



National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)



STIR BULLETIN
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EDITORIAL

“Science and Technology for Prosperity”



The third quarter of the Financial Year 2024/2025 marks the second half of the year and with it the desire the rev-up the gear on execution of the programs planned for the financial year.

The quarter witnessed the creation of a new State Department under the Ministry of Education to specifically spear-head the Government Agenda on Science, Research and Innovation. The State Department for Science, Research and Innovation is headed by Prof. Shaukat Abdurazak who is a former Chief Executive Officer of NACOSTI. NACOSTI takes this move by Government and a great recognition of the place of science in socio-economic development of the Country, and we take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Shaukat on his appointment.

As part of its mandate of promotion and building capacity of players of RSTI Sector in the Country, the Commission carried out training on Intellectual Property Rights, Transfer and Commercialization during the quarter. It also rolled out training on STI mainstreaming and as a way of expanding the concept which has gained traction in the public sector, the Commission invited participants from the private sector during thus quarter’s training. These training courses generated a lot of interest amongst RSTI institutions and provided a forum for a rich exchange of ideas. We are happy to share highlights of these

training sessions in this bulletin as we look forward to hosting training in other modules in the subsequent quarters.

This Bulletin also highlights other topical issues in RSTI within and outside the country as we continue to promote the enhancement and mainstreaming of RSTI in the day-to-day operations of our entities.

Mr. Gideon Kirui
Bulletin Committee Chairman

REMARKS FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO

“Science and Technology for Prosperity”



I take this opportunity to welcome you to read the 1st Edition of the STIR Bulletin, a publication of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI). STIR Bulletin captures the latest news and featured articles from the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) sector, and is therefore the voice of stakeholders in the STI Ecosystem as communicated by the STI Regulator,

NACOSTI. It serves as part of the avenues through which we endeavour to reach a wider network of our stakeholders. In the recent past, we have interacted with stakeholder in the STI ecosystem through hosting and participating in conference, seminars and meetings both physically and virtually. This has enabled NACOSTI to share ideas with local and international experts and stakeholders cutting across various science fields and as a result enriched our capacity to execute our mandate.

NACOSTI is established under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev. 2014) with a unique mandate of regulating and assuring quality in the research, science, technology and innovation sector, and advising the Government in matters related thereto. In so doing, the Commission shall Regulate, Coordinate, Advise and Promote Science, Technology, Innovation and Research activities in the country.

Among others, the functions of NACOSTI include; developing priorities in scientific, technological and innovation activities in Kenya, Registering and Accrediting Research Institutions, Licensing of Research and assuring relevance and quality of research programmes in research institutions, coordinating and evaluating activities relating to scientific research and technology development, annually reviewing the progress in scientific systems, and promoting the adoption and application of scientific and technological knowledge in attaining national development.

Further, the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), Legal Notice No. 108 (Research Licensing) Regulations, 2014 obligates all persons intending to undertake scientific research in Kenya to obtain a license in accordance with the Act. In this regard, we have made this process easy and convenient for you all by making it available online.

I trust that you will enjoy interacting with the information presented herein. Feel free to contact us through our telephone numbers, email and all our social media platforms.

Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, PhD
National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI)

NACOSTI MANDATE, VISION, MISSION, CORE VALUES, & FUNCTIONS

Mandate

The objective of the Commission shall be to regulate and assure quality in the science, technology and innovation sector and advise the Government in matters related thereto.

Vision

Accelerate the Transformation of Kenya as a knowledge-based economy.

Mission

To facilitate quality in the research, science, technology and innovation sector through regulation, promotion and provision of advisory services.

Core Values

The Commission upholds Integrity, Customer Focus, Professionalism, Teamwork and Leadership in the discharge of its mandate.

Functions

- a) Develop, in consultation with stakeholders, the priorities in scientific, technological and innovation activities in Kenya in relation to the economic and social policies of the Government, and the country's international commitments.
- b) Lead inter-agency efforts to implement sound policies and budgets, working in collaboration with the county governments, and organizations involved in science and technology and innovation within Kenya and outside Kenya.
- c) Advise the national and county governments on the science, technology and innovation policy, including general planning and assessment of the necessary financial resources.
- d) Liaise with the National Innovation Agency and the National Research Fund to ensure funding and implementation of prioritized research programmes.
- e) Ensure co-ordination and co-operation between the various agencies involved in science, technology and innovation.
- f) Accredite research institutes and approve all Scientific research in Kenya.
- g) Assure relevance and quality of science, technology and innovation programmers in research institutes.
- h) Advise on science education and innovation at both basic and advanced levels.
- i) In consultation with the National Research Fund Trustees, sponsor national scientific and academic conferences it considers appropriate.
- j) Advise the Government on policies and any issue relating to scientific research systems.
- k) Promote increased awareness, knowledge and information of research system.
- l) Co-ordinate, monitor and evaluate, as appropriate, activities relating to scientific research and technology development.
- m) Promote and encourage private sector involvement in scientific research and innovation and development.
- n) Annually, review the progress in scientific research systems and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary.
- o) Promote the adoption and application of scientific and technological knowledge and information necessary in
- p) Develop and enforce codes, guidelines, and regulations in accordance with the policy determined under this Act for the governance, management and maintenance of standards and quality in research systems.
- q) Undertake, or cause to be undertaken, regular inspections, monitoring and evaluation of research institutions to ensure compliance with set standards and guidelines.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO CREATES NEW STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION



Figure 1: Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat, EBS Nominated Principal Secretary for Science, Research, and Innovation.

