



**Strengthening the capacity of African countries and institutions to harness science, technology and innovation for sustainable and inclusive development**

## About ACTS

The African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) is a non-profit and non-partisan Inter-governmental think-tank, whose core mandate is to pursue policy-oriented research to strengthen the capacity of African countries and institutions to harness science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable development. Founded in 1988 by the renowned African scientist and scholar, the late Prof. Calestous Juma, the Centre is mandated to undertake capacity building, conduct research, provide advisory services and disseminate information on the policy aspects of the application of STI for sustainable development in Africa. Since its founding, ACTS has been instrumental in enlarging the range of policy choices for sustainable development in Africa. Over the last quarter century, ACTS' work has influenced patent (i.e. industrial property) legislation and policy (Kenya); environmental impact assessment standards (Eastern and Southern Africa); bioenergy and biofuels policy (Kenya, Eastern Africa, West Africa); agricultural policy, bio-diplomacy, biotechnology and biosafety (Africa-wide); climate change adaptation and mitigation (Africa-wide). ACTS remains among the leading institutions working on sustainable development in Africa. In 2013, it was rated amongst the top environment think-tanks in Africa and the world. ACTS is also a past winner (1991) of the Justinian Rweyemamu Prize from CODESRIA (Africa's Social Science Research Council) for its work in expanding the knowledge base for Africa's development.

## Value Proposition

- To conduct high quality research, policy analysis, capacity building and outreach on the application of science, technology and innovation policies for sustainable development.
- To facilitate and convene evidence-based policy dialogue and debates.
- To inform, influence and enhance development theory, policy and practice.
- To put critical issues of science, technology and innovation on the development agenda, with special focus on agriculture, food and nutrition security, climate change and energy.
- To provide independent and objective policy advice to African governments and institutions, regional economic communities, private sector, civil society and put issues critical to Africa's development on global, regional and national agenda.
- To broker and leverage STI research, knowledge and expertise for development policy and practice in Africa.



## Programmes

ACTS is committed towards supporting African countries and institutions to tap into the enormous potential of STI for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development through five programmatic areas as outlined below:



### **Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security (AFNS)**

This programme aims to accelerate sustainable, inclusive agri-food systems' transformation for food and nutrition security through cutting-edge STI-focused, policy-relevant research and knowledge brokerage. The programme contributes to the efforts of the African Union (AU) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to enhance food and nutrition security and improve livelihoods in Africa through harnessing STI for sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems. Activities under the AFNS programme are motivated by food insecurity, under-nourishment and dietary transitions; impact of climate change and other emerging shocks on resilience of agri-food system; regionalisation and agri-food systems' transformation through trade; and the challenge of post-harvest loss and waste and the imperative to accelerate sustainable agroindustry.



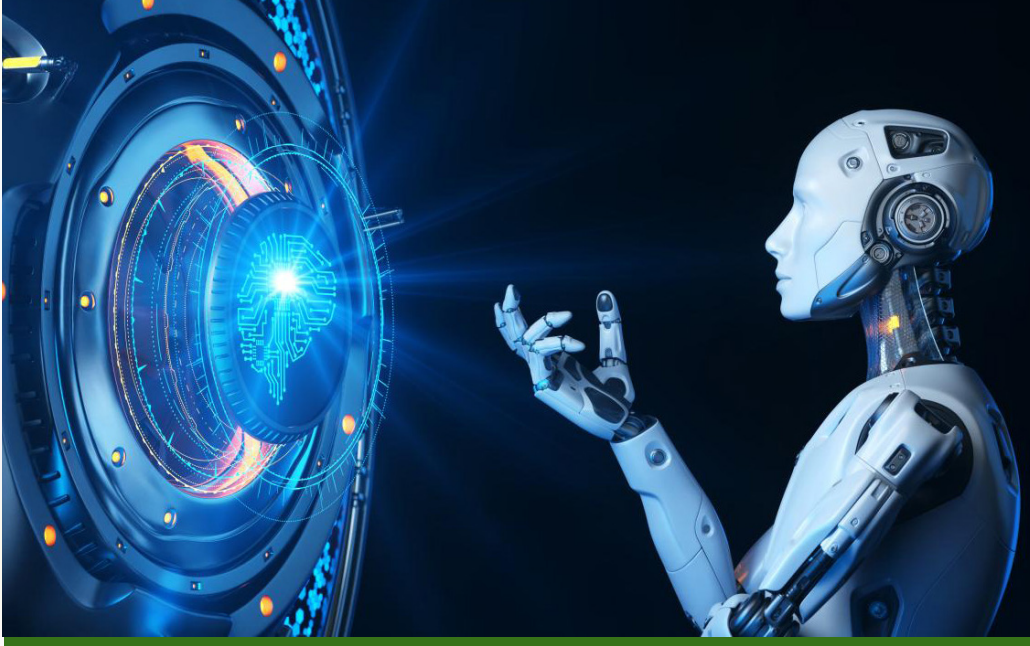
### **Climate Resilient Economies (CRE)**

