Implementing Partner Institutions

AFRICAN TECHNOLOGY POLICY STUDIES NETWORK (ATPS)

Vision and Mission Statement: The overall objective of the ATPS is to build Africa's Science Technology and Innovation (STI) capacity today for sustainable development tomorrow. The strategic vision is to become the leading centre of excellence and reference in science, technology and innovation systems research, training and capacity building, communication and sensitization, knowledge brokerage, policy advocacy and outreach in Africa.

The institution's mission is to improve the quality of science, technology and innovation systems research and policy making in Africa by strengthening capacity for science and technology knowledge generation, communication and dissemination, use and mastery for sustainable development in Africa.

The ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan aims to improve the understanding and functioning of Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) processes and systems to strengthen the learning capacity, social responses, and governance of ST&I for addressing Africa's development challenges, with a specific focus on the MDGs.

A set of specific strategic goals are identified: - Strengthen institutional and individual capacity to carry out and use cutting edge research in inter-related ST&I processes and systems and their implications for achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) in Africa; - Facilitate and strengthen regional and international cooperation and partnerships on related ST&I research and policy issues to assist access to research environments and knowledge communities in other continents; - Support and strengthen the innovative capacity of youth and women to apply ST&I to relevant development policy issues in Africa; - Strengthen endogenous technical capacities to produce, use and govern Sustainable technologies for achieving the MDGs in Africa; - Facilitate and support knowledge sharing on ST&I amongst key stakeholders for sustainable development in Africa; and - Promote the integration of ST&I research and policy in African development planning and policy making processes.

Core Competencies: ATPS is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, private sector actors, policymakers and civil society actors promoting ST&I generation, use and mastery for development in Africa. ATPS is a key institution in Africa with significant experience and mastery in knowledge generation (through Research and Training), knowledge brokerage (through stakeholders dialogue), knowledge dissemination and outreach (through publication, STI journalism and policy advocacy), and knowledge valorization (through

innovation challenge programs). ATPS collaborates with relevant institutions within and beyond Africa to achieve knowledge breeding, and use through research and capacity building, international cooperation and partnership, and youth and gender empowerment.

All ATPS thematic research programs focus on facilitating innovation capacity development at individual and institutional levels through trans-disciplinary mix of experts. ATPS priority sectors for thematic research and research capacity building during the Phase VI Strategic Plan, 2008-2012 include; sustainable agriculture and food security, sustainable health delivery, and sustainable management of environmental infrastructure. Each of the priority sectors focus on building national innovation systems capacity for poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, and knowledge management and appropriation strategies.

Organizational Structure: ATPS started as two networks, East African Technology Policy Studies (EATPS) Network and West African Technology Studies (WATPS) Network in the 1980s. ATPS started as a secretariat of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in 1994. ATPS became autonomous in October 2001.

ATPS operates as a network with 23 national chapters in African countries with an expansion plan to cover the whole of sub-Saharan Africa by 2015. Membership of the ATPS is held at the national chapter levels. Membership comprises policymakers, NGOs, consultants, research organizations and private sector actors.

The overall policy-making body of ATPS is the international Board of Directors comprising African and non-African scholars, policymakers and private sector actors. The Board formulates and monitors the implementation of ATPS policies and procedures designed to fulfill the network's objectives. The Board membership represents the main sub-regions covered by the ATPS: Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Western Africa; and the Francophone Africa; and two representatives of the international community.

The ATPS Board operates in respective Board Committees aimed at providing ongoing effective strategic guidance to the ATPS Secretariat and the Network as a whole on core areas of the ATPS activities, including the administration, fundraising and financial control systems, and STI capacity development activities. The Board Committees include: the Executive Administrative Board Committee, the Executive Fundraising and Finance Committee; and the Responsible STI Advisory Committee respectively. ATPS has an independent and dynamically evolving Secretariat with staff to provide executive direction, administrative implementation and physical infrastructure to the network. The Secretariat is led by a Secretariat Management Committee (SMC) chaired by the Executive Director.