President William Ruto Creates New State Department for Science, Research, and Innovation. This department has been carved out from the Higher Education docket, currently overseen by PS Beatrice Inyangala and will be headed by Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat, EBS.

With this move, the Ministry of Education, headed by CS Julius Ogamba, now has three Principal Secretaries. The other two are Julius Bitok, who will manage the Basic Education Department, and Inyangala, who retains Higher Education. Bitok, previously the Immigration PS, has swapped positions with Belio Kipsang.



Figure 2: Prof. Abdulrazak Shaukat, EBS Nominated Principal Secretary for Science, Research, and Innovation

Prof. Shaukat, currently the Director for Africa at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), brings a wealth of experience in academia and scientific research. He previously served as CEO of the Kenya National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (2008-2014) and held leadership roles at Umma University, Egerton University, and various national research institutions.

His academic credentials include an undergraduate degree from Egerton University, an MSc and PhD in Agricultural Sciences from

the University of Aberdeen, UK, and a postdoctoral fellowship at Shimane University, Japan. He is also a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences and the African Academy of Sciences.

The creation of the new department follows President Ruto's remarks during the charter award ceremony at Riara University, where he emphasized the government's commitment to making universities hubs of research and innovation.

"We must invest in research and development to unlock Kenya's potential. This department will drive innovation and ensure we fully exploit opportunities in science and technology," Ruto stated.

Education stakeholders have welcomed the move, expressing optimism that it will strengthen the country's research and innovation ecosystem.

Source: <https://uzalendonews.co.ke/ruto-creates-new-state-department-for-science-research-and-innovation/>

NACOSTI HOSTS LANDMARK TRAINING ON STI INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, TRANSFER, AND COMMERCIALIZATION



Figure 3: Group Photo of the participants during the five-day in-person training on STI Intellectual Property Rights, Transfer, and Commercialization

The National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) successfully conducted a five-day in-person training on “STI Intellectual Property Rights, Transfer,

and Commercialization” from February 10th to 14th, 2025, at Lake Naivasha Resort, Nakuru County. The event attracted over 165 participants from various sectors across Kenya.

The training aimed to enhance understanding of intellectual property (IP) protection, technology transfer, and commercialization strategies, key drivers for fostering innovation and economic growth. Experts in IP law, technology transfer, and research commercialization led insightful sessions covering patents, copyrights, trademarks, licensing agreements, and public-private partnerships.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, NACOSTI Director General Prof. Walter O. Oyawa emphasized the importance of IP protection in fostering a knowledge-based economy. “Intellectual property is not just about legal rights – it is about dignity, opportunity, and economic empowerment. By ensuring that innovators can safeguard and commercialize their ideas, we create a ripple effect that benefits individuals, communities, and the nation,” he stated

As the training concluded, NACOSTI reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Kenya’s research and innovation ecosystem by advocating for robust IP policies and facilitating capacity-building initiatives.



Figure 4: Participants during the five-day in-person training on STI Intellectual Property Rights, Transfer, and Commercialization

PICTORIAL



STI MAINSTREAMING IN MDAS: NACOSTI TRAINS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO ADAPT TO RAPID CHANGE TIMES



Figure 5; Participants During the five-day training program on STI Mainstreaming in MDAs in Rapidly Changing Times

The National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) successfully concluded a five-day training program on “STI Mainstreaming in MDAs in Rapidly Changing Times.” The event, held from January 20 to 24 at Lake Naivasha

Resort in Nakuru County, marked a critical step in equipping government institutions with the tools and strategies needed to integrate Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) into their operations.



Figure 6: Participants During the five-day training program on STI Mainstreaming in MDAs in Rapidly Changing Times

Over 100 participants, representing diverse Ministries, Counties, Departments, and Agencies (MCDAs), as well as key private sector stakeholders, engaged in intensive sessions designed to enhance their capacity to leverage STI for addressing critical national challenges. The training was officially opened by Ms. Aurelia Rono, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Parliamentary Affairs, who emphasized the indispensable role of innovation in securing national and global security, bolstering public safety, and driving inclusive, sustainable prosperity.

In a rapidly evolving global landscape, Science, Technology, and Innovation are at the heart of national and global security, public safety, and inclusive sustainable prosperity. The training

emphasized the need for MCDAs to adopt innovative approaches in tackling pressing challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, healthcare, and sustainable energy solutions.

As the government continues to prioritize STI in policymaking and governance, NACOSTI plans to roll out additional training modules under the STIR Certification Program. Future sessions will delve deeper into emerging technologies, research ethics, and the commercialization of scientific innovations.



Figure 7: Participants During the five-day training program on STI Mainstreaming in MDAs in Rapidly Changing Times

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NACOSTI SIGNS PERFORMANCE CONTRACT, PLEDGING TO DRIVE KENYA'S RSTI LANDSCAPE



Figure 8: signing of NACOSTI Performance Contract for the FY2024/25

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) has formally signed its Performance Contract for the FY2024/25, solidifying its commitment to advancing research, science, technology, and innovation (RSTI) for sustainable

development in Kenya. Hon. Julius Migos Ogamba, CBS, Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Education, presided over the signing, alongside Dr. Beatrice Inyangala, Principal Secretary for Higher Education and Research, Prof. Dickson Andala, NACOSTI Board

Member, and Mr. Gideon Kirui, Director of Corporate Services at NACOSTI representing Prof. Walter O. Oyawa, Director General NACOSTI.



