

My Vision for AfricaLics*

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Globelics workshop to create AfricaLics , Tanzania

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* This title was chosen for me by Bal, thanks to Bal for asking me to share my vision with all of you.

Outline

- Inspiration
- Why Putting Africa First?
- Where is Africa now?
- Re-Framing the African Development agenda
- Research Re-orientation
- New Models
- Africalics: practical activities
- Some Useful Links

Inspiration

- “This is my plea to the new generation of African leaders and African peoples: work for unity with firm conviction that without unity there is no future for Africa...I reject the glorification of the nation-state, which we have inherited from colonialism, and the artificial nations we are trying to forge from that inheritance. We are all Africans trying to be Ghanaians or Tanzanians. Fortunately for Africa we have not been completely successful...Unity will not make us rich, but it can make it difficult for Africa and the African peoples to be disregarded and humiliated. And it will therefore increase the effectiveness of the decisions we make and try to implement for our development. My generation led Africa to political freedom. The current generation of leaders and peoples of Africa must pick up the flickering torch of African freedom, refuel it with their enthusiasm and determination, and carry it forward.” Julius Nyerere, First president of Tanzania

Inspiration

- "The community of economic life is the major feature with a nation, and it is the economy which holds together the people living in a territory. It is on this basis that the new Africans recognise themselves as potentially one nation, whose dominion is the entire African continent." Kwame Nkrumah
- "The welfare of our people is our chief pride, and it is by this that my Government will ask to be judged."
President Kawme Nkrumah, 1957

Inspiration

- Speed in the fragmented direction is not relevant in Africa
- Speed in the integrated direction is necessary and waiting to be made
- If not unity now, when?
- AfricaLics needs to try or even struggle to embark on or make the right steps in the right direction by choosing integration rather than plodding along fragmentation..

Putting Africa First

- Let us not forget our book: *Putting Africa First: The Making of African Innovation Systems*, AAU Press, 2003
- Lundvall said: "In 2000 I co-organised the Aalborg workshop on innovation systems in Africa with Mammo Muchie, who initiated the project. It was the first time that I was confronted with the challenge to apply ideas about interactive learning and innovation systems to the reality of the African continent. (see Muchie et al., 2003). This workshop inspired the formation of the global network Globelics (www.globelics.org)" (Lundvall, *Innovation: A Realistic Vision*, in *AJSTID*, Vol.1, no.1, 2009:p.212)
- It took nearly 12 years now to have this meeting in Tanzania to form Africalics, and Lundvall and others came from Europe to help start it. I say congratulations-better late than never!

Putting Africa First

- “Putting Africa First” challenges the world not to see Africa as a victim, but to recognize that what was done to Africa cannot be repeated to any human community. Putting Africa first can only mean putting humanity first. Imagining a future with values that put Afropolitianism first is crucial for moving in the direction of creating a worthy cosmopolitan community free from the varied historical inequities bequeathed from the past and still continues to the present threatening to shape tomorrow with the tyranny of univervally spreading unending bestial injustice and moral failure.”

Putting Africa First

- "There is only one and only one human race. It is a human race to distinguish it from plants, insects and other non-human creatures. The description and degradation of this one human race by colour has been employed to enforce control to justify slavery, colonialism, apartheid and imperialism. Africa has suffered the most from this injustice. African unity yields the historic opportunity to make the human race realise its full humanity by Africans uniting and realising fully the Africa nation and not remaining as they are at present as a variety of diverse and different races, colours, languages, ethnic groups, religions and regions. It is by uniting as Africans first that their own humanity can be re-claimed while others that have wronged them for so long can be finally redeemed."

Where is Africa now?

- 127 years of the Scramble for Africa...the division from that time still unrectified
- OAU 50 years in 2013
- 112 years of the Pan-African Congresses
- 116 years of the Ethiopian Adwa Victory as the African Victory over empire!
- Ten Years of the Africa Union
- Still African disunity remains a big obstacle to build a free and dignified future.

The past still affects the present!

