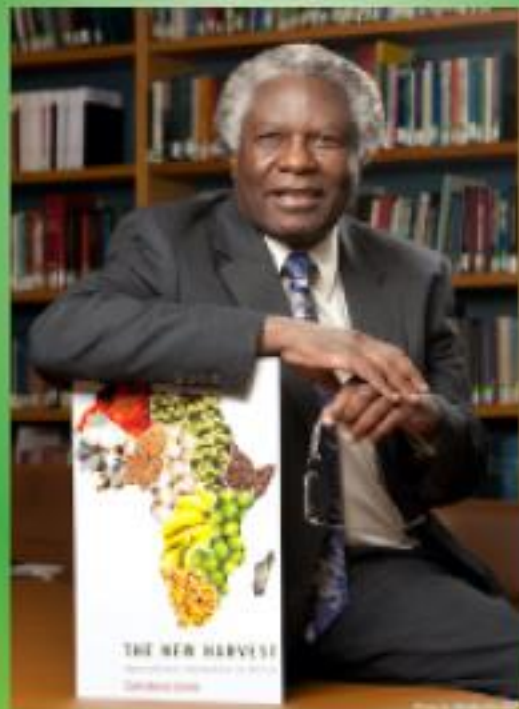


Executive Summary

Prof. Calestous Juma Seminar Series

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Re-Igniting Africa's Industrialization through Innovation

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The inaugural Prof. Calestous Juma Seminar Series knowledge and innovation for development was held on 12th -13th August 2021 under the theme re-igniting Africa's industrialization through innovation. It was jointly organized by the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and the Calestous Juma Legacy Foundation (CJLF). The event provided the occasion for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between ACTS and CJLF. The first day featured an insightful keynote address by Prof. Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka of the African Development Bank (AfDB) which focused on five key themes relating to industrialization in Africa: the renewed debate on industrialization, the reason for the continent's poor industrialization record, consequences of relying on natural resources and the next steps for Africa. This was followed by an exciting discussion session specifically on inclusivity in the industry and health security interface, the role of diaspora in Africa's industrialization, prospects for the Africa's informal sector in the 4IR era, key policy agendas for Africa's future and green development prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

The second day focused on innovation and renewable electrification in developing countries with key insights on important opportunities for local economic development which discussed new paradigms for understanding green transformation and sustainable industrialization highlighting the opportunities and constraints for local capability building and the scope for local policy action. The discussions were based on a study on the IREK project *"Building Innovation Capabilities for Sustainable Industrialization: Renewable Electrification in Developing Economies"*. It featured discussions on local capability building, local capabilities in renewable energy, innovative capabilities in solar PV firms in Kenya and Tanzania, the importance of local content issues in fostering sustainable industrialization and policies for appropriate pathways in energy and sustainable industrialization. It also featured discussant interventions from key experts.

Limited to dependence on natural resources, limited local manufacturing, increased concentration of industrial activity specialized in high value added activities and serving international markets, and high dependence on imports, reflecting uneven manufacturing and innovation capabilities emerged as the key challenges facing Africa's industrialization. Deriving from these discussions, several recommendations were put forth as outlined below:

- Africa must pursue an active industrial strategy and take agribusiness as the base; this is where it finds its competitive advantage while continuing to promote other industries and the services sector.
- There is need to use clustering and agglomeration as an industrial policy instrument. Special economic zones are models of industrial strategies integral instrument of industrial policy that stimulate clustering.
- Africa needs to build sectoral innovation and production systems for better health.
- African countries need to find ways to identify and share benefits in health and industry through mutual learning.
- There is need to enhance the contributions of the informal economy, ensuring that innovations emerging from the informal sector are recognized and captured by improving measurements, building non-traditional partnerships and involving formal and informal sector associations with other formal actors in the national innovation system.

- African government should enact policies that strengthens innovation and technological capabilities in informal enterprises as a bottom-up root to industrialization.
- African government and private players need to ensure co-benefits from access to clean energy projects recognize innovation in projects and encourage innovation in areas that currently lack innovation.
- It is imperative to develop strategies for enhancing local participation in global renewable value chains and have more local active involvement in related project lifecycles by reducing dependence on external actors