Figure 9: Group Photo

The FY 2024/25 Performance Contract outlines NACOSTI's key objectives and targets, focusing on measurable outcomes that will contribute to national development goals. The contract is aligned with Vision 2030, Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and STI policy, ensuring that NACOSTI's efforts directly support the government's broader development agenda



Figure 10: Group photo

NACOSTI CONCLUDES THE ASSESSMENT OF TWO RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND FOUR INSTITUTIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEES



Figure 11: Group Photo during the assessment process.

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) has taken significant strides in upholding research standards across Kenya, recently concluding comprehensive

verification assessments of two proposed research institutes and four institutional scientific and ethical review committees (ISERCs). This initiative is part of NACOSTI's mandate to ensure

the relevance and quality of research, science, technology, and innovation (RSTI) in Kenya.

The two research institutes assessed were the Nyanza Reproductive Health Society, which operates from the Lumumba Sub-County Hospital, and the Victoria Biomedical Research Institute, based at the Kisumu County Referral Hospital. The institutional scientific and ethical review committees evaluated for accreditation include those from Kibabii University, Kakamega County General Hospital, Kaimosi Friends University, and Vyxer REMIT Kenya Limited.

Upholding Research Standards and Ethics

Under the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Act, 2013, any entity intending to establish or operate a research institute in Kenya must apply for registration with NACOSTI. Once registered, a research institute is required to set up an Institutional Scientific and Ethical Review Committee (ISERC) to oversee the ethical conduct of research activities. These committees must also be accredited by NACOSTI to ensure compliance with national and international research ethics standards.

Application for Registration and Accreditation

Institutions seeking to register a research institute or obtain accreditation for their ISERCs can apply through NACOSTI's online portal at <https://nacosti.ecitizen.go.ke>. This process aims to streamline compliance and enhance transparency in Kenya's research sector.

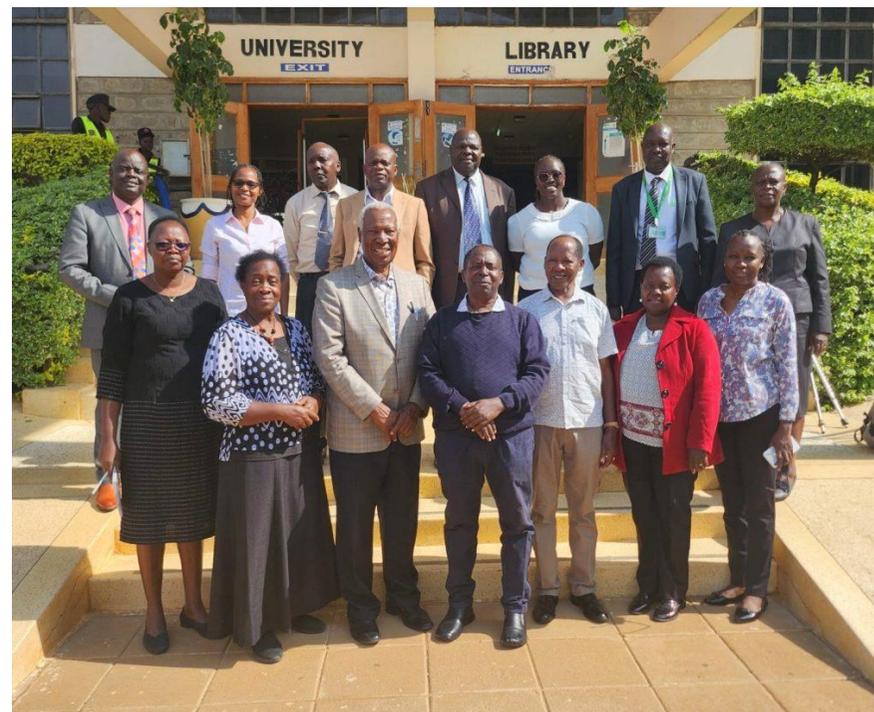


Figure 12: group photo

For more information on NACOSTI's regulatory processes, visit www.nacosti.go.ke.

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LAUNCH OF KCA UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND ETHICS COMMITTEE



Figure 13: Group Photo During Launch.

KCA University officially launched its Institutional Scientific and Ethics Committee (ISERC) on February 18, 2025. The launch ceremony, held in the university's conference room, was attended by the Director General of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) as the chief guest.

In October 2024, the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) accredited KCA University's ISERC to conduct ethical reviews of research proposals in the social sciences. KCA University's accreditation strengthens its capacity to review and approve research

proposals, upholding the highest ethical standards within the social sciences. This ensures that all studies adhere to strict ethical guidelines protecting the rights and welfare of participants.

This NACOSTI accreditation underscores KCA University's commitment to top-tier ethical standards in social science research. This will improve the university's ability to review and approve research proposals, ensuring all studies adhere to strict ethical guidelines for participant protection.

The launch demonstrates the University's dedication to research, innovation, and commercialization excellence, fulfilling its mission of using cutting-edge research to address societal challenges. KCA University, a leader in business, technology, and the arts is committed to cultivating a thriving environment for responsible research and innovation.