Outreach: ATPS has national chapters in 23 African countries, with 4 other countries in process of ascension into the network. ATPS, through this network, remains a strong pipeline through which research outputs are taken from 'research output banks' to the streets, farms and local communities. The ATPS, therefore, acts as a broker between knowledge and technology generators, the policymakers, the private sector, and the local communities on the one hand, and between regions and countries on the other.

ATPS applies various approaches in reaching out to relevant actors within and outside the continent. The institution's reach-out mechanism is sensitive to specific stakeholders' characteristics and needs. The strategic reach out systems include Research Capacity Building (RCB), Training and Sensitization (TS), Communication and Stakeholder Dialogue (CSD), Outreach, Knowledge Brokerage and Policy Advocacy (OKBPA), International Cooperation and Partnership (ICP), Youth and Gender Empowerment (YGP), and Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME).

As an STI network, ATPS has longstanding experience in innovation incubation programs, as well as intellectual property rights and knowledge management. ATPS builds innovation through collaborations as its core mandate and activity in Africa.

Examples of Successful Research Policy Linkages conducted by the ATPS:
Lesotho policy on S&T (2007) was a result of long term dialogue amongst policymakers and researchers in Lesotho facilitated and supported by the ATPS, UNESCO amongst others. For detail see the Lesotho National Science and Technology Policy 2006 - 2011

Formation of National System of Innovation (NSI) Steering Committee, and its Inter-Agency Secretariat in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2010). This was an outcome of a workshop on building national systems of innovation hosted by the ATPS and RMRDC of the Federal Ministry of S&T, Nigeria.
For details see http://www.atpsnet.org/media_centre/news/article.php?article=1. This initiative culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by four related Government Agencies in Nigeria and ATPS to formally establish the NSI Steering committee.
For more details, see http://www.atpsnet.org/media_centre/news/article.php?article=45.

Sensitization workshop for Members of Parliament (MPs) organized by the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources (MEMR) in collaboration with ATPS, UNEP and the IDRC-Climate Change Adaptation for Africa (CAAA) through the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). The workshop appraised about 120 MPs on Climate Changes issues and also engaged them in Kenya's National Climate Change

Response Strategy (NCCRS) and other strategic initiatives for addressing climate change in Kenya.

For details see http://www.atpsnet.org/media_centre/news/article.php?article=21.

Biotech policy in Kenya and Nigeria – One of the aims of the ATPS programme on biotechnology was to train policymakers and create the necessary social capital necessary for African countries to benefit from biotechnology. Two S&T summits for State Governors were organized by ATPS in Nigeria in 2005 where biotechnology took centre stage with each State positioning itself on how to tap the potential benefits accruing from biotechnology research and applications while protecting human and environmental health. A breakfast meeting was also organized in 2005 by ATPS for some parliamentarians in Kenya where lead resource persons on biotechnology gave short, precise presentations followed by question and answer sessions, focusing mainly on the contents of the proposed biotechnology bill and policy before the Kenyan Parliament. The session, which was mostly informational, brought the parliamentarians and other policymakers up-to-date on the biotechnology debate and Kenya's potential take on the issues.

Placing Tertiary Education in Policy Agenda in Africa. The ATPS and its partners, the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the Danish Development and Research Network (DDRN) and the Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) organized a pre-conference training for principal officers in selected African universities and a policy side event during the 2010 African Ministerial Conference on Higher Education in Agriculture in Africa held in Kampala, Uganda from 15-19 November 2010. The events were aimed at bridging the gap between university research and policymaking and it brought together policymakers and principal officers from African universities to discuss and chat the way forward. See details at: http://www.ddrn.dk/filer/forum/File/CHEA_workshop_report_final_18_11_10.pdf

Funding sources and overall budget: The ATPS has been funded by several donors and sponsors, among which include the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Royal Dutch Government, the Rockefeller Foundation, African Development Bank (AfDB), Technical Centre for Agriculture (CTA/Netherlands), Ford Foundation, Coca-Cola Eastern Africa, Carnegie Corporation, World Bank, OPEC Fund, Government of Nigeria, World Bank-infoDev, UNESCO, UN-IDEP, NEPAD, OSI, UNEP, etc. For details see http://www.atpsnet.org.