- Slavery formally has ended
- Colonialism formally has ended
- Apartheid formally has ended
- Divide and rule continues under different guises
- Imperial competition to grab African resources
- Neo-colonialism still a danger
- Re-colonisation is also a danger (e.g. Libya and Mali, possibly Niger and so on!)

Opportunities

- Overcoming colonial imagination
- Bringing back a confident African imagination
- A free and de-colonised future
- The African logocentric imagination to defeat the colonial mentality
- African unity to overcome disunity
- Let us all create the African future by making it, and not talking it and doing disunity!

Threats

- Poor social capital
- Lack of adequate capital of the mind or human capital
- Prevalence of donor-preneurship
- Rent-seeking-preneurship
- Tender-preneurship
- Entrepreneurial and innovation drought?

The Context..

- The African context for research on innovation is not easy, as I am sure it is also for other fields
- Like the states, the academic researchers are fragmented
- Social capital is still very low in the academic arena too!
- Funding affects trust capital for doing good research
- Less local funding, still more external funding comes at a cost of inclusive collaboration of researchers
- Often those that need inclusion get excluded
- Also established development work has serious weaknesses
- Africalics has to add something new by innovating through innovation a new , more realistic and relevant approach to knowledge production, practice, inter-researcher collaboration and policy learning

AfricaLics's innovation through innovation

- Africalics has to add something new by innovating through innovation a new , more realistic and relevant approach to knowledge production, practice, inter researcher collaboration and policy learning
- A new paradigm to bring structural transformation by driving the process of change through STEI & indigenous knowledge harvesting, and their combination!

AfricaLics

- Research reorientation essential by introducing the theory of productive power and innovation systems perspectives
- Theories of economic development that dominated policy thinking in Africa need to be critiqued
- Open the door for theories that can serve as lenses to illuminate the empirical reality and specificity of the African situation

Re-Framing the African Development agenda

- There is a need to open the door for theories that are grounded and contextualized in the African setting and that can serve also as lenses to illuminate the empirical reality and specificity of the African situation
- Such appreciative theoretical and conceptual reorientation in anchoring the African development agenda would require the following to be explored as new conceptual lenses for examining the African development dynamics:
 - Inclusive
 - Sustainable
 - SMART (specific, measurable, action oriented, realistic and timely)
 - Integrated horizontally in order to manage vertical links with the global economy
 - Integrating a learning, innovation and competence building systems in the economic development dynamics

Re-Framing the African Development Agenda

- Removing entrepreneurishp drought
- Removing systematically tenderpreneurship, donorpreneurship & rent seeking preneurship
- Explicit and clear preference to well being anchored and empowering development direction
- Strong social and human capital anchorage and priority to manage physical, natural and financial capital
- Competition with collaboration, and the vice versa
- Building a shared African identity as primary to go beyond ethnic and vernacular entitlements

Research Reorientation

- Such reorientation in anchoring the African development agenda would require the following to be explored as new conceptual lenses for examining the African development dynamics:
 - *The theory of productive power which argues that the causes of wealth are different from wealth itself or making wealth from exporting raw and importing cooked need change*
 - *Knowing and agreeing to building the African system of science, technology, engineering and Innovation by reducing or even eradicating the current collaborative distance amongst the key stakeholders in Africa*

Research Reorientation

- *Knowing how to combine indigenous knowledge with knowledge gleaned outside Africa*
- *Knowing how to move from the domination of knowledge or technology transfer to knowledge exchange*
- *Knowing how to engage in smart, inclusive, sustainable and integrated African structural transformation*

Research Reorientation

- *Knowing how to be far when near the global economy and how to be near when far from it as well*
- *Creating structural transformation from agriculture to manufacture and services through a co-evolutionary dynamics*
- *An ability to integrate the various state and economic policies to inform an integrated African development agenda that centres on making sure an African developing horizontally inter-linked economy is made fully and not as it is currently practised by retaining the vertical links external to Africa based on exporting raw materials.*

Models for Re-Designing African Development Agenda

- Conceptual framework
- Realising efficient linkages & interactions
- Unifying all the relevant components of the system
- Overcoming the challenges of fragmentation
- From SETI to Outcomes
- Knowledge assimilation and exchange

To do the job waiting to be done

- Intergrate agriculture, manufacturing and services
- Linking community level indigenous knowledge with Science, engineering and technological knowledge
- From the current resource economy to a knowledge, learning, innovative and competent independent economy
- Connecting or articulating informal with formal economy
- To use Science , Engineering and Technology infrastructure, training and research to build an integrated learning, competent African national economy.
- To develop a unifying economic growth strategy that works for Africa!

