



COMESA EXPERIENCES ON STI

Presentation at the EASTECO First Regional Stakeholder Meeting

By Benedict Musengele
Senior Research Fellow, COMESA

Kigali, Rwanda

www.comesa.int



Outline

- ❖ **Introduction**
- ❖ **COMESA STI Strategy**
- ❖ **COMESA STI Initiatives**
- ❖ **Progress in Implementing STI Programme**

COMESA- 19 Member States

1. Burundi 
2. Comoros 
3. D R Congo 
4. Djibouti 
5. Egypt 
6. Eritrea 
7. Ethiopia 
8. Kenya 
9. Libya 
10. Madagascar 

11. Malawi 
12. Mauritius 
13. Rwanda 
14. Seychelles 
15. Sudan 
16. Swaziland 
17. Uganda 
18. Zambia 
19. Zimbabwe 

COMESA MAP

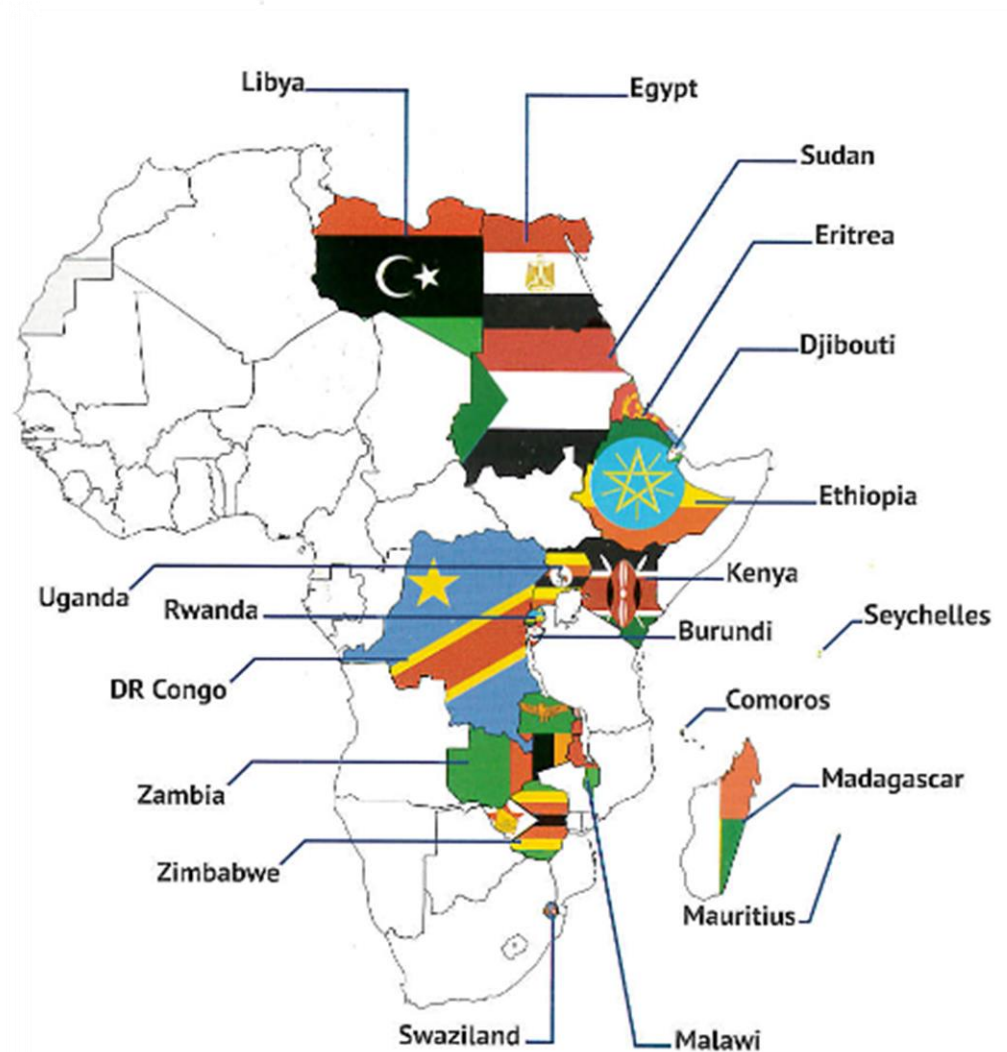
Size: 11.6 Million sq. km

Population: 482 million

Gross Domestic Product : \$667 billion

Annual Imports: US\$ 209 billion

Annual Exports: US\$ 105 billion



Introduction

- African leaders place increasing emphasis on the role of STI
- COMESA recognizes the importance of STI
- COMESA Treaty under Article 100(d) calls for collaboration to promote “industrial research and development”.
- COMESA STI Programme focuses on:
 - a) Specialization and branding at the national level;
 - b) Building linkages between the clusters and the universities;
 - c) Incubation of businesses with the assistance of universities;
 - d) Development of skills to search for existing technologies for absorption into the clusters;

COMESA STI Strategy

- Provides guidelines on where to make strategic investments.
- Focuses on the following priorities:
 - a) To establish Science and Technology Parks, and Artisanal and Industrial Clusters;
 - b) To establish a COMESA Innovation Fund;
 - c) To harmonize ICT curricula in the region;
 - d) To create a data base of scientists and engineers that can be organized and networked to provide a critical mass of expertise to advance the STI program;

COMESA STI Programme Cont...

- e) To develop master plans and blueprints for harnessing knowledge from around the world;
- f) To develop programmes for commercialization of research and development, and its results;
- g) To coordinate and harmonize national frameworks on STI;
- h) To promote nanotechnology, biotechnology and new materials such as polymers; and
- i) To allocate at least 1% of GDP to research and development.

COMESA STI Initiatives

- 2012 established a COMESA Innovation Council.
- Made up of eminent persons drawn from academia, business and government
- Provides advice to Member States on new knowledge and innovations, and best ways of applying the knowledge and innovations.
- Chooses annual winners of the COMESA Innovation Award

Progress in Implementing STI Programme

1. Developed an STI strategy
2. A technical committee on Science and technology
3. Ministerial Committee on Science and technology which is operational.
4. Considering the possibility for collaboration in television white spaces.
5. 5 areas for collaboration on the white spaces: Education, health, energy, agriculture and climate change.
6. COMESA Innovation Awards were launched in 2013.
7. The awards recognize and celebrate individuals and institutions.

Progress in Implementing STI Programme Cont...

8. In the process of establishing a Virtual University of regional integration
9. Organizes annual research forums.
10. Designated the following as COMESA Regional Centers of Excellence and Science and Technology Parks:
 - a) Kenya: Fablab at the University of Nairobi, the Agro-Park Project at Egerton University, and the ICT cluster in Nairobi;
 - b) Malawi: Malawi University of Science and Technology, the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the Biwi Industrial Park;

Progress in Implementing STI Programme Cont...

- a) Mauritius: The Business Research Incubation Centre and the Centre of Excellence for Biomedical and Biomaterials;
- b) Swaziland: The Royal Science and Technology Park;
- c) Egypt: the Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre;
- d) Sudan: Renewable Energy Centre, National Research Centre, and the Applied Science Academy located in the Africa City of Technology; and
- e) Uganda: e-Government Academy.



Thank you

www.comesa.int