AFRICAN POPULATION AND HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER (APHRC)

Vision and Mission Statement: The African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization committed to conducting high quality and policy-relevant research on population and health issues facing sub-Saharan Africa.

Organizational structure: The Center was established in 1995 as a Population Policy Research Fellowship program of the Population Council, with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. In 2001, it became an autonomous institution with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

Formerly the African Population Policy Research Center, the African Population and Health Research Center was established in 1995 as a program of the Population Council, with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. This arrangement continued until formal legal agreements were developed with the Government of Kenya (GoK) in June 2001. The agreement with the GoK grants the Center certain privileges and immunities, including: establishment of its Head Office in Nairobi. On August 1, 2001, the Center disengaged its administrative and program operations from the Population Council. It became an autonomous non-profit and non-governmental international organization with headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and staffed by an international team of African scientists.

The Center is also registered with the Registrar of Companies in Kenya, giving it distinct legal status in the country. Earlier in April 1999, the Center was registered as a Non-profit corporation in the State of Delaware in the United States of America. In September 2001, it obtained tax exemption from the United States Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c) 3 of the US tax code. The Center was initially designed as a Population Policy Research Fellowship Program aimed at attracting and retaining well trained Africans back to the continent and enabling them to develop their research skills and their professional links with other relevant African institutions.

Core competencies: The rationale for such a program centered on the lack of an enabling institutional environment for African scholars to engage in policy-relevant population and health research.

The ultimate objectives of the fellowship program were to: a) strengthen professional and institutional research capacity in Africa; b) encourage and support Africans to develop and carry out research priorities; and c) foster the dissemination and utilization of accurate and timely research findings for sound policy formulation, resource allocation and program

improvement. The fellowship program was expected to develop into an autonomous African research center after five years of existence.

For details see: http://www.aphrc.org/insidepage/?articleid=4

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION (ACET)

Vision and Mission Statement: The African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) was established in 2007 to promote high-quality policy analysis and advisory services, assisting African governments in achieving long-term growth and transformation of African economies.

Core competencies: ACET's unique approach to fulfilling this mission involves: engaging a new, integrated method which combines policy research, advisory services and institution strengthening to address practical development questions and challenges; championing a unique African perspective and greater ownership of the development agenda; creating an unrivalled network of world class international experts and preeminent African professionals; harnessing African talent from within the continent and from its Diaspora. It aims to become the preferred advisor on policy formation and implementation to African governments. For details, see http://acetforafrica.org/site/

FOOD, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY ANALYSIS NETWORK (FANRPAN)

Vision and Mission Statement: FANRPAN is a regional policy research and advocacy network whose operations are informed by major regional food security policy frameworks and processes in Southern Africa. FANRPAN was formed in 1997 in response to a call in 1994, by Agriculture Ministers from the Eastern and Southern Africa region for independent evidence to inform agricultural policy harmonization at regional level.

FANRPAN members include government ministries responsible for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR); policy research institutions such as relevant university departments; private sector national umbrella organizations which deal with FANR; national farmers' organizations; and civil society organizations that are organized into national nodes in fourteen countries, with a national secretariat hosted by an independent national institution.

The Pretoria based regional secretariat coordinates multi-stakeholder policy research outputs, producing regional synthesis reports that are used to inform policy harmonization through policy publications and policy dialogues at regional level and global level.

FANRPAN's mission is to promote effective FANR policies by facilitating linkages and partnerships between government and civil society; building the capacity for policy analysis and policy dialogue; and supporting demand-driven policy research and analysis.

