



ISTIC
INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNESCO



EAST AFRICAN

Regional Workshop on Research Networking and Proposal Writing

**Murang'a University of Technology,
Murang'a, Kenya
29 April - 2 May 2024**

Hosted by:



Partners:



ASTePI
African Science,
Technology and
Policy Institute

BACKGROUND

As early as 2017, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (<https://www.unesco.org/en/recommendation-science>) observed that research is an enabling and an equalization tool for development. Comparatively, the global south contributes less in terms of scientific output and this low contribution to innovation has led to increased poverty levels and lower human development standards.

To raise the capacity for research and to increase contribution to scientific outputs and innovation, training in research networking and proposal writing is mandatory. A good proposal is not only a key factor in securing funding but also serves as a powerful tool to communicate the value and feasibility of the research project to potential funders. Grant awards not only offer the backing needed for ambitious projects but also stand as a testament to the importance and potential impact of one's work.

However, in today's competitive funding landscape, many organizations face challenges in crafting well-structured and persuasive grant proposals, limiting their access to funding opportunities. The process of identifying, pursuing, and securing grants is riddled with nuances that necessitate careful exploration. Whether one is a seasoned researcher or a budding academic, navigating this complex world of grants can be challenging,

Against this backdrop, the International Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC-UNESCO); National Research Fund, Kenya (NRF); Maseno University (MSU); The Technical University of Kenya (TUK); Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) and the African Science and Technology Policy Institute (ASTePI) joined forces to offer a research networking and proposal writing workshop for the early to middle career researchers.

Recognizing the importance of providing essential skills and knowledge for successful grant proposal development, the goal is to ensure that early to middle career researchers have access to the resources they need to thrive. This strategic approach not only promotes sustainability in research capacity but also cultivates a culture of collaboration and excellence across the global south.

This workshop marks the inaugural event in a series planned for the East Africa region, with future workshops set to cover other regions across Africa. By extending this initiative to a broader audience, its reach and impact are aimed to be maximized, fostering research capacity and innovation throughout the continent.

DURATION

The proposed training programme is a 4-day workshop, allowing for in-depth exploration of key concepts and providing ample time for practical exercises and discussions.

VENUE

Murang'a University of Technology (MUT)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Improved understanding of the process and skills in crafting clear, compelling, and well-structured proposals
2. Enhanced skills in crafting persuasive and impactful project narratives
3. Enhanced ability to navigate the grant application process, leading to increased success in securing funding for research projects
4. Increased proposal quality by improving the understanding of key elements, such as project design, objectives, methodologies, and expected outcomes.
5. Increased ability to develop realistic and comprehensive project budgets
6. Strengthened confidence in submitting successful grant proposals

ORGANIZERS

1. International Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC-UNESCO)
2. National Research Fund, Kenya (NRF-Kenya)
3. Murang'a University of Technology (MUT)
4. Maseno University (MSU)
5. The Technical University of Kenya (TUK)
6. African Science and Technology Policy Institute (ASTePI)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Prof. Chrispin Kowenje | Maseno University Kenya (Chair) |
| 2. Mdm Sharizad Dahlan | ISTIC-UNESCO, Malaysia |
| 3. Dr. Daniel Nyanganyura | FEAHLC / ASTePI, South Africa |
| 4. Dr. Dennis Masika | Maseno University Kenya |
| 5. Dr. Elly Tetty Osewe | Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) |
| 6. Prof. Dorothy Amwata | Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) |
| 7. Dr Denis Otieno | Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) |
| 8. Dr. George Okwadha | Technical University of Kenya (TUK) |
| 9. Ms. Sarah Mutua | Technical University of Kenya (TUK) |

TRAINERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Prof. Dr Manzoor H. Soomro | ISTIC-UNESCO |
| 2. Assoc Prof Dr Nor Ashikin Mohd Yusof | University Technology Malaysia (UTM) |
| 3. Dr. Daniel Nyanganyura | Future Earth Africa Hub Leadership Centre |

FUNDED BY

1. International Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC-UNESCO)
2. National Research Fund, Kenya (NRF-Kenya)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

All time are denoted at GMT+3 (Kenya Time)

DAY 1 - 29 April 2024 (Monday) Fundamentals of Grant Writing		
08:00 – 09:00	Registration	
Session 1: Workshop Opening		
09:00 – 10:00	Welcome Remarks Dr. Elly Tetty Osewe Murang'a University of Technology Opening Remarks Prof. Prisca J. Tuitoek Deputy Vice Chancellor ARSA of Murang'a University of Technology Prof Dickson M. Nyariki Vice-Chancellor of Murang'a University of Technology Prof Chrispin Kowenje Chair of Organizing Committee Prof Dickson Andala CEO, National Research Foundation Kenya Prof Dr ChM Mohd Basyaruddin Rahman Chair, ISTIC Governing Board	
10:00 – 10:30	Group Photo Session and Coffee Break	
Session 2: Scene-Setting and Overview of Research & Development on Understanding the Grant Landscape		
10:30 – 11:00	Workshop Briefing Solving problems through research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Types of research grant• Availability of funds & Funding agencies• Current / Hot topics in research (international / local)	Prof Manzoor Soomro
Session 3: Key Components of a Successful Proposal		
11:00 – 11:45	The Dos and Don'ts of a research proposal <i>(From evaluator's point of view)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top 10 features of a winning proposal• 10 reasons for failing a grant	Prof Manzoor Soomro