Figure 1: Major Elements of National Innovation System (NIS)

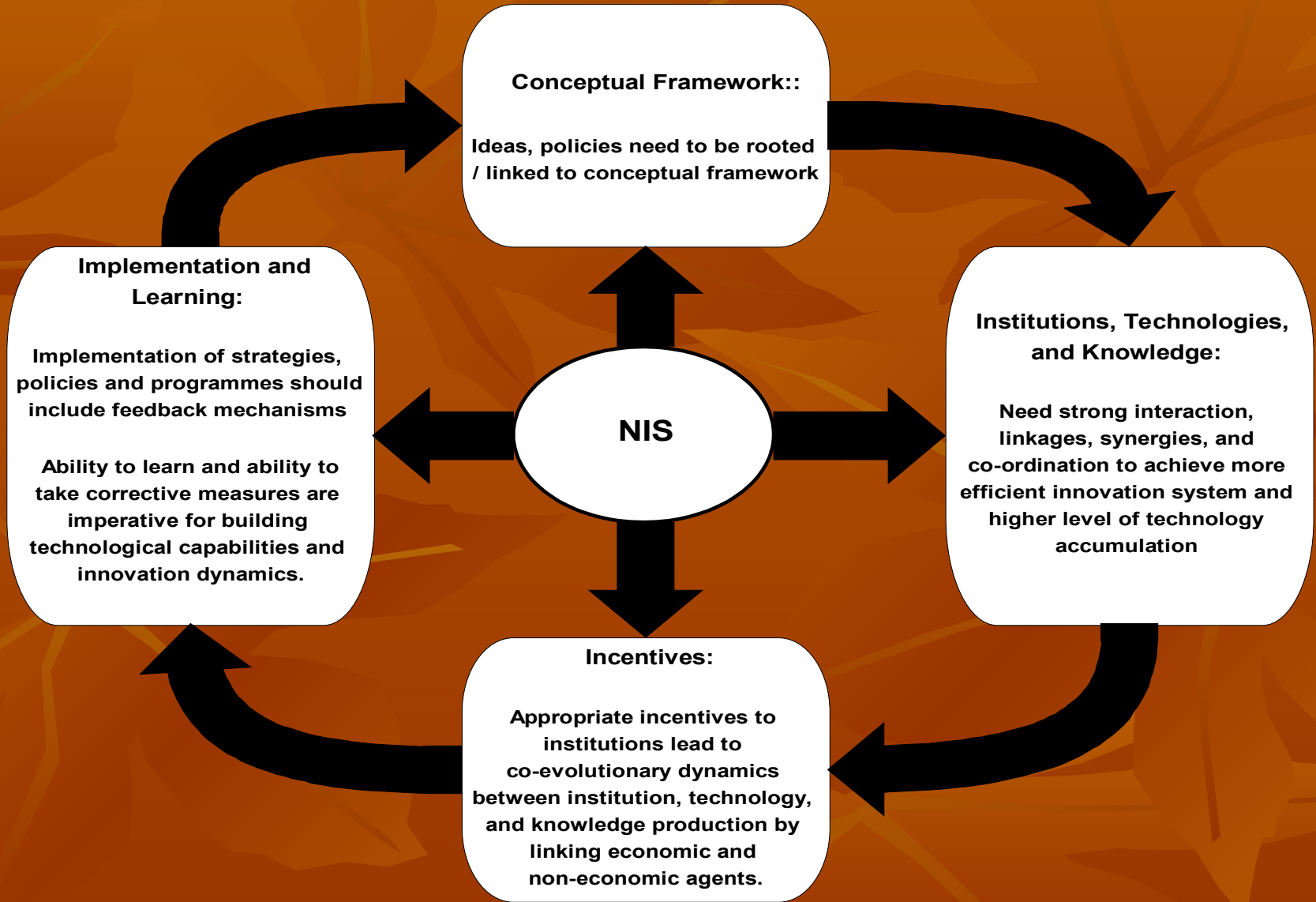
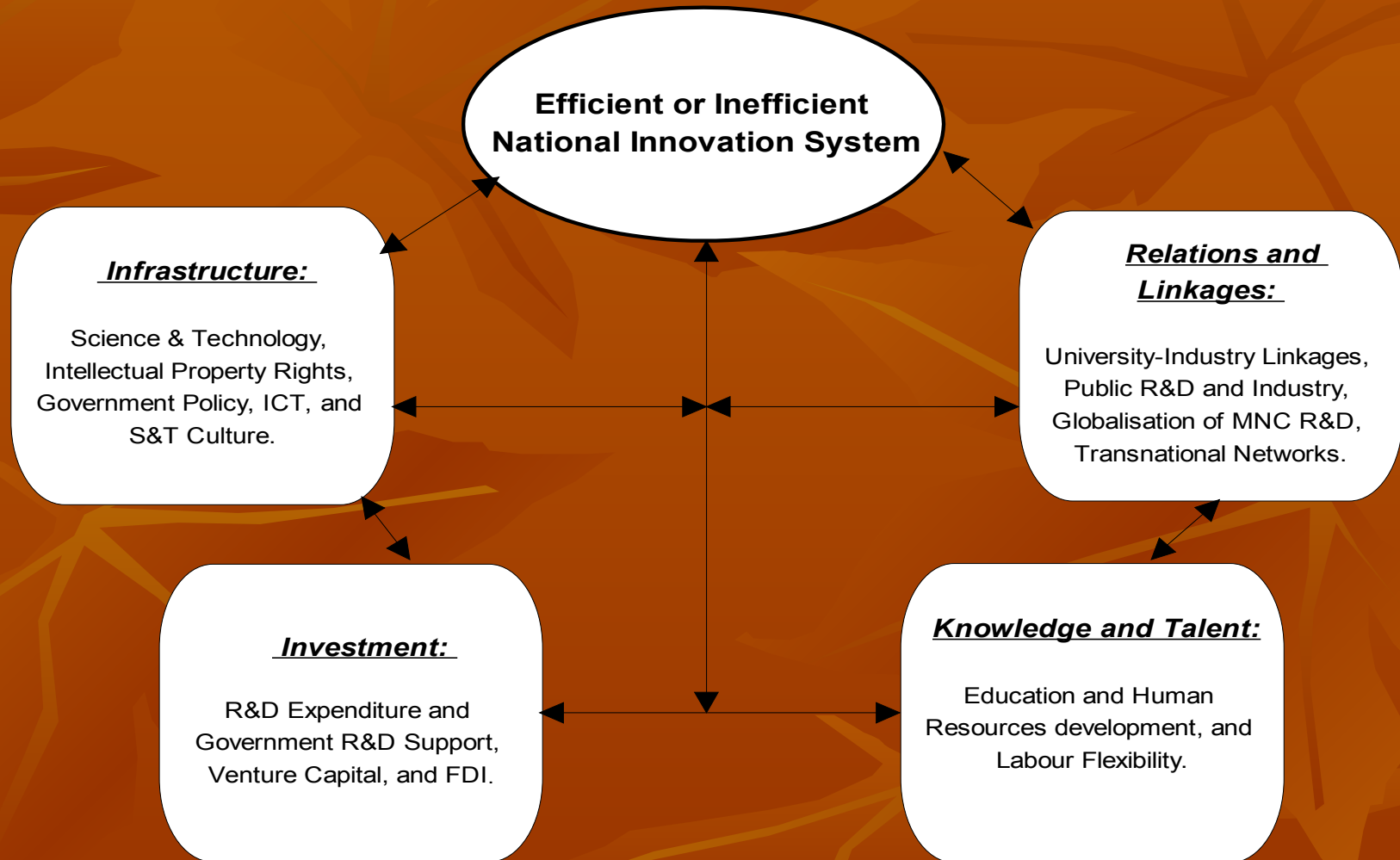
