

**UN STI Forum May 5-6, 2022**  
**Special event: Supporting national capacities and the Partnership in Action for STI4SDG roadmaps**

**Oral Intervention**  
**Dhairya Pujara**

I am Dhairya Pujara, the CEO at Ycenter. In the last 5 years, I worked on several projects centered around Education, Healthcare, Food and Nutrition, Improving the local economy through supporting new venture building. Technology and cross country collaboration are the two prime factors for all our projects to succeed. If we miss any one of these factors, it almost leads to a guaranteed failure or plentiful wastage of resources including time. We work in the USA, African countries and India, but an epitome of our success arises in the form of a multi-stakeholder partnership with GODAN (Global Open Data on Agriculture and Nutrition), P4CDA (Programs for Capacity Building and Development in Africa) and Ycenter. This partnership brings in Academic researchers, Universities, Farmers and Young people interested in building new ventures to solve complex problems. In 2020, at the peak of pandemic, this partnership was able to quickly pivot its program to virtual, because of access to in-house tech development team and build and deploy online learning tools and digital solutions like Data-cube observatory for helping farmers make evidence based decisions.

In the last 2 years of the pandemic, we supported 30+ new ventures in Africa, another 20+ ventures in India and several other student entrepreneurs in the USA through using a human centered approach to building tech based projects and ventures.

We need to emphasize - technology is not going to solve our problems. People equipped with the right skills on understanding how to build, deploy, use this technology is what we need to focus on. Capacity building for science and tech skills, along with focus on human centered skills such empathy, creative problem solving are absolutely the need of the hour. I encourage all of us to forge new cross border partnerships and focus on capacity building.