

## **COSTECH hosts a joint up-scaling research results workshop**

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

From February 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) hosted a joint up-scaling research results workshop which intended to improve the plans of four (4) selected up scaling projects from jointly projects conducted by Tanzania and South Africa researchers from 2013 – 2015.

Delivering the opening remarks, the Acting Director General of COSTECH Dr. Dugushilu Mafunda noted that in 2013 the United Republic of Tanzania through COSTECH together with the Republic of South Africa through the National Research Fund (NRF) funded fifteen (15) joint research projects in the areas of nanotechnology, Information and communication technology, palaeontology as well as life sciences – agriculture livestock and fisheries.

Dr. Mafunda further reiterated the words that were once delivered by the South African Ambassador to Tanzania Thami Mseleku during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Science, Technology and Innovation Conference held in 2016 who revealed that among several signed bilateral collaborations between Tanzania and South African, the joint Science, Technology and Innovation collaboration is one which was fully implemented.

He reminded researchers to shift their perceptions about research and encouraged them to move from conducting research for the sake of gaining new knowledge but also only research to innovate and hence to commercialization. “A lot of researches have been done already, we need the shift of paradigm and aim at research for commercialization.”

Dr. Mafunda also thanked the facilitators from South Africa’s Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), for their willingness to build capacity to researchers. “Most researchers are not trained to commercialize their research products but with this workshop, I trust their capacity to commercialize their products will increase and hence enhance cooperation between the two countries,” he added.



*Acting Director General of COSTECH Dr. Dugushilu Mafunda (left) stresses a point while addressing the workshop participants*

Delivering the overview of workshop and projects, the Acting Director of COSTECH Centre for Development and Transfer of Technology Dr. Georges Shemdoe revealed that among the funded fifteen joint research projects, only six were selected by the joint technical committee for up scaling. “The Joint Technical Committee recommended to Joint Innovation Committee six projects to be up scaled but in turn, the Joint Innovation Committee selected four projects.”

He then added, “the Joint Innovation Committee advised that even these four projects, a few information were missing and this two-day-workshop will address those shortfalls and in the end come up with improved plans and budgets.” He then added that as soon as everything is ready, the Joint Innovation Committee will release the fund for commercialization of four selected projects.



*Acting Director Centre for Development and Transfer of Technology at COSTECH Dr. Georges Shemdoe (left) delivers the overview of workshop and projects to the workshop participants.*



*One of the beneficiaries of TA/SA joint research Dr. Paul Kazoyoba (front) presents the overview of his research to the workshop participants.*

In 2011 the Ministers of Science and Technology of the Government of Republic of South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania signed a bilateral agreement which established cooperation in science, technology and innovation issues whereby both governments issued more than one billion shillings to finance 15 research projects in the areas of nanotechnology, Information and communication technology, paleontology as well as life sciences.