Core competencies: FANRPAN has four strategic objectives and these are (i) Promoting regional economic integration (ii) Positioning the region for competitive international trade (iii) Creating enabling policies that support poverty reduction, resilient livelihoods and economic growth (iv) Promoting agricultural technology adoption, innovation and adaption to climate change. To achieve these strategic objectives FANRPAN has three mutually supportive thrusts: (i) Capacity Building; (ii) Policy Research, and (iii) Policy Advocacy.

Outreach: FANRPAN is known regionally and internationally as a network of networks and is respected for providing strategic food security policy interventions and for convening national and regional policy dialogues that bring together a diverse group of stakeholders. This combination of relevant, unbiased analysis and broad-based stakeholder conventions enables FANRPAN to produce viable and effective Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) policy recommendations. FANRPAN has already made significant research and policy contributions, such as (i) the first comprehensive study of the impact of HIV/AIDS on household agricultural productivity - in year 2006 (ii) the development of a household vulnerability index (HVI) for planning interventions and monitoring development impacts - in 2007, (iii) and, mobilising civil society and governments Africa-wide to speak with one voice at the Copenhagen Global Climate negotiations in 2009. FANRPAN maintains a database and directory of FANR stakeholders consisting of over 8,000 entries in 120 countries organized by discipline, country and region.

Funding partners: FANRPAN's funding partners include the: Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC); United States Agency For International Development (USAID); Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; German Technical Cooperation (GTZ); Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation ACP-EU (CTA); Rockefeller Foundation; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); CGIAR; Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF); Southern Africa Trust; Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

ANNEX 2: Programme

DAY 1 – Wednesday, 16 February 2011

Venue: Sarova Whitesands Hotel, Mombasa, Kenya

Time	Topic/Presentations
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Registration

OPENING SESSION

Session Chair: Dr. Anthony Akoto-Osei, MP

Time	Topic/Presentations	Proposed Presenters
9:30 – 9:40 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks by ATPS	Dr. Kevin Urama, Executive Director, ATPS, Nairobi, Kenya
9:40 – 9:50 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks by APHRC	Mr. Chaacha Mwita, APHRC, Nairobi, Kenya
9:50 – 10:00 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks by ACET	Dr. Edward Brown, Senior Associate, ACET, Accra, Ghana
10:00 – 10:10 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks by FANRPAN	Dr. Lindiwe M. Sibanda, CEO, FANRPAN, Pretoria, South Africa
10:10 – 10:30 a.m.	**Photo Session & Health Break**	

PLENARY SESSION

Session Chair: Mr. Chaacha Mwita, APHRC, Nairobi, Kenya

Rapporteur: Ms. Hannah Adari, ATPS

	Keynote Paper Presentation	Proposed Presenters
10:30-11:00 a.m.	Background paper on *Linking Research to Policy and Practice: Issues and Way Forward*	Prof. Michael C. Madukwe University of Nigeria
11:00-12:30 p.m.	Facilitated Discussions based on background paper	Facilitated by ATPS/FANPRAN

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.   **LUNCH BREAK**

Session Chair: Prof. M. C. Madukwe, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Rapporteur: Ms. Hannah Adari, ATPS		**Proposed Presenters**
2:00 – 2:20 p.m.	Linking Health Research to Policy and Practice	Dr. Graham Reid, APHRC, Kenya
2:20 – 2:40 p.m.	Achieving Sustainable Economic Transformation in Africa through Development Policy and Practice	Dr. Edward Brown, ACET, Ghana
2:40 – 3:00 p.m.	Practice without Policy: The Bane of Agricultural Development and Food Security in Africa	Dr. Tebogo Seleka, FANPRAN Botswana Node - BIDPA
3:00 - 3:20 p.m.	Linking Science and Technology Research to Policy and Practice: Issues and the Role of African Governments	Dr. Nicholas Ozor, ATPS, Kenya
3:20 – 4:00 p.m.	**Tea/Coffee/ Health Break**	

Session Chair: Prof. M. C. Madukwe, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Facilitated Discussions	Facilitated by ACET/APHRC