	application	
11:45 – 12:45	Wish List Versus Reality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify sponsor’s requirements, national aspirations. Identify the sponsor’s and national agenda. Reality checks on (i) academic qualification (ii) expertise & (iii) experience Converging and meeting research requirements with applicant’s personal @ academic interests	Prof Manzoor Soomro
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch	
Session 4: Practical & Hands-on Activities		
13:45 – 15:30	What makes a proposal good? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing a research proposal Identify the strengths and weakness of the proposal. <p>Participants work on developing their initial project concepts. <i>(Facilitators provide feedback and guidance)</i></p> <p>Steps towards developing Research Proposal (research area, research scope, research topic)</p> <p>Re-aligning background facts and statement of problems.</p>	AP Dr Nor Ashikin
Session 5: Group Discussion and Q&A		
15:45 – 16:30	Participants share insights and challenges <p>Addressing common questions about grant writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants’ issues and challenges in writing and securing grant 	Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin

DAY 2 – 30 April 2024 (Tuesday)
Navigating Funding Opportunities

Session 6: Identifying Suitable Funding Opportunities		
09:00 – 10:00	Strategies for Researching Funding Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where to find research funds *international/ local, government, industry Who are they / sponsors (in view of UNSCR 1540) When to apply? How to apply? 	Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin

	<p>Research collaborators / strategic partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying potential research collaborators / strategic partners Roles, responsibilities, expectations Contribution (in kind / \$) Intellectual property <p>Significant, Contribution, Output, Outcomes of research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the significance of research. Identify the potential output of research. Who to benefit from the research findings / end-users. How would end-users benefit from the research findings (eg MRDCS 7th) <p>Deliverables of research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many? What are they? When to deliver? Form of delivery 	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
Session 7: Funder’s Perspective		
10:30 – 12:00	Sharing from Belmont Forum	Belmont Forum
Session 8: Proposal Review and Feedback Session		
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Crafting & Developing A Potentially Winning Research Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research topic/ title. What do you do to prove? What others have done? What are the issues & problems related to the topic locally? What are the gaps? How do you establish the gaps? <p>Peer Review of Preliminary Project Concepts</p> <p>Individualized Feedback from Facilitators</p>	AP Dr Nor Ashikin
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 9: Building a Strong Research Questions and Objectives		
14:00 – 15:45	<p>Research Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do want to do? 	AP Dr Nor Ashikin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you expect to achieve? • How many RO do you need to meet the research goals? • Do they satisfy/ reflect the sponsor's requirement/ national aspirations / interests? <p>Research Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your research questions? • How would the questions help you to satisfy the research objectives? • Could they meet the sponsor's requirements? <p>Formulating Clear and Focused Research Questions</p> <p>Refining Project Objectives</p>	
Session 10: Hands-on Exercise: Literature Review and Proposal Contextualization		
15:45 – 16:30	<p>Participants share insights and challenges</p> <p>Addressing common questions about grant writing in this context</p>	<p>Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin</p>

DAY 3 – 1 May 2024 (Wednesday)
Developing a Comprehensive Proposal

Session 11: Methodology and Work Plan Development

09:00 – 10:00	<p>Designing robust research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time • Budget allocation • Overestimating of ability • Underestimating the research challenges (e.g. AYAM project) <p>Designing a robust research methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of research • Types of data required • Classification of data • Data owner • Ease of data accessibility • Research respondents n stakeholders • Sample size • Techniques of identifying research sample and respondents • How to obtain the data? • Methods of analyzing data • Sufficiency of (i) quantitative, (ii) qualitative data 	<p>AP Dr Nor Ashikin</p>
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	<p>Creating a Realistic Work Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of RO, time, budget, resources, and responsibility • Tweaking (i) merge, delete, simplify, (ii) more resources <p>Strong Research Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying Team Members, qualifications, expertise, experiences • Numbers and size of research team <p>Ethical Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical - patient • Animal • Children • Biosafety & biosecurity • Dual Use Technology 	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
Session 12: Budgeting and Resource Planning Workshop		
10:30 – 11:30	<p>Budgeting Strategies and Best Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocating Resources Effectively • Payment for subject matter experts • Benchmarking (outbound/ inbound) <p>Managing the Research Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting progress • Meeting date lines • Finance / expenditure 	Dr Daniel Nyanganyura
Session 13: Incorporating Evaluation and Impact Assessment		
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Strategies for Building Evaluation Mechanisms</p> <p>Demonstrating Project Impact</p>	Dr Daniel Nyanganyura
Session 14: Drafting the Proposal – Practical