NACOSTI's Director-General's remarks highlighted the organization's crucial regulatory function in the country's research, science, technology, and innovation. He highlighted the committee's crucial role in promoting national security, research security, public safety, sustainable development, and poverty alleviation during their work on proposal reviews and clearance. He also emphasized the significance of ensuring that all reviewed proposals are duly followed up, and that principal investigators obtain a research permit from NACOSTI as stipulated by the STI Act and regulations. The Director-General also reaffirmed the necessity for institutions such as universities to establish IP Rights offices to assist researchers and innovators in

safeguarding their IPs, obtaining patents, and monetizing the IP rights.



Figure 14: Prof Walter Oyawa DG NACOSTI giving his remarks during the Launch of KCA University ISERC

During the event, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Isaiah Wakindiki, provided a historical overview of the development of ethical considerations in research involving human participants and animals.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasized the elevation of the institution's status through NACOSTI accreditation, which ensures that all research conducted at the university and beyond adheres to established ethical standards. This fosters trust and credibility in the institution's research outputs and enhances the scope of cross-institutional collaborations, the responsible commercialization of research findings, and contributions to national economic transformation.

In her speech, the Chairperson of the Institutional Scientific Ethics Review Committee (ISERC), Dr. Caroline Ntara, commended the Vice-Chancellor for his support and vision in promoting the research agenda within the institution. She also expressed appreciation for the NACOSTI staff for their guidance throughout the process and the successful mentorship by Kenyatta University ISERC.

NACOSTI AND PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATE TO DRIVE TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION AND IP MONETIZATION



Figure 15: Participants During the Meeting

The National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) has strengthened its collaboration with the private sector to accelerate the adoption of research outputs and unlock the economic potential of intellectual property (IP) rights. This initiative was underscored during a high-level meeting held at Lake Naivasha Resort as part of a NACOSTI training module on STI Rights, Transfer, and Commercialization. The meeting brought together key stakeholders from industry and academia, including representatives from the Kenya

Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Centurion Systems International, LIWA Programme Trust, Kabarak University, and the Turkana Basin Institute-Research Organization.



Figure 16: Participants during the meeting session



Figure 17: Figure 16: Participants during the meeting session

The discussions revolved around three key areas: streamlining the process of IP protection, promoting the adoption of developed

technologies, and facilitating the commercialization and monetization of IP rights. Participants highlighted the need for a robust IP framework that can attract investment and foster a thriving innovation ecosystem.

NACOSTI's efforts in mainstreaming STI within Ministries, Counties, Departments, and Agencies (MCDAs) are already yielding positive results, with research increasingly influencing policy decisions. These initiatives have contributed to Kenya's improved ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII). By deepening engagement with the private sector, NACOSTI aims to accelerate this progress and build a vibrant RSTI ecosystem that will propel Kenya towards becoming a knowledge-driven economy.

The success stories of countries like Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan serve as models for Kenya's ambitions, demonstrating how strategic investments in R&D and IP commercialization can lead to remarkable economic transformation.

NACOSTI, SECURITY AGENCIES TO TIGHTEN RESEARCH OVERSIGHT



Figure 18: Figure 16: Participants during the meeting session

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) and key security agencies have pledged to strengthen collaboration in overseeing research activities across the country. This commitment emerged from a meeting held at Lake Naivasha Resort on February 13, 2025, bringing together NACOSTI officials, Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) representatives, and county focal persons.

The meeting, chaired by NACOSTI Director General Prof. Walter Oyawa, addressed critical issues surrounding research regulation, compliance with the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act 2013, and the role of research in national security. Prof. Oyawa emphasized NACOSTI's four key functions –

regulation, coordination, advisory, and promotion – and highlighted the legal requirements for licensing and accrediting research institutions. He cited examples of unauthorized research activities, underscoring the importance of adherence to regulations.

A key concern raised during the meeting was the low submission rate of research reports to NACOSTI. It was revealed that only 35% of research approved by institutional ethical review committees is subsequently submitted to NACOSTI, raising concerns about potential unauthorized research. Participants agreed to strengthen partnerships at the county level, involving governors' offices and county commissioners, and recommended that county security committees include NACOSTI license applications in their regular agenda. The role of scientists in communicating complex scientific information to the public was also highlighted.



Figure 19: Participants during the meeting session



Figure 20: Participants during the meeting session

Discussions also focused on the broader role of science and technology in national security, public safety, and economic growth. Participants recognized the need for responsible research to support poverty alleviation and economic development, while ensuring that research activities do not pose risks to national security.

The meeting concluded with a joint commitment to strengthening research oversight through enhanced collaboration between NACOSTI, security agencies, and county governments. This reinforced partnership aims to establish a robust research regulation framework, ensuring that scientific endeavors contribute to national development while safeguarding security interests.

NACOSTI STRENGTHENS RSTI PRESENCE AT 2025 ASK ELDORET SHOW



Figure 21: Pictorial highlights from the Eldoret National Show, showcasing key events, exhibitions, and participants.

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) made a significant impact at the 2025 Agricultural Society of Kenya (ASK) Eldoret National Show, held from March 5th to 8th 2025.

At their vibrant exhibition, NACOSTI showcased its crucial work in steering Kenya's scientific and technological advancement. The commission engaged actively with a diverse audience, including

researchers, budding innovators, eager students, and members of the public.

