

Session 2:

Building national R&I funding mechanisms : some input from the OACPS Research and Innovation Programme

**On-line training session on STI policy
and policy instruments
for SDGs for Asia and the Pacific**

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Alessandro Bello

OACPS R&I Programme

[alessandro.bello@technopolis-
group.com](mailto:alessandro.bello@technopolis-group.com)

psf@oacps-ri.eu

Objectives:

- To provide a brief insights on why do we need dedicated national R&I funding mechanisms
- Share lessons learned from the implementation of the OACPS research and innovation Policy Support Facility (Handbook on building Research and Innovation funding mechanism, forthcoming)



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What do we mean by national R&I funding mechanisms?

- R&I funding mechanisms broadly defined to include agency-type (organisations) and ‘funds of funds’ (FOF) used by countries to mobilise, provide or deliver financial resources for scientific research and innovation activities;
- Have significant impact on their national research and innovation system and budget;
- Are primarily funded through national public funding;
- Focused on R or I or R&I.

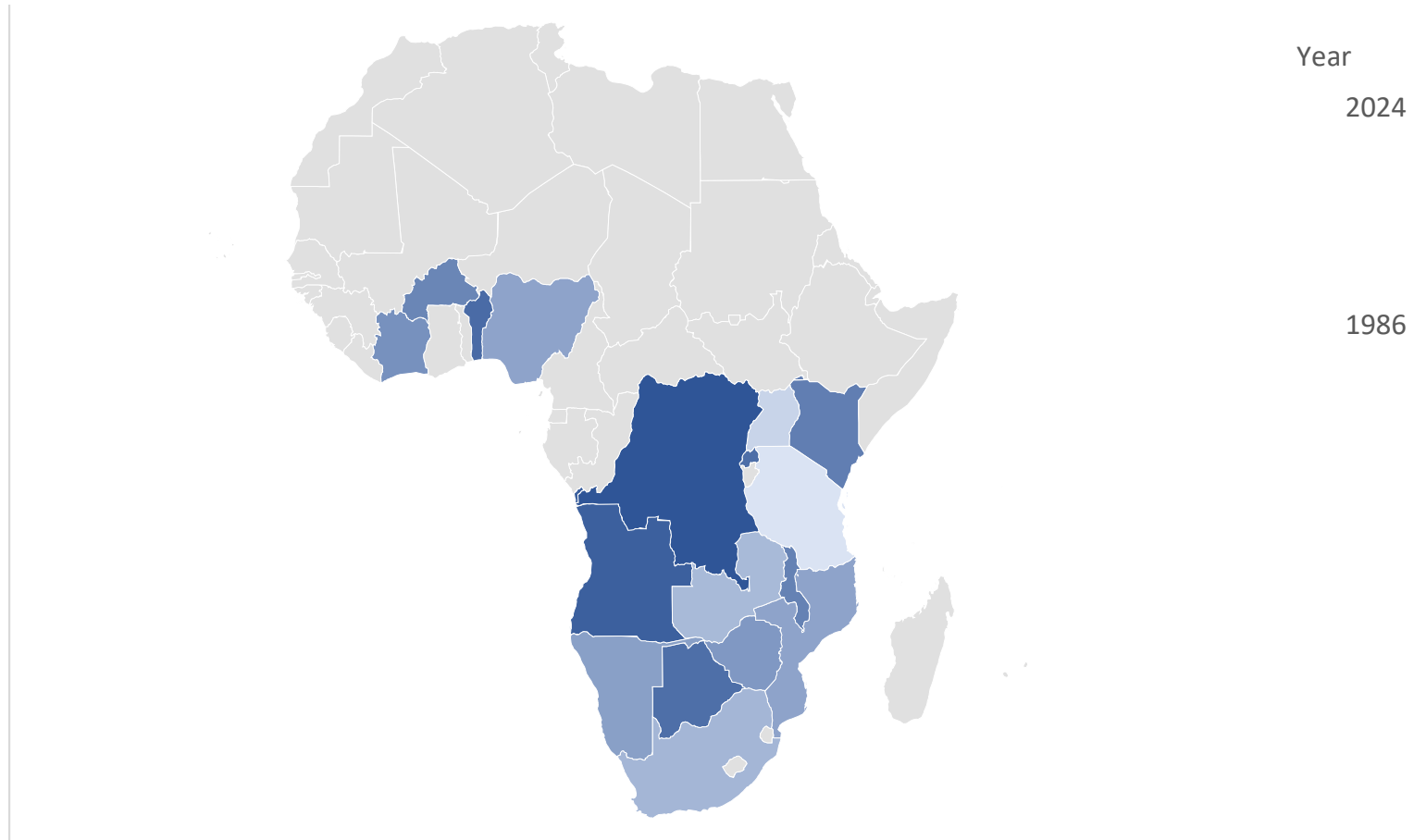
Why do we need national R&I funding mechanisms?

- Increase funding for R&I;
- Encourage the creation and development of innovative companies;
- Promote cutting-edge research in areas of strategic importance to national competitiveness;
- Stimulate employment and economic growth through innovation and commercialisation;
- Strengthen country's position on the international stage as a hub of innovation and technological know-how;
- Catalyst for attracting FDI and creating favorable R&I ecosystems that attract investors;

Why do we need national R&I funding mechanisms?

- Need for an ‘entrepreneurial state’;
- Beyond the usual one of ‘fixing market failures”, where the public sector takes an active role in shaping and creating markets;
- The lack of funding is widening the gap between policy and practice and has increased the dependence of national researchers on international research funding and their responsiveness to international agendas rather than national priorities;
- Innovation agencies can be powerful tools for policymakers to facilitate the transition to clean innovation: meeting new industrial needs or providing “patient capital” for long-term, high-risk, high-return technologies that have yet to find market support;

- Hong Kong: Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF), 1999;
- Singapore: National Research Foundation (NRF), 2006;
- Korea: National Research Foundation (NRF), 2009;
- Malaysia: Agensi Inovasi Malaysia, 2010;
- Vietnam: National Technology Innovation Fund, 2013;
- Indonesia: National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), 2019;





While many countries have a roadmap or planning process, these are not uniform in terms of methodology and may depend on the level of R&I maturity of the country

Building political and
public constituencies



- Secure political support (political buy in)
- Critical stakeholder support
- Civil society involvement
- Awareness raising
- Role of champions/advocates

Ex:

- Indonesia role of the President in the establishment of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN);
- Kenya, members of parliaments with scientific backgrounds were instrumental in promoting the enactment of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Act of 2013, which established the NRF and KeNIA. They were supported by non-governmental organisations such as the African Centre for Technology Studies, the African Technology Policy Studies (ATPS) Network and the Kenya National Academy of Sciences (KNAS)

- Assessment of R&I needs;
- Alignment with National Development;
- Multidisciplinary team involvement and national inter-institutional committee;
- R&I foresight studies and related tools such as forecasting and technology assessment;
- Mission; Level of autonomy; kind of support/instruments to provide
- Affiliation (ex: National Research Foundation, Singapore -NRF department within the Prime Minister's Office) National Technology Innovation Foundation - Vietnam affiliated with MOST



Ex: Togo and Gambia benefitted from the OACPS PSF for feasibility and needs assessments

Some other lessons learnt

- Strengthen and secure political support
- Ensure sustainable funding
- Boost private sector engagement
- Develop core capacities (Human Capital, Infrastructure, Governance Structures, Financial Resources, Social Capital and Partnerships)
- Develop technical and managerial expertise
- Enhance outcome and impact assessment capacity
- Promote the establishment of MEL platforms