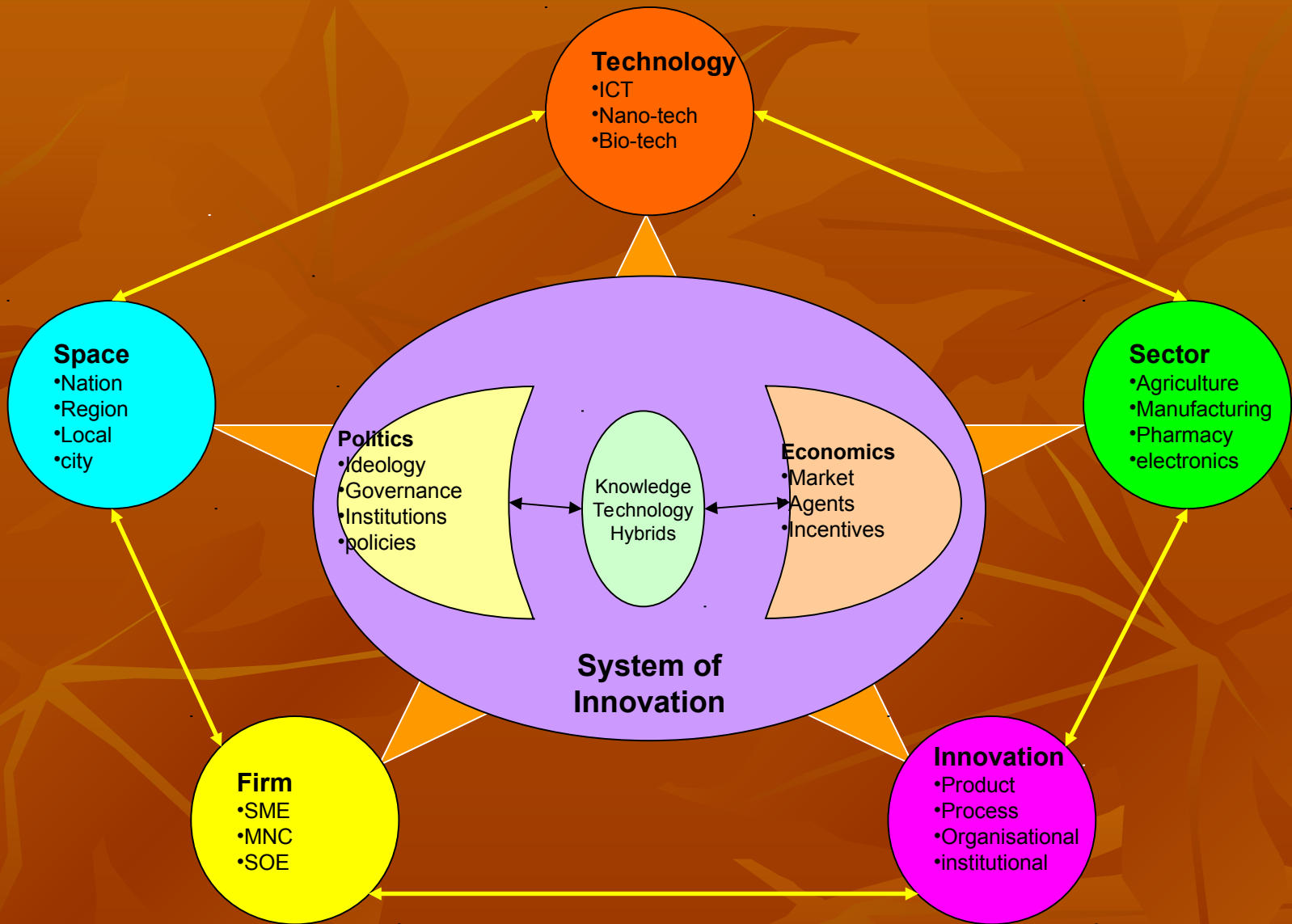