Key discussions centered on the vital role of STI policies in driving national progress. NACOSTI also provided valuable insights into navigating the complexities of intellectual property rights and research licensing, and emphasized the importance of embracing cutting-edge technologies across various sectors

NACOSTI SENSITIZES LAKE REGION ECONOMIC BLOC ON RESEARCH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION



Figure 22: Participants During the sensitization session for the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) RSTI Team

The National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) successfully conducted an engaging sensitization session for the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) RSTI Team, aiming to strengthen the region's capacity in Research, Science, Technology, and Innovation (RSTI).

The sensitization workshop brought together key stakeholders from academia, government agencies, and technical institutions to discuss the importance of RSTI in driving socio-economic transformation in the Lake Region. Participants included representatives from Alupe University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOUST), Kabianga University, Great Lakes University of Kisumu, Kisumu County,

and Kisumu Regional TVET office.

Crucially, the event saw active participation from government officials, with National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs) representing eight counties within the LREB: Kisii, Nyamira, Homabay, Siaya, Kakamega, Migori, Vihiga, and Kisumu. This broad representation underscores the commitment of national and local governments to driving innovation at the grassroots level.

Moving forward, NACOSTI and the LREB pledged to continue engaging stakeholders, developing strategic partnerships, and advocating for policies that promote RSTI in the region.

This sensitization initiative is expected to catalyze research-driven solutions tailored to local challenges, fostering sustainable economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents of the Lake Region.

Pictorial



SENSITIZATION OF NORTH RIFT REGION ECONOMIC BLOC ON RESEARCH SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



Figure 23: participants During the sensitization forum with institutions across the North Rift Region

NACOSTI convened for a sensitization forum with institutions across the North Rift Region aimed at strengthening coordination and collaboration in the RSTI sector. The event brought together representatives from academia, healthcare, technical training institutions, and national government administration, underscoring the region's commitment to advancing RSTI for economic growth and development.

Participants were drawn from leading institutions, including the University of Eldoret, Baraton University, Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) Eldoret Campus, Rift Valley Technical Training Institute, Elgon View College, and Eldoret National Polytechnic.

The forum was further enriched by the presence of National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs) from Elgeyo-Marakwet, Kericho, Uasin Gishu, Turkana, West Pokot, and Baringo counties. Their involvement highlighted the government's commitment to integrating research, science, and technology into policy frameworks and development initiatives.

The meeting focused on clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the coordinating team, fostering collaboration, and identifying potential hurdles to overcome. Recognized for its agricultural potential, rare mineral deposits, and economic prospects, the North Rift region is well-positioned to become a hub for RSTI activities.

The sensitization forum concluded with a call to action for institutions and government bodies to actively engage in RSTI initiatives, with a commitment to follow-up meetings to assess progress and refine strategies for enhancing coordination within the sector.

Pictorial



NACOSTI TEAM ENGAGES RSTI FOCAL POINTS FROM COUNTIES AND DCI



Figure 24: Participants during the crucial meeting with key stakeholders from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in Naivasha, Nakuru County

The National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) convened a crucial meeting with key stakeholders from the Ministry of Interior and National Administration and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in Naivasha, Nakuru County, to strengthen research security and regulatory frameworks within Kenya's Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) sector.



Figure 25: Participants during meeting

The meeting, held on January 21, 2025, was a side session within the ongoing Module 1 training on STI Mainstreaming in MDAs in rapidly changing time. The training was spearheaded by NACOSTI Director General, Prof. Walter Oyawa. The focus was on reinforcing NACOSTI's regulatory mandate as outlined in the STI Act, 2013, which mandates researchers to obtain licenses before commencing any studies within Kenya. This critical requirement ensures alignment with national priorities and safeguards public safety.

Prof. Oyawa emphasized the critical need for vigilance in combating unauthorized research activities, citing specific instances such as unapproved food product studies in Makueni and illegal blood sampling in Iten. “Unauthorized research poses significant risks, not just to scientific integrity but also to our national security,” stated Prof. Oyawa, underscoring the potential consequences of unregulated research.

Discussions also centered on compliance with the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), highlighting its crucial role in mitigating biological threats. Participants were urged to maintain vigilance and foster collaboration to uphold both national and international security standards.

The meeting concluded with a call for enhanced partnerships between academia, research institutions, and the security sector. Key recommendations focused on strengthening collaboration and capacity building. These included sensitizing and training security personnel on research compliance, establishing multi-agency collaborations at the county level to foster local coordination and response capabilities, utilizing real-time communication tools such as WhatsApp to facilitate rapid information sharing and enhance communication among stakeholders, and providing training on cybersecurity and the detection of chemical and biological threats to enhance the capacity to identify and respond to potential threats.

NACOSTI encouraged counties to nominate additional focal persons and champions to serve as liaisons for research regulation and security at the local level. The importance of collaboration with the Principal Secretary for Interior was also highlighted as essential for effective information dissemination across all counties and sub-counties.

NACOSTI STAFF NEWS

TRIBUTE TO MR. ABDALLAH BII FROM NACOSTI STAFF



*The Late Abdallah Bii
Manager, Legal Services*

With profound sadness and heavy hearts, we at the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) bid farewell to a truly remarkable individual, Mr. Abdallah Bii, our esteemed Manager of Legal Services. His passing is an immense loss, not only to NACOSTI but also to all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him.

Mr. Bii was far more than a colleague; he was a mentor, a leader and a trusted friend to many. His unwavering commitment to excellence was evident in every role he undertook. Whether navigating complex legal frameworks or contributing to key policy discussions, Mr. Bii's expertise and dedication were unparalleled.

