# OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE A VIBRANT RESEARCH CULTURE IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN KENYA

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# Outline of presentation

- Introduction
- How to boost research in universities
- Policies and implementation strategies
- Challenges to research outputs
- Recommendations
- Discussion

# Introduction

- A nation's level of cultural, political, social and economic development is linked to its research and innovations output

- Universities are centres of knowledge production and generation expected to play a pivotal role in national research output

- Apart from teaching and community service, research is a core mandate of universities.

- In many universities in Africa, research output has been declining compared with the developed nations

- Research activities in Kenyan universities are at very low levels.

- Universities must lay ground for a strong and vibrant research culture for faculty members and students

# Introduction (Continued)

**Research status at universities**

- Africa contributes only 2% of global knowledge, dominated by South Africa, Egypt and Nigeria

- Kenya's research output is ranked sixth in Africa behind South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Tunisia and Algeria

- Africa contributes only 0.2% global innovations; contributes only 6.6% on patents

- Africa contributes only 0.7% of world research publications-low input in high impact journals

- Over 70% of lecturers in private universities have never published; Over 5% of lecturers in private universities have never attended even one conference

# How to boost research in universities

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| **Enhance research skills among staff.** | **(i) Train staff in research methods and paradigms especially proposal writing**<br><br>**(ii) Strengthen research infrastructure** |
| **Enhance research capacity.** | (i) Provide modalities for institutional and collaborative research, consultation and other stakeholders' control, and evaluation<br><br>(ii) Enhance academic linkages<br><br>(iii) Allocate funds in the university budget<br><br>(iv) Promote research proposal writing. |

# How to boost research in universities

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| **Enhance post-graduate research and training.** | (i) Develop postgraduate degree curricula<br>(ii) Assemble required academic resources<br>(iii) Publications from students and staff |
| **Increase the quantity and relevance of research output.** | (i) Develop guidelines for attracting competitive research grants. |

# How to boost research in universities

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| **Utilize research results.** | (i) **Develop collaboration with private and public sectors.** |
| **Protect intellectual property rights (IPR).** | (i) Comply with IPR legislation |
| **Promote corporate image and promote social responsibility.** | (i) Establish community outreach programmes |
| **Ensure that research results and technologies are effectively disseminated to stakeholders** | (i) Set mechanisms for preparing researches.<br>(ii) Provide a forum for presentation of research findings and innovations.<br>(i) Set modalities for sharing research information through electronic and print media.<br>(ii) Create a forum of interactive feedback mechanisms. |

# Policies and implementation strategies

- Research policy , university linkage policy and intellectual property policy of the university
- Identify Research priorities areas for the schools and departments
- Proposal and publication review committee from the schools and departments
- Identify from faculty members and students innovative ideas from their research and facilitate researchers in the implementation
- Research funding: public, private, institution
- Active University research committee, School research committees, departmental research committee, campus research committees

# Challenges to research outputs

- Insufficient funding for research leading to scarcity of resources (computer software and hardware, well-stocked libraries and laboratories) and other equipment.
- Lack of access to quality and relevant research publications
- Qualification of faculty members
- Brain drain
- Time / balancing teaching and research
- Lack of mentors
- Lack of motivation and remuneration
- Nepotism
- Lack of institutional support
- Lack of relevant materials

# RECOMMENDATIONS

**Individual lecturers:**

> ➤ Accept research as essential part of workload

> ➤ Seek internal and external collaboration

**School and students**

➤ Encourage publication by students

➤ Provide internal funding and resources/facilities for    research

➤ Provide release time for research

➤ Encourage mentorship by senior academics (collaborative projects)

➤ Utilize novel technologies for commercialization (**Enterprise Development) i.e link research to commercial products**

# I officially open Research Awareness Workshop

## THANK YOU

# END