



EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
COMMISSION (EASTECO)



Press Release

**EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (EASTECO) 1ST REGIONAL
STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

AND

**SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS INITIATIVE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA FIRST ANNUAL REGIONAL
MEETING**

Kigali, 22nd – 26th August, 2016

The **East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO)**, **Rwanda's National Commission of Science and Technology (NCST)**, and the **Science Granting Councils Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI)** are organizing the first annual regional meeting under the theme *"Science, technology and innovation for socio-economic development, regional integration and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals"*.

EASTECO is an organization of the East African Community (EAC) mandated to promote and coordinate the development, management and application of science, technology and innovation in the EAC partner states. Jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), the SGCI is a 5-year initiative that aims to strengthen capacities of Science Granting Councils in order to support research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The first two days (22nd-23rd August) will aim to build consensus among East African Community's Science and Technology and Innovation (STI) stakeholders on regional Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy priorities, and to develop a guiding framework for the development and application of Science, Technology and Innovation to accelerate the socio – economic development in the EAC region. The participants for this session will include EAC heads of Science Granting Councils, institutions dealing with industrial research and representatives from universities, the private sector, civil society, and other Regional Economic Communities.

The subsequent three days (24th -26th August) will be devoted to discussions on the SGCI's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework and a training course on the fundamentals of research management for representatives of Science Granting Council from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ghana, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe. This session will also be attended by organizations providing training support to Science Granting Council staff.

The regional meeting is jointly funded by the EAC Partnership Fund, Rwanda's National Commission of Science and Technology (NCST), United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF).