

## **COSTECH plans to produce Research and Innovation Impact Bulletin**

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From 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) through the Directorate of Life Science (DLS) embarked on the exercise of developing project briefs from the research projects supported by the National Fund for Advancement of Science and Technology (NFAST).

Delivering the objective of the meeting, the COSTECH Program Officer for Environment Ms. Neema Tindamanyire noted that the exercise aims at delivering the research results to COSTECH stakeholders including policy and decision makers, innovators, entrepreneurs as well as the general public.

“Seventeen Principal Investigators were invited to show case their works in non- scientific language. COSTECH has received a total of twelve project briefs that will be polished to produce a booklet called, *COSTECH Research and Innovation Impact Bulletin*. It is expected that the bulletin will be ready for dissemination by the end of February,” she added.



*Ms. Neema Tindamanyire delivering the objective of the meeting.*

Delivering the welcome remarks, the Acting Director General of COSTECH, who is also the Directorate of Life Science, Professor Mohammed Sheikh noted that COSTECH is mandated to advise the government in all matters related to science, technology and innovation.

Prof. Sheikh also emphasized that the Research and Innovation Impact Bulletin will be one of the mechanisms to deliver research results to research stakeholder and also be used as a proof as to why it is important for the government to invest in research and innovation

He further noted that the bulletin is expected to raise interests to the private sector to invest in research. He gave an example from South Korea whereby private sector invests more than 80%

in research. “This is a move towards engaging private sector to fund research as most of the captured results in this bulletin show the return of investment,” he insisted.

He ended by saying that from this financial year, COSTECH will no longer fund research just for the matter of generating knowledge but rather research which have potential impacts, especially socio-economic impacts.

“We want to see the monetary value of our investment and the translation of research into solving societal problems. We want the research results to have direct impact to the national development,” he ended.



*Professor Mohammed Sheikh (front) delivering the welcome remarks*

The exercise involved researchers who benefitted from NFAST research grants from University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Open University of Tanzania (OUT), Mkochei Agricultural Research Institute (MARI), Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Kizimbani Agriculture Research Institute (KARI), Kizimbani Agriculture Training Institute (KATI), National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), State University of Zanzibar (SUZA), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA), Uyole Agricultural Research Institute (ARI - Uyole), Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute – Ilonga (MATI - Ilonga), and journalists from local media houses. The meeting was held at the Mkochei Agricultural Research Institute (MARI).



*One of the group participants, Dr. Samwel Limbu (right) from UDSM makes a point during the session. He is flanked by journalists Ms. Lucy Ngowi (middle) from Habari Leo and Fatuma Abdu from the Daily News.*

Delivering the closing remarks, the COSTECH Acting Director of Knowledge Management, Dr. Joyce Nyoni revealed that one of the COSTECH functions is to acquire, store, process and disseminate scientific information to end users.

“As a knowledge broker between researchers and policy makers, COSTECH is supposed to repackage and disseminate STI information in a manner that can be understood by our stakeholders who include decision and policy makers so as to assist them in making informed decisions while formulating policies, planning and practices. That is the essence of the intended bulletin,” she noted.

Dr. Nyoni also revealed that the exercise involved both researchers and journalists whereby the latter is expected to translate the scientific language into plain language that can be understood by the general public.

“Researchers have their own way of communicating which may not necessarily be understood by the general public. We have decided to invite journalists hoping that they will assist in bridging the language gap and deliver the intended message to the public. We expect our policy makers and other research stakeholders, including an average person, will read the bulletin and be able to understand and therefore make evidence based decisions,” she added.

From 2010 to date, Tanzania government through COSTECH has funded more than 100 research projects, including 59 from *Kilimo Kwanza* initiative, 28 in collaboration with Sida, 15 in collaboration with NRF – South Africa, 4 in collaboration with NRF – South Korea, and 4 in collaboration with Sweden and the Netherlands. Over fifty percent of the funded research have been completed, some of which their results are being disseminated to end users using various mechanisms such as scientific conferences, workshops, seminars, policy and project briefs, brochures, banners, flyers, TV and radio programs, newspaper articles, social media pages as well as research and innovation impact bulletin.