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

2012-2013 Inter-sessional Panel of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

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

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Directorate of Science, Technology and Research (DSTR)
Ministry of Education
Republic of Rwanda

Lima, Peru: 7th -9th January, 2013
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:
  o Vision 2020
  o The National Policy of Science, Technology and Innovation
  o 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
  o 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:
  o Grants – Free financial support

• Technical support
  o Training and Human Capacity Development
  o 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

Stage I

Activity 1: Fund Advertisement
Responsible: DSTR, Duration: 2 week

Activity 2: Concept submission
Responsible: Applicants, Duration: 4 weeks

Activity 3: Shortlisting of applications
Responsible: DSTR, Duration: 2 weeks

Is the concept successful?

The concept proposal does not proceed to next stage and the applicant is notified

Activity 4: Project Proposal submission
Responsible: Shortlisted applicants, Duration: 4 weeks

Activity 5: Final Selection
Responsible: Technical Committee, Duration: 4 weeks
Note: There is a possibility to request applicants to refined the proposals if need be

Is the project proposal successful?

The projects proposal does not proceed to next stage and the applicant is notified

Activity 6: Applicants notification and Fund disbursement
Responsible: DSTR, Duration: 1 week

Stage II

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of application</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Online applications</th>
<th>Hard copies</th>
<th>Both online and hard copies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>370</strong></td>
<td><strong>47</strong></td>
<td><strong>322</strong></td>
<td><strong>201</strong></td>
<td><strong>255</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Province</td>
<td>Number of districts represented</td>
<td>Number of applicants</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>13.78</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>14.86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>8.11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>8.38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kigali City</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>49.73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not identified</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5.14</td>
<td></td>
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## To be done next…

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