



Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund (RIEF), an example of strategies to implement the National STI Policy in Rwanda

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“Theme II: Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable cities and peri-urban communities”

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Rwanda – Land of a Thousand Hills



Science Diplomacy of H.E. Paul Kagame President of Rwanda



Vision of Rwanda and the Role of Science, Technology and Innovation



- The belief of the Government of Rwanda in the power of STI for building Rwanda's Economy – Economic Growth, Social Development – is embodied in:
 - Vision 2020
 - The National Policy of Science, Technology and Innovation
 - NICI Plans
- To transform Rwanda's currently Agriculture based economy to a knowledge based economy by year 2020.
- To use science, technology and ICT as a key enabler of this transformation





Achieving Rwanda's Ambitions for STI



Ministry of Education, Department of Science, Technology and Research (DSTR) promotes science, technology and innovation by:

- building partnerships,
- sourcing for opportunities,
- monitoring progress and
- **Backstopping the implementation of the STI Policy**



Implementation and delivery:

- Other ministries / Sectors
- Other organizations both public and private
- National Council for Science Technology and innovation



Rwanda's National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy



Rwanda National Science and Technology Policy Approved by the Cabinet July 2005

- Support sustained growth of the economy of Rwanda
- Advance the quality of life for all citizens
- Improve skills and knowledge among the population – a “knowledge based economy”
- Enhance opportunities for growth in rural areas
- Integrate technical education with commerce, industry and the private sector

Specific Policy Objectives:

- **Knowledge Acquisition and Deepening** – to reinforce science and technology teaching and resources at all levels of education
- **Knowledge Creation** – Develop Research Capability in all priority sectors of the economy
- **Knowledge Transfer** – to reinforce Science and Technology Capability in all priority sectors of the economy
- **Innovation Culture** - To encourage Innovation at all levels to help stimulate economic growth





Core Mission of DSTR

To Implement the National Science
Technology and Innovation Policy
RIEF as an example of implementation strategies...



Objectives of The RIEF



- Stimulate economic transformation through R&D in innovative market-oriented products and process in any sector of the economy
- Increase prosperity and competitiveness of the Rwandan economy
- Stimulate research commercialisation in public private partnership
 - Provide network to support individuals and R&D centres to take their output to the market or transform them into businesses
- Promote innovation amongst entrepreneurs
- Enhance capacity of Rwandan companies to develop advanced services



RIEF Offering

- Multi-donor and multi year funding mechanism
- Provides financial and technical support for qualifying projects
- Financial support:
 - Grants – Free financial support
- Technical support
 - Training and Human Capacity Development
 - Mentoring etc.

Funding priority areas



RIEF will initially focus on the following priority areas:

- Agriculture and
- Manufacturing
- ICT

Available Funds

- Each project will be availed a fund not exceeding an amount of 50.000 USD
- For this pilot it is anticipated that 10 projects will be funded.

