

**24-26 February 2025**

Accra, Ghana

UNCTAD STI Park Development Project

National training workshop on science, technology and innovation park policies and practices in Ghana

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are key drivers enabling and accelerating the global transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies in developing and developed countries alike. Well-developed and dynamic STI parks play an important role in increasing knowledge and technology flows, supporting technology diffusion and promoting innovation. STIs are also critical for countries to recover fully from the Covid-19 pandemic and build a better future.

STI parks have been operationalized in a wide variety of economic and development contexts to stimulate innovation growth and increase competitiveness. As outlined in UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation Report 2018, many parks have experienced a disappointing outcome. While many projects in this area achieve some level of success as commercial ventures, their results are often more limited regarding their main developmental objectives. Many developing countries seek advice on creating their own range of STI parks, incubators and accelerators. However, they often face severe capacity bottlenecks in terms of policy formulation and policy implementation, as evidenced in the STIP reviews undertaken with assistance from UNCTAD. The UNCTAD project *Science, Technology and Innovation Parks for sustainable development: building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries*, funded by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund under the UN Peace and Development Fund aims at building expertise and enhancing capacity to formulate coherent and integrated policies and institutional frameworks in beneficiary countries, including Ghana by providing them opportunities for South-South collaboration to learn from other developing countries that have used STI parks, incubators and accelerators successfully.





Objective

This workshop aims to strengthen Ghana's capacity to design, operate and manage STI parks in a manner that contributes to implementing the country's STI policies and enhancing the country's STI capacity, ultimately promoting the country's sustainable development.

Over three intensive working days in Accra, participants will engage in training that includes lectures and discussions focused on establishing, developing and managing STI parks and the enabling STI policy environment. The workshop is designed to provide participants with essential skills and knowledge for effective STI park management, covering critical areas such as policy coherence, financial sustainability, outreach strategies, tenant management, incubation processes and evaluating innovation outcomes. The workshop will also address specific challenges within Ghana's STI ecosystem based on the analysis that UNCTAD has conducted for the country, as well as the feedback and interactions from the participants of this workshop in Accra.

Target participants

This national workshop will include policymakers, STI park practitioners (in broad definition, including full-fledged STI parks, technology parks, innovation parks or hubs, incubators, technology transfer centres, start-up studios, industrial technoparks, Special economic zones or free trade zones hosting STI parks too), researchers and academics engaged in STI policy studies, technology transfer, commercialization of research or academic achievements.

By bringing together relevant actors, including participants below from Ghana,

- Ministries of Science and Technology, Ministries of Industry and other ministries involved in STI park policy design
- STI park/incubator/accelerator developers and managers
- Startups and firms in STI parks, incubators and accelerators
- Industrial associations
- Women entrepreneurs' associations
- Youth entrepreneurs' associations
- STI-focused research institutes and academics

the workshop will facilitate the creation of national STI expert networks, enabling ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange. The diverse mix of participants will help promote the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships, which are crucial for the successful implementation of STI park strategies in the country.

Contact

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