The programme provides policy choices that support the generation, uptake and harnessing of climate change-related STI for sustainable and diversified livelihoods, socio-economic development and bio diversity conservation in Africa. Through these efforts, the programme expects to create an inclusive, pro-poor and thriving climate change resilient economies for economic, social and environmental sustainability in Africa. The programme is keen on supporting development of enabling capacities, policies, organisations and institutions for harnessing applications of climate change-related sciences, technologies and innovations for energy access and security, water quality and security, bio diversity and natural resource management in Africa.



### **Science, Technology & Innovation, Knowledge and Society (STIKS)**

The STIKS programme envisions an African continent that effectively creates and utilises research findings on the interplay between STI, knowledge and society to formulate development strategies, policies and practice. To achieve this vision, the programme undertakes key STI research and supports the development of a cadre of researchers, analysts, policy makers, entrepreneurs, businesses and communities in Africa on the interplay of STI, knowledge and society, specifically related to the African context.



## **Digital Economy (DE)**

The programme aims to enhance the development, deployment and adoption of responsible digital technologies for sustainable and inclusive development in Africa through capacity building, policy research and technology brokerage. To unlock the potential of state-of-the-art digital technologies - such as 4th industrial revolution technologies for driving the economies of African countries.



## **Gender, Youth and Inclusive Development (GYID)**

The programme aims to empower women, youth and vulnerable groups to harness science, technology and innovation for economic, social and environmental sustainability in Africa. It strives to achieve this goal by providing policy choices that exploit the potential of women, youth and other marginalised groups to harness STI for sustainable and diversified livelihoods and socio-economic development in Africa. The programme recognises the potential of STI's role in enhancing the contribution of women to sustainable development in Africa. The programme works closely with the other programmes to ensure gender issues are mainstreamed into programmatic activities.

## Key Select Projects

#	Project	Funding Agency
<b>Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security (AFNS)</b>		
1	Scaling-up Solar Drying to Reduce Post-Harvest Losses (PHL) in Kenya.	Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)
2	Building High Level Support and National Capacities to Enhance Climate and Ozone Protection Through Cooling Efficiency- ACES/ CCH Project.	Department For Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK)
3	A Circular Bioeconomy for the Kenyan Dairy Sector (VALORISE).	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
<b>Climate Resilient Economies (CRE)</b>		
4	Aquaculture of seaweeds and fish: Opportunities for blue economic empowerment and Covid-19 resilience of fisher women in Kenya (Blue Empowerment Project).	IDRC
5	Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS).	FCDO
6	Delivering the Capacity Strengthening Hub for the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) Initiative (CS-Hub).	IDRC
7	Agrivoltaics Project - co-utilisation of land for agricultural production, solar energy and water harvesting.	Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the University of Sheffield
<b>Science, Technology &amp; Innovation, Knowledge and Society (STIKS)</b>		
8	The African Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (AfricaLics).	SIDA
9	Supporting Science Granting Councils (SGCs) to manage research and Innovation projects.	IDRC
10	Use of Evidence in Policy and Decision Making (EVIPOL2).	IDRC/SIDA/FCDO/NORAD
11	Transforming Climate Innovation Ecosystems through Inclusive Transdisciplinarity (TransCIIT) project.	British Council
12	Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation(TRCTI).	South African National Research Foundation
13	Circular Retrofitting for Sustainable Industrialization (GeckoCir.	DANIDA
<b>Digital Economy (DE)</b>		
14	Green Digital Innovation Hub (gDIH).	GIZ
15	Artificial Intelligence for Development Africa (AI4D Africa) Scholarship Project.	IDRC/SIDA
16	Monitoring, Management and Mitigation of Environmental Challenges with Collaborative Data Analytics and Machine Learning for Sustainable Development.	Africa UniNet
17	Benchmarking the Control of Kenya's Research in Dual-Use Technologies, Against Global Standards.	CRDF Global



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