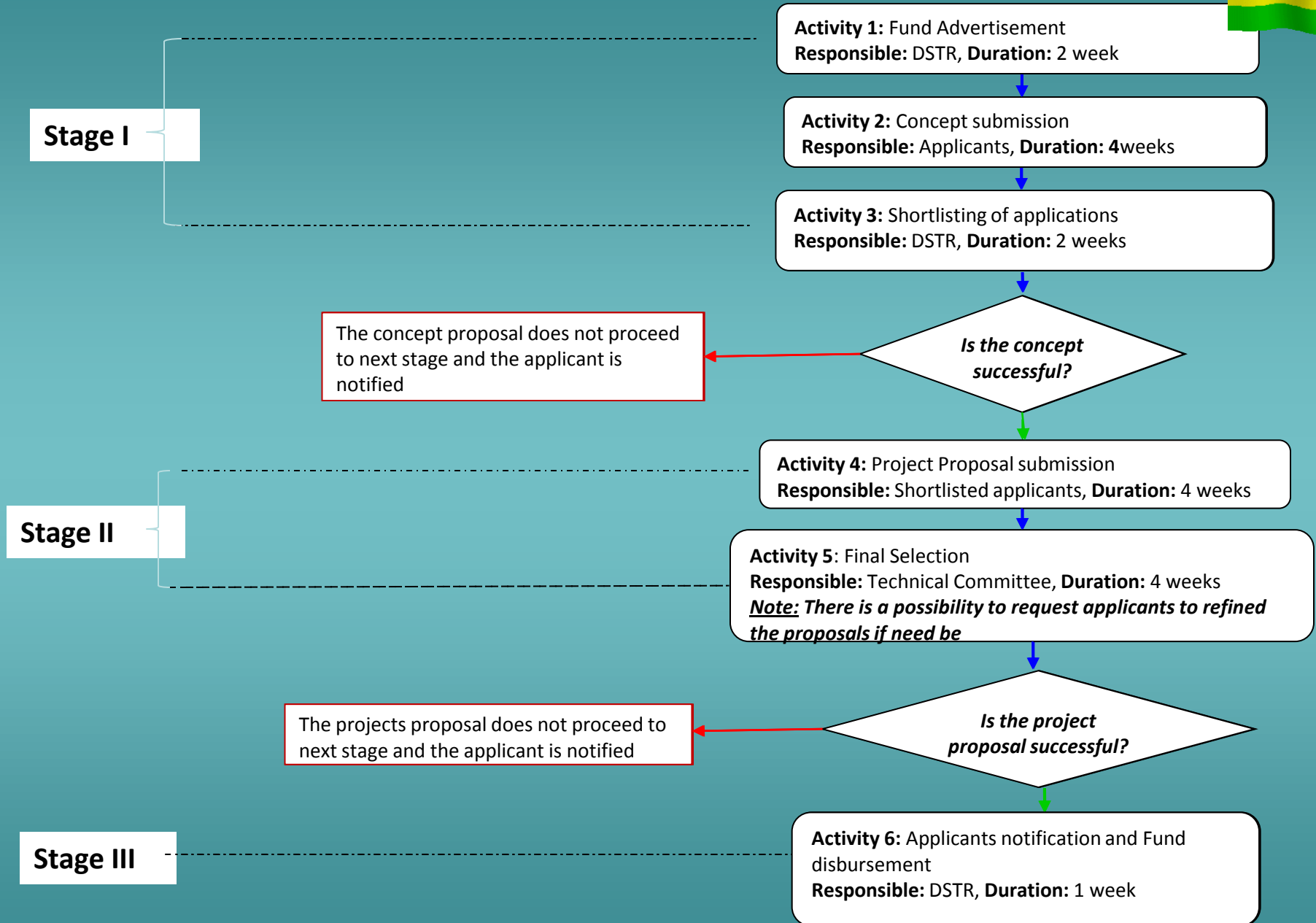


Implementation Plan

- Pilot Phase – Proof of Concept
 - Immediate small scale take-off
 - Combined seed fund from UNECA and counterpart funding from Government
 - Set up management and governing structures
 - Call for first set of proposals
 - Award minimum Grants
 - Create environment to scale up
- Full Implementation
 - Following Proof of Concept



Funding Application Process



Current progress on the operationalisation of the proposed plan



S.N	Activity	Time	Status	Responsible
1	Official launch of the RIEF	05 April,2012	done	MINEDUC, UNECA and other stakeholders
	Appointment of Technical Team members (9 local and 3 international)	May 2012	done	MINEDUC
	Fund management documents, Manager recruitment, DSTR Staff Training, awareness raise and RIEF office logistics	May to September 2012	done	UNECA and MINEDUC
2	Fund advertisement: in all Province, news paper, RTV, Radios website etc	September – October 2012	done	MINEDUC and UNECA
3	Concept submission: 370 submissions received from 29 districts	Mid-Oct to Mid Nov. 2012	done	Applicants
4	Short-listing	Mid-November to December, 2012	On-going	MINEDUC and Technical Team

Current progress: Analysis of applications...



Type of application	Number	Female	Male	Online applications	Hard copies	Both online and hard copies
Manufacturing	136	17	118	79	95	39
Agriculture	138	20	118	66	98	28
ICT	96	10	86	56	62	22
TOTAL	370	47	322	201	255	89

Current progress: Analysis of applications...



Province	Number of districts represented	Number of applicants	%
East	7	51	13,78
South	8	55	14,86
West	6	30	8,11
North	5	31	8,38
Kigali City	3	184	49,73
Not identified	-	19	5,14



To be done next...

S.N	Activity	Time	Responsible
1	Notification of Shortlisted and Unsuccessful Applicants	December 2012 to January 2013	MINEDUC
	Training of short-listed applicants, on how to write good proposal/business plans	Mid-January 2013	MINEDUC , UNECA, Short-listed applicants
2	Detailed proposal Submissions	End-Jan to Mid Feb, 2013	Applicants
3	Final Selection Process	Mid-Feb to Mid March 2013	MINEDUC and Technical Committee
4	Notification of Successful and Unsuccessful Applicants, and fund disbursement	End-March 2013	MINEDUC
5	Monitoring, Evaluation and Mentorship (between 1 and 3 years depending on the nature of the project)	-	MINEDUC, Technical Committee, UNECA



Key Success Factors

- Government Commitment
- Continuous Mobilisation of Donations
- Private Sector Participation
- Fund's Credibility
- Results



For more information about RIEF

www.mineduc.gov.rw/rief



***THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!***

Murakoze cyane!

