## Ecosystem Recommendations

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<tr>
<th>ECOSYSTEM CHALLENGE</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
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| Connecting Research & Industry   | • Promote stories of research use  
• Enhance communication training for researchers  
• Work with journalists to help explain and communicate their findings  
• Develop stronger, more targeted advocacy campaigns for industry investment in research  
• Invest in dedicated capacity building for staff to manage research-industry partnerships and programs |
| Strengthening the Innovation Talent Pool | • Embed more business training into curricula  
• Promote sharing of pathways and best practices for technology transfer  
• Agree on a ‘core’ curriculum of essential entrepreneurship skillsets  
• Agree on a shared definition of innovation to enable better communication  
• Democratise access to innovation training opportunities through free / subsidised funding models  
• Open up learning channels so that ‘everywhere becomes a classroom’ |
| Integrating Research into Policy | • Establish a partnership with Government to facilitate a fellowship program of scientists working within Government  
• Form an inclusive committee to identify national research priorities and appropriate funding mechanisms  
• Promote the co-production of research articles between government and academia |
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| Growing Domestic Investment for Innovation| - Promote the value of an innovation / entrepreneurial culture  
- Provide training on negotiating intellectual property rules and regulations  
- More applied R&D in partnership with businesses  
- More demand-driven vocational education courses focusing on transferable skills and technology diffusion  
- Encourage research and case studies promoting the value of domestic investment in innovative products and services |
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| **Improving Approaches to Finding High-Impact Innovations** | • Provide explicit training to students on how to apply for funding from different sources, and the factors that may influence how their application is reviewed  
• Conduct research to support greater clarity around priority issues / areas where innovation is most needed, and the barriers that may exist. |
| **Helping Innovators achieve Financial Sustainability** | • Ensure curricula reflect support for business model design and development  
• Research, design and/or evaluate innovative financing products to help encourage their uptake by private sector, governments and international agencies  
• Conduct comparative research into different regulatory and policy environments to understand the benefits and drawbacks of different models  
• Undertake research into appropriate innovations for different target markets, and the behaviour change / adoption models that prove effective in stimulating uptake |
| **Helping Innovators secure Partnerships for Scale** | • Include training and mapping tools for (eco)system analysis in curricula, as well as horizon scanning techniques to help budding entrepreneurs predict trends and opportunities  
• Engage future scaling partners in the design of research and initial prototyping of innovations  
• Link with brokering institutions such as the African Academy of Sciences to help innovators and researchers connect with partners  
• Broaden incentive structures for researchers beyond publication (e.g. royalty schemes) |
| **Engaging the Last Mile Farmer** | • Train a new cohort of extension agents around the benefits and barriers of working with ‘last mile’ communities  
• Research and explore new models of ‘last mile’ engagement  
• Research into the needs of last mile farmers as regards appropriate types of information and data on potential markets for their produce |
| **Attracting more Young People as ‘Agripreneurs’** | • Promote courses that frame agriculture as a respected profession and career  
• Invite guest lecturers / speakers to talk about the opportunities and value of agricultural innovation for both individuals and the country  
• Conduct research into higher value farming methods and more nutritious crops to attract more entrepreneurial youth into agriculture |
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<td>Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for Innovation</td>
<td>• Research and showcase good (and bad) examples of public-private partnerships, extracting best practices and tools to help both sides better understand and work with each other</td>
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<td>Enabling Policy to Keep Pace with Innovation</td>
<td>• Develop new tools and training courses to support production and analysis of big data sets • Review institutional data access policies to identify opportunities for greater sharing • Provide research to government policymakers in a more timely and digestible format</td>
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<td>Measuring and Monitoring the Innovation Ecosystem</td>
<td>• Support the creation of standards and incentives for meaningful data sharing across ecosystem actors • Provide different kinds of data collection, data management and data analysis training for different actors within the ecosystem • Research case studies of different innovation partnerships and transactions among ecosystem players to help identify good practices</td>
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<td>Determining a Role for Government in an Innovation Ecosystem</td>
<td>• Conduct comparative research analyses of different ecosystem models and actors to extract cross-cutting learning around optimal roles and responsibilities for government</td>
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<td>Making Innovation Work for the Poor</td>
<td>• Continued qualitative and quantitative research into disadvantaged populations to identify needs / wants where innovation may contribute • Research into existing and potential market opportunities and consumer power among base of the pyramid communities • Continue to conduct research and build the evidence base of ‘what works’ in order to reduce duplicative efforts and mitigate risks / disruption to disadvantaged populations • Create ethical guidelines for innovation testing and development</td>
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<td>Designing and Managing a National Innovation Ecosystem</td>
<td>• Develop and/or share tools and approaches to defining ecosystem actors and mapping relationships and value chains between them • Partner with government to undertake research into different parts of the ecosystem and assess barriers, blockages and lessons learned</td>
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