Figure 2: Linkages between Institutions, Technologies, Knowledge and Incentives in NIS





Unifying model of SI

Key Problem:
Building NSI in
fragmented 53 ,
states caught in
prisoners dilemma



Any chances for
Building NSI at
AU,NEPAD,RECs
levels?



Locally embedded
triple helix
emerging rather
than the donor
driven one today



Africa First
emerging as the
logo and a united
approach to NSI
building favoured



NSI by Accepting the
Fragmentary current
logic

Africa caught in
an unstable
state
of non-self-
regenerating
NSI achievable

Neutralising
the fragmentation
Of the RECs

Unsettling
switching state
for embedding
NSI locally at
Africa level or
not

Actual
Dynamic NSI building
State emerging

Stability Will
and Stability for
NSI at
integrated
Africa level
reached &
achieved



Model

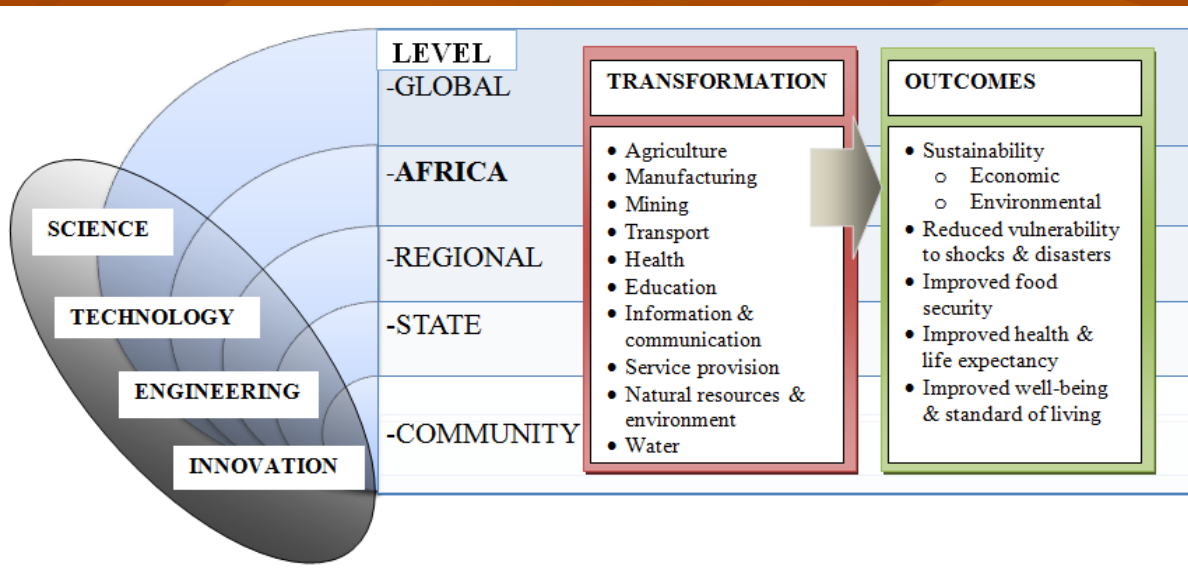
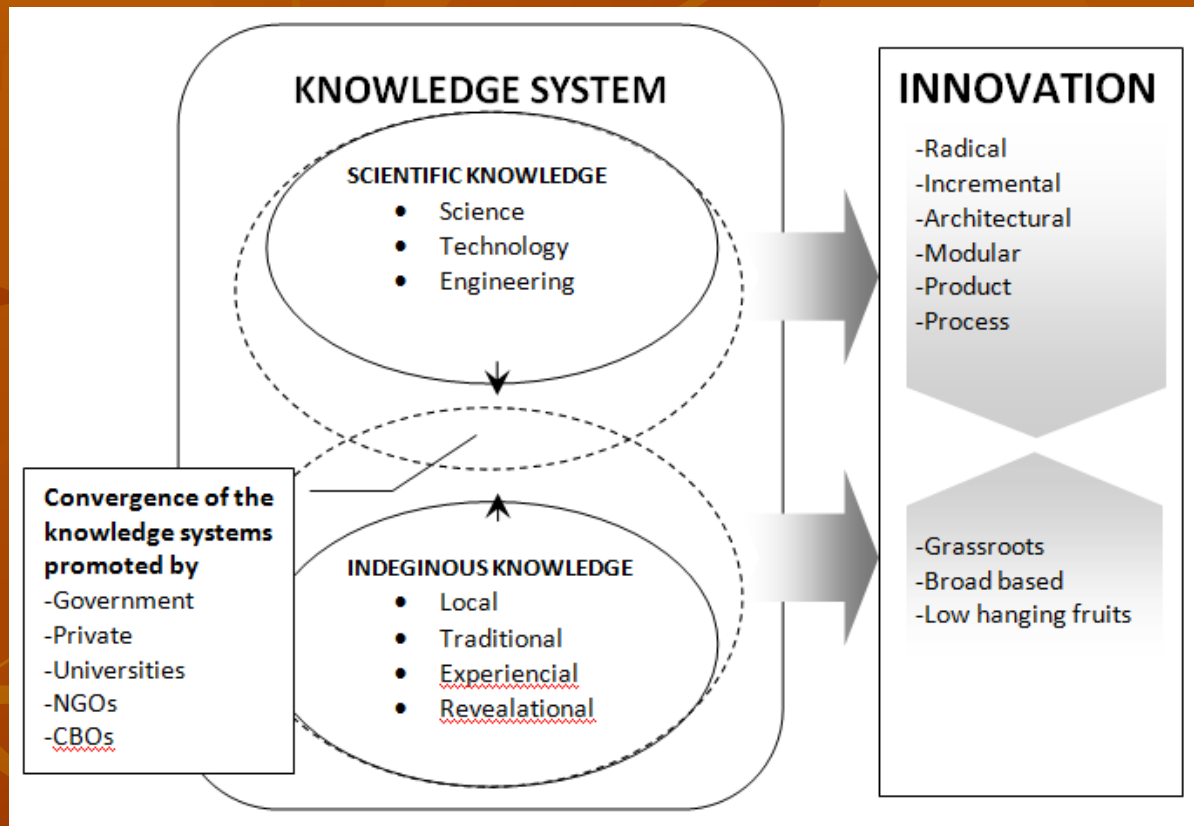


