

# STIPRO Preliminary Research Agenda for the period 2014/15 to 2018/19

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# Outline of the Presentation

- Introduction: Priority setting process and priority areas for the five years period.
- Broad research questions for governance of ST&I systems.
- Broad research questions for the agro-industrial innovation system

# Introduction



- The five years' (2014/15 – 2018/19) STIPRO Research Agenda has a main objective to contribute to evidence for decision making in ST&I issues.
- But also production of some general knowledge on innovation and development: applied and basic research are inevitably intertwined; and policies and theories are two sides of the same coin.
- In terms of process: we started way back in October 2013, talking to stakeholders, consulting national development plans and strategies, and some relevant international action plans such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

## Introduction Cont...

- Four areas were finally chosen: Governance of the national systems of innovation; Agro-industrial innovation systems, Energy and development, especially the off-grid and renewable energy, for rural enterprises; and Natural resources and structural transformation.
- Important and relatively difficult in the process, was identification of knowledge gaps in the chosen areas: we hope this gathering to contribute to this; but also from more literature review at the specific projects levels.
- Finally our chosen areas and scope took into account resources available to us; especially human.

# Broad questions for governance of ST&I systems



## 1) Background and Purpose

- One of the challenges of poor developing countries is inefficient working of their systems of innovation. For Tanzania this has become evident through a number of studies including the project on the review of national systems of innovation.
- Within this, is the issue of governance of the ST&I system.

# Broad questions for governance of ST&I systems cont..

- Defining governance is far from easy; and perhaps many people mean different things by the word governance.
- European Commission (COM 2001) defines governance as rules, processes and behavior that affect the way in which powers are exercised, particularly as regards to openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence.
- We take this definition and especially underline the effectiveness of ST&I policy in the whole issue of governance, where **participation, coherence** and accountability are key.

# Broad questions for governance of ST&I systems cont..



- Governance of ST&I defined this way is a crucial aspect in the optimum working of the national ST&I systems.
- The review of the Tanzanian ST&I has evidenced some weaknesses within the governance system.
- Without putting this right, all other aspects of evidence we endeavor to produce through research, are seriously hampered.
- Major purpose for this research is to further interrogate the whole issue of governance in the national ST&I systems so as to produce knowledge that will ensure its effectiveness.

# Broad questions for governance of ST&I systems cont..

## 2) Questions

Important broad questions we intend to ask in this area are:

- i) Going back to history, how have the ST&I policies been made, implemented and reviewed?
- ii) What can Tanzania learn from best practices elsewhere?
- iii) Are the science and innovation policies integrated or taken as separate? Why? What are the implications?



# Broad questions for governance of ST&I systems cont..

- iv) How are priorities for investments in ST&I, including research set?
- v) Is the budget for the implementation of ST&I strategies and plans adequate?
- vi) How are research performers (universities, public research organizations and think tanks) and funding agencies held accountable for their activities?
- vii) What are the capacity gaps in the ST&I policy processes?

To enhance learning from best practices, the area is best suited for a multi-country study.

# Broad Research questions for the Agro-industrial innovation systems

## 1) Background and Purpose

- Agriculture and industry have been identified as two top priorities for poverty alleviation in Tanzania.
- Efforts to increase productivity in the two sectors, especially on agriculture, are substantial and to a large extent separate; and have not born significant fruits.
- Existing studies have indicated that it is most unlikely to increase productivity of the two sectors independently.
- For instance productivity increase in agriculture seem to very much depend on the development of the manufacturing sector.

# Broad Research questions for the Agro-industrial innovation systems cont..

## Background and Purpose cont..

- However, we do not have a complete understanding of what factors would enable the optimum performance of this system.
- For instance despite existence of processing facilities for some agricultural produce , and availability of demand for such products, farmers still find problem accessing markets for their produce.

# Broad Research questions for the Agro-industrial innovation systems cont..

## Background and Purpose cont.

- Also despite lucrative local market for some of the products, agro-processors have failed to expand their processing plants.
- This is also true for the export market; there are ample opportunities, but processors have to a large extent remained inward looking.
- The fact that farmers are increasingly relying on agro-processors for knowledge inputs rather than from R&D, points to a need to re-think the whole issue of how the R&D is structured and governed in the agricultural sector.

# Broad Research questions for the Agro-industrial innovation systems cont..

## 2. Broad Questions

- i) What leads to linkage gap between local processors and agricultural producers?
- ii) How can the R&D in the agricultural sector better restructured to also include information flow between R&D and agro-processors.
- iii) How can the local agro processors learn from, innovate and compete with imported products? What is the role of the private sector and the role of the government?

# Broad Research questions for the Agro-industrial innovation systems cont..

## Broad questions cont...

- iv) How can the local manufacturers learn, innovate and compete in the export market, especially with products from BRICS that are relatively cheaper.
- v) How can knowledge and technology transfer – both horizontal and vertical – be organized for the best performance of the agro-industrial innovation systems.

# Broad Research questions for the Agro-industrial innovation systems cont..

## Broad questions cont.

- vi) What are the gender and size related issues in the agro-industrial innovation systems.
- vii) How can the agro-industrial innovation systems be made more inclusive.

The focus on agro-industrial innovation system does not rule out our focus on sector based research for the two sectors. For instance for the industrial sector there are issues around moving up the innovation capability ladder; and broadening of the manufacturing base.



**Thank you all for your attention**