A Leader with Integrity and Heart

Mr. Bii's leadership style was defined by integrity, wisdom and kindness. He led not only with his professional acumen but also with his heart, fostering an environment of collaboration, mutual respect and support. His ability to navigate challenges with composure inspired confidence in those around him. Whether mentoring junior colleagues or providing strategic guidance during critical moments, Mr. Bii exemplified what it means to lead with purpose and humility.

A Source of Reassurance and Joy

Beyond his professional contributions, Mr. Bii possessed a unique ability to uplift those around him. His calm demeanour brought reassurance during difficult times, while his sharp wit and unexpected humour lightened even the heaviest of days. He had an extraordinary gift for making people feel valued, whether through a word of encouragement or simply taking the time to listen. His presence was a source of comfort and joy for all who had the privilege of working with him.

A Legacy That Lives On

As we mourn this great loss, we find solace in reflecting on the profound impact Mr. Bii had on NACOSTI and beyond. His life was one of purpose, dedication, and faith, a testament to the values he held dear. The legacy he leaves behind will continue to inspire us as we carry forward his vision for a brighter future through science, technology, and innovation.

In the words of Isaiah 57:2: **"Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death."**

Though he is no longer with us in body, Mr. Bii's spirit will forever remain in our hearts. His wisdom will guide us; his kindness will inspire us; his memory will be cherished always.

To his family, friends, and loved ones: We extend our deepest sympathies during this difficult time. Please know that we share in your sorrow and offer our heartfelt prayers for strength and comfort.

Rest in perfect peace, Abdallah. You will forever be remembered as a beacon of integrity, wisdom, and compassion.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

From the Staff of National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI)

NACOSTI DIRECTOR GENERAL CONTINUES FOR A FURTHER ONE TERM AS A GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER OF THE ISC



The Governing Board is one of the key decision-making bodies of the International Science Council providing scientific and strategic leadership to oversee the achievement of the Council's vision, mission, principles and values, and to secure the financial and management robustness of the Council.

The Governing Board consists of 17 members, including the President, the President-elect – who will assume the Presidency in October 2026 – as well as four Vice-Presidents and eleven additional ordinary members. The ISC Chief Executive Officer is an ex-officio member.

Governing Board 2021 – 2025

Two Vice-Presidents and five ordinary members of the Governing Board finished their terms in January 2025, at the conclusion of Third ISC General Assembly.

- Salim Abdool Karim, Vice-President for Membership
- Anne Husebekk, Vice-President for Freedom and Responsibility in Science
- Melody Burkins
- Mei-Hung Chiu
- Pamela Matson
- Helena B. Nader
- Martin Visbeck

Source: <https://council.science/about-us/governance/governing-board/>

ISC Governing Board Officers



ISC Governing Board Ordinary Members



A LANDMARK INITIATIVE FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT



Figure 26: Agronomy Complex (Interior View): Inside the Agronomy Complex, where advanced laboratories for genetic engineering and biotechnology will soon take shape.s

On January 24, 2025, Egerton University took a monumental step towards becoming a regional leader in biotechnology and genetic engineering research. The Project Contract Implementation

Team (PCIT) officially handed over the project construction site to the identified contractor, marking the beginning of the establishment of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering

and Biotechnology Regional Research Centre (ICGEB RRC). This development involves the repurposing of part of the stalled Agronomy Complex into specialized laboratories and research spaces, setting the stage for a world-class research hub in East Africa.

The handing-over ceremony was led by Prof. Bernard Aduda, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research & Extension) and Chairperson of the PCIT. It brought together key stakeholders, including project consultants, contractors, and the Egerton University project implementation team. The event underscored the university's commitment to fostering scientific research and innovation in the region.

Project Timeline and Implementation

The initiative, titled *Redesigning and Upgrading the ICGEB RRC at Egerton University to Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2) Status*, will be executed in multiple phases, with the first phase scheduled to take 52 weeks. The phased approach ensures meticulous planning and resource allocation to meet international research standards.

State-of-the-Art Laboratories for Cutting-edge Research

A significant part of this ambitious project involves the renovation and upgrade of the existing Agronomy Complex to accommodate Biosafety Level 2 (BSL2) laboratories. The facility will include research laboratories equipped for genetic engineering and biotechnology, specialized spaces for molecular plant pathology, crop breeding, and bio-fortification studies. It will also feature offices, meeting rooms, and collaborative research spaces to foster regional and international partnerships.

Ensuring BSL2 certification is critical, as it guarantees compliance with global biosafety protocols, enabling researchers to conduct advanced studies safely and securely.

Scientific and Regional Impact

The ICGEB RRC at Egerton University is poised to transform scientific research and regional development in East Africa. The Centre will focus on combating crop diseases through molecular plant pathology research, investigating pathogen infection mechanisms to develop disease-resistant crops and reducing reliance on harmful chemicals. It will enhance food security by employing marker-assisted selection and Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) to facilitate the breeding of high-yielding, climate-resilient crop varieties to meet the growing population's needs.



Figure 27: DVC ARE Leading the Ceremony: Prof. Bernard Aduda, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics, Research & Extension), centre, officially hands over the project site to the contractor, marking the start of the ICGEB RRC establishment at Egerton University.