Figure 1: Model that interlinks STEI with the African Development Levels, Sectors and Outcomes



AfricaLics

- The research heurstics, metaphor and critique of the development approaches and to open STEI driven African development agenda
- Combine STEI with specific spatial levels with sectors and outcomes
- Mapping by starting from indegenous knowledge with knowldge from different and other sources
- Combining theory and practice that integrates STEI with the African development agenda.

Practical Activities

- 3-5 year research programmes (one from each region)
- Combining an annual AfricaLics like Globelics or AsiaLics type conference with the Journal AJSTID
- Create the African Globelics Doctoral Academy (<http://agda.uonbi.ac.za>)
- Develop an African bottom-up, rather than top down or borrowed STEI surveys, indicators and case studies
- Research on how STEI can be integrated to agriculture, manufacture and services
- Research on indigenous innovation
- Research on learning and adaptation from stakeholders outside Africa
- Research on knowledge exchange

AfricaLics Activities

- <http://agda.uonbi.ac.ke>
- www.ajstid.com
- www.nesglobal.org/eejrif4
- www.ansole.org
- AfricaLics Conference (resource for:Journal; one other network, Academy)
- Good to find a way to make them re-enforce each other

For your information: Join the cause

- <http://www.nesglobal.org/symp125>
- <http://www.nesglobal.org/au10>
- <http://www.nesglobal.org/adwa>
- <http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/battleswars1800s/p/adwa.htm>

Causes

1. <http://www.causes.com/causes/646713-african-unity-can-make-africas-free-and-bright-future>
 2. <http://www.causes.com/causes/652641-yekatit-for-unity-education-month/about>
- I trust we will establish a strong research network that is inclusive , sustainable and productive. Amsegenalehu & Asante Sana