DAY 2 - Thursday, 17 February 2011

PLENARY SESSION

Rapporteurs: Ms. Hannah Adari & Ms. Carol Thuku, ATPS

Time	Topic/ Presentations	Proposed Presenters
9:00 - 9.10 a.m.	Recap of Day 1	Dr. Maurice Bolo, Research Officer - Post Doc., ATPS

Country Case Examples of Challenges to Successful Research linkage to policy and practice

Rapporteur: Ms. Hannah Adari & Ms. Carol Thuku, ATPS

Time	Topic/Presentations	Proposed Presenters
9:10 – 9:30 a.m.	Kenya	Dr. Eric Aligula, Kenya Institute for Public Policy and Research Analysis (KIPPRA), Kenya
9:30 – 9:50 a.m.	Nigeria	Dr. Godwin Akpokodje, NISER, Nigeria
9:50 – 10:10 a.m.	Uganda	Dr. Charles Kwesiga, UIRI, Uganda
10:10 – 10:30 a.m.	Ghana	Dr. Fritz A. Gockel, Ghana
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.	South Africa	Dr. Simon Moyo, FANPRAN Tanzania Node - ESRF
10:50 – 11:30 a.m.	Facilitated Discussions based on the country case examples	Facilitated by ATPS/FANPRAN
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	**Tea & Coffee and Health Break**	

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Rapporteurs:
Dr. Maurice Bolo, ATPS (P1)
Ms Hannah Adari (P2)
Ms. Carol Thuku, ATPS (P3)

	Topic/Presentations	Proposed Presenters
11:45 am- 13:30 pm	**P1:** What research institutions need to do to strengthen linkages with policy and practice for Africa's development	Dr. Nelson Sewankambo, REACH, Uganda
	P2: What policymakers need to do to strengthen linkages with research and practice for Africa's development	ATPS, Kenya
	P3: What practitioners need to do to strengthen linkages with research and policy for Africa's development	Hon. Obed Dlamini, Swaziland
		Dr. Samson Mundia, Zambia
13:30 - 14:30 pm	**LUNCH BREAK**	

PLENARY SESSION

Rapporteur: Ms. Carol Thuku, ATPS

14:30 –15:30 pm	Presentations by stakeholder groups of their views on strengthening research linkage to policy and practice	Stakeholder representatives
(20 minutes each)		**Discussants**
15:30 - 17:30 pm	Facilitated discussions on emerging issues based on presentations	Dr. Kevin Urama, ATPS
		Dr. Graham Reid, APHRC
		Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey, ACET
		Dr. Lindiwe Sibanda, FANPRAN

DAY 3 - Friday 18 February 2011

PLENARY SESSION

Session Chair: Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Executive Secretary, Kenya
National Council of Science and Technology

Rapporteur: Ms. Hannah Adari, ATPS

Time	Topic/Presentations	Proposed Presenters
09:00 – 09:20 a.m.	Recap of Day 2	Dr. Maurice Bolo, Post-Doctoral Research Officer, ATPS
09:20 – 10:30 a.m.	Agenda Setting for longer term strategy on strengthening linkages among researchers, policymakers and practitioners for African development	Facilitator: Dr. Nicholas Ozor, ATPS
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	**HEALTH BREAK**	

Session Chair: Dr. Kevin Urama, Executive Director, ATPS, Nairobi, Kenya

11:00 – 13:00 p.m.	Role sharing and Network building	Facilitator: Dr. Nicholas Ozor, ATPS
13:00 – 14:00 p.m.	**Lunch**	
14:00 – 18:00 p.m.	**Excursion** (delegates to make their own private arrangements)	
19:00 – 21:00 p.m.	**Closing Dinner**	

ANNEX 3: Participant List

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The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers, private sector actors and policy makers promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation (ST&I) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. ATPS intends to achieve its mandate through research, capacity building and training, science communication/dissemination and sensitization, participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge brokerage, and policy advocacy.