



Editorial

The virtues of collective intelligence and inclusive innovation processes

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Recently (13-15 February 2023), the OACPS Research and Innovation (R&I) Programme organised its first Stakeholders' Exchange Meeting (in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia). This event demonstrated two things: the power of collective intelligence and the need to assemble the driving forces of research and innovation ecosystems.

Over 60 beneficiaries of ACP Innovation Fund projects and Policy Support Facility services, representing a wide range of African, Caribbean and Pacific R&I stakeholders (academia, research centres, regional and national authorities / agencies in charge of R&I, the private sector, and civil society organisations) engaged actively in working groups on a variety of topics.

They exchanged ideas, experiences and good practices on common perspectives and challenges with their peers and other stakeholders.

They expanded their networks and explored potential collaborations.

These three intensive days of meetings highlighted the necessity to strengthen the 'Science-Policy-Industry-Society' interface, taking into account the full participation of women and youth, in order to make R&I more result-oriented and beneficial to society at large, and to accelerate societal uptake of R&I products and services.

This interface is complex and requires a holistic approach encouraging policy makers, scientists, industry leaders and civil society to closely work together and find sustainable approaches to the challenges we face.

This stakeholders' exchange meeting, held midway through our R&I Programme, was a great opportunity to reflect together on how to further improve the implementation and impact levels of our activities in the field.

Find out more about this event on our website: <http://bit.ly/3ZdCkd1>



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