To address hidden hunger, bio-fortification initiatives will improve the nutritional value of staple foods like maize and cassava, ensuring better public health outcomes. The Centre will also promote food safety through advanced molecular diagnostics, identifying biological hazards, mycotoxins, and chemical residues in food to strengthen agricultural value chains. Additionally, it will build regional capacity by training scientists and collaborating with universities to enhance expertise in genetic engineering and biotechnology. By improving agricultural productivity and creating jobs, the ICGEB RRC will attract investments and foster sustainable development. Furthermore, it will explore East Africa's rich biodiversity for sustainable biopesticides and natural products, contributing to environmental conservation and a circular economy approach in agriculture.

Beneficiaries of the ICGEB RRC

The impact of the ICGEB RRC will extend to a diverse range of stakeholders, including students who will gain access to postgraduate training programs and research mentorship, enhancing their expertise and employability in biotechnology and life sciences. Researchers will benefit from state-of-the-art laboratories, enabling groundbreaking research that contributes to global scientific advancements. Industry partners will collaborate with the Centre to drive innovation and technology transfer, leading to the commercialization of biotechnology products. Policymakers will gain evidence-based research to inform agricultural and biotechnology policies, ensuring responsible and ethical practices. Universities and technical institutions will also benefit from partnerships with the Centre,

facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering dynamic research environments.



Figure 28: Agronomy Complex (Interior View): Inside the Agronomy Complex, where advanced laboratories for genetic engineering and biotechnology will soon take shape.

Sustainability and Future Prospects

The long-term success of the ICGEB RRC will depend on sustainable funding, strategic partnerships, and continuous innovation. The Centre aims to position itself as a leading biotechnology hub in Africa through government and external funding, financial support from the Government of Kenya, international grants, and ICGEB's global network. Strengthening ties with academic institutions, research organizations, and

industry players will foster collaborations. The Centre will also focus on technology transfer and commercialization, transforming research outcomes into practical solutions for food security and economic growth.

Once fully operational, the ICGEB RRC will be comparable to leading research institutions like the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). However, its unique government-backed model will distinguish it as a powerhouse for genetic engineering and biotechnology in Africa.

Conclusion

The establishment of the ICGEB RRC at Egerton University is a game-changer for scientific research, agricultural development, and economic growth in East Africa. By addressing pressing challenges such as food security, climate change, and malnutrition, the Centre is set to make a lasting impact on the region. As construction begins, stakeholders eagerly anticipate a future where cutting-edge biotechnology research drives sustainable development, placing Kenya at the forefront of global scientific innovation.

Source: <https://www.egerton.ac.ke/university-news/research/a-landmark-initiative-for-scientific-advancement#:~:text=On%20January%2024%2C%202025%2C%20Egerton,biotechnology%20and%20genetic%20engineering%20research>



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (NACOSTI)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Licensing of Research in Kenya

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation is established by the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Act, No. 28 of 2013, Revised in 2014 (the Act) as a State Corporation. The Commission **regulates and assures quality in Science, Technology and Innovation Sector and advises the Government in matters related thereto**. In this regard, the Act stipulates seventeen (17) functions of the Commission. Among the functions of the Commission, Section 6(1)(f) of the STI Act 2014 [2013] specifies that the **Commission shall** accredit research institutes and **approve all Scientific research in Kenya**.

Consequently, **Section 12(3) of the Act requires that any person undertaking or intending to undertake research in science and technology in the country, or who accesses, handles, or transfers any material or technology or moves it within, from or into the country, shall apply to the Commission for the grant of a licence in accordance with the Act.**

Section 12(5) of the Act further **directs that no licence shall be granted** by the Commission for any research involving activities which;

- (a) may **adversely affect the culture of any community** in Kenya;
- (b) may **adversely affect the environment**;
- (c) may **result in the exploitation of intellectual property rights of communities** to their traditional knowledge.
- (d) may, in the view of the Commission, **adversely affect the lives of Kenyans**.

Section 13(1) of the Act reinforces Section 12(5) by directing that the Commission shall, upon receipt of an application under section 12, evaluate the application, and if **satisfied that the conduct of the research is beneficial to the country, and that the research shall not adversely affect any aspect of the nature, environment or the security of the country**, issue to the applicant a licence in the prescribed form.

Pursuant thereto, members of the public are hereby notified that according to the Science, Technology and Innovation Act 2014 [2013], Scientific Research in Kenya must be approved and licensed by the Commission.

As stipulated in Section 15 of the Act, any person who accesses, handles, transacts, transfers or moves any specified technology or any material necessary for scientific research within, into or from Kenya without a licence issued under this Act; or contravenes the provisions of Section 12 of the Act, **commits an offence** and shall, in addition to any other penalty which may be provided for in this Act or any other

written law, be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding four years, or both.

