

OACPS Research and Innovation Programme

OACPS Policy Facility Service in The Gambia



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Implemented by the OACPS Secretariat



OACPS R&I



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What was the rationale for seeking support from the Policy Support Facility?



- **Lack of proper policy coherence and articulation** (Mugabe 2009; Clark & Frost 2016)
 - **Significant disjoints** between national aspirations & policy goals
 - Promotes investments in research; **relegates innovation** to a secondary category
 - **Political detachment** current policies diverts attention from issues of direct developmental relevance.
 - Office politics
- **Limited capacities for R&I Policymaking**
 - R&I policymaking began to gain recognition only within the last few decades in many African countries
 - Weak coordination mechanisms with other relevant stakeholders
 - Plethora of priorities dilutes effectiveness
 - Supply vs demand side innovation policies
- **R&I Policy Alienation**
 - Weak linkages of R&I policies with National Development Plans
 - Limited funding opportunities and weak levels of implementation

How was the service implemented?



- **The Government of The Gambia submitted an EOI to the OACPS**
- **Experts from public and private sectors including academia and researchers constitute the national team**
- **Country Background Report developed by two independent experts**
- **A Policy Recommendation Report was also developed by a team of four international experts**
- **The Gambia's PSF Service lasted from July 2021 – February 2022**
- **Used a mixed method approach to develop both the CBR & PRR**

What have been the main recommendations of the service?



- **Government should allocate fixed annual funding to the NIF**
- **MoHERST and the advisory board should aim to annually fundraise between USD 5 million - USD 10 million for an Innovation Fund (to start)**
- **Prioritise offering competitive opportunities to sectors that show potential**
- **Relevant ministries to devise skills development and capacity building**
- **Cross-sector stakeholder engagement**
- **Conduct annual assessment on the success or failure of innovation programmes**
- **Promote information flow and dissemination across actors in the triple-helix**

What have you envisaged (or already done) to achieve the foreseen impacts of the service?



PSF Post service initiatives includes but not limited to the following:

- A draft bill of the NIF is now being considered by Cabinet
- Development of a five-year project to operationalize the NIF
 - An estimated US\$83M over 5 years to produce outcomes that directly affect the achievement of SDGs
 - double industry's share of employment and contribution to GDP in an inclusive and sustainable manner. (SDG Target 9.2)
 - Improved access to financial services, affordable credit, low interest loans, equity and guarantees provided to MSMEs including their integration into global value chains and international markets. (SDG Target 9.3)
 - Improved resource-use efficiency and significant increase in the adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes. (SDG Target 9.4)
 - National scientific capacity, productivity and output enhanced. (SDG Target 9.5)
 - An enabling ecosystem for domestic technology development, innovation, industrial diversification, and value addition of commodities promoted. (SDG Target 9b)
 - Access to ICTs and digital transformation of national STI systems improved.
 - Gender equality in STEM education, careers and research content improved.



THANK YOU