For further clarification kindly contact the Commission, or visit online services at <https://research-portal.nacosti.go.ke/>

PROF. WALTER O. OYAWA, PhD
DIRECTOR GENERAL

NACOSTI is ISO 9001:2015 Certified

SERVICE CHARGES

Fees/Charges for Research Licensing

Table 1: Current fees/charges for Research Licensing

No	Category of Research License	Fees/charges
1)	Kenya Citizens: Diploma / Undergraduate	Ksh. 100
	Kenya Citizens: MA/MSc	Ksh. 1,000
	Kenya Citizens: PhD	Ksh. 2,000
	Kenya Citizens: Individual / Post Doctoral	Ksh. 5,000
	Public Institutions	Ksh. 10,000
	Private Institutions	Ksh. 20,000
2)	EAC Citizens: Diploma / Undergraduate	Ksh. 100
	EAC Citizens: MA/MSc	Ksh. 1,000
	EAC Citizens: PhD	Ksh. 2,000
	EAC Citizens: Individual / Post Doctoral	Ksh. 5,000
3)	Rest of Africa: Diploma / Undergraduate	Ksh. 200
	Rest of Africa: MA/MSc	Ksh. 2,000
	Rest of Africa: PhD	Ksh. 4,000
	Rest of Africa: Individual / Post Doctoral /Non-academic Doctoral	Ksh. 10,000

4)	Non-Africans: Diploma / Undergraduate	US\$ 150
	Non-Africans: MA/MSc	US\$ 350
	Non-Africans: PhD	US\$ 400
	Non-Africans: Individual / Post Doctoral /Non-academic	US\$ 500

Notes:

1. Non-Kenyans in local institutions with work permits and/or Permanent Resident Permits to pay same as Kenya citizens.
2. Students in local institutions of higher learning pay same as citizens.
3. The Supervisor may apply on behalf of a class undertaking Diploma or Degree course, however the service cost will be dependent on the number of students

Fees/Charges pertaining to Research Institutions

Table 2: Current fees/charges for Registration of Research Institutions, Accreditation of Research Programmes, and Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Institutions

No.	Services	Current fee in KES
1)	Registration of Research Institutions	250,000
2)	Accreditation of Research Programmes	250,000
3)	Inspection, Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Institutions	A basic fee of 275,000 will be levied per inspection in addition to any other additional costs that will be related to the inspection

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR STAKEHOLDER INPUT, COMMENTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) is established by STI Act 2013(Rev. 2014) with the objective of regulating and assuring quality in the science, technology and innovation sector and advise the Government in matters related thereto. Further, Section 6(1)(p) of the STI Act mandates the Commission to develop and enforce codes, guidelines and regulations in accordance with the policy determined under this Act for the governance, management and maintenance of standards and quality in research systems. In this regard, the Commission has developed draft guidelines as listed below, and hereby invites stakeholders for their written input, comments, suggestions and recommendations by September 2021. In this regard, the Commission has developed draft STI Priorities, and Guidelines as listed below, and has circulated the same to stakeholders for their input, comments, suggestions, and recommendations. The Commission therefore reminds stakeholders who have not yet submitted their written input, suggestions and recommendations to the Commission for consideration to do so by the latest 30th November, 2021. The documents may be downloaded at NACOSTI Website www.nacosti.go.ke

- **DRAFT “NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND REGULATION OF RESEARCHERS IN KENYA”.**
The Guideline is in line with Section 15 of the Legal Notice 106 of 2014, of the STI Act 2013, titled “STI (Registration and Accreditation of Research Institutions) Regulations, 2014”, which mandates the Commission to register, license and regulate researchers in the Scheduled Science areas.
- **DRAFT “NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMIC JOURNALS IN KENYA”.**
The Guideline is in line with Section 26 of the STI Act which specifies that “Research findings and information regarding research systems shall be stored or disseminated, utilized or applied in such a manner as may be prescribed by the Commission from time to time”.

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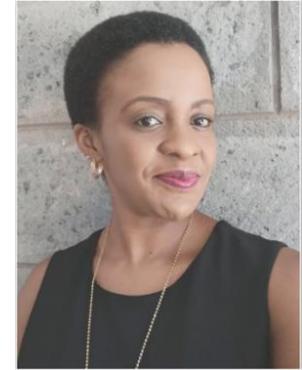
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Assistant Supply Chain
Management Officer*

KENYA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM

Kiswahili

1

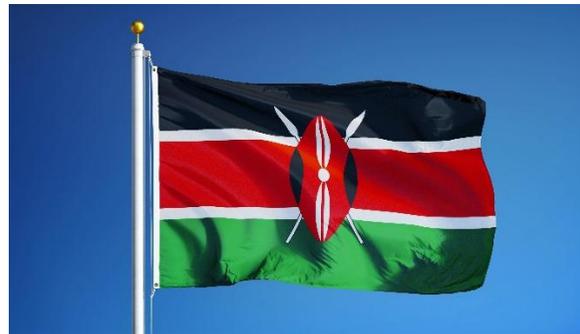
Ee Mungu nguvu yetu
Ilete baraka kwetu
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi
Natukae na undugu
Amani na uhuru
Raha tupate na ustawi.

2

Amkeni ndugu zetu
Tufanye sote bidi
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu
Nchi yetu ya Kenya
Tunayoipenda
Tuwe tayari kuilinda

3

Natujenge taifa letu
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu
Kenya istahili heshima
Tuungane mikono
Pamoja kazini
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani



English

1

O God of all creation
Bless this our land and nation
Justice be our shield and defender
May we dwell in unity
Peace and liberty
Plenty be found within our borders.

2

Let one and all arise
With hearts both strong and true
Service be our earnest endeavour
And our homeland of Kenya
Heritage of splendour
Firm may we stand to defend

3

Let all with one accord
In common bond united
Build this our nation together
And the glory of Kenya
The fruit of our labour
Fill every heart with

THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY ANTHEM



1. Ee Mungu twaomba ulinde
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

Chorus

*Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
Tuwajibike tuimarike
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.*

2. Uzalendo pia mshikamano
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu
Natulinde Uhuru na Amani
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

3. Viwandani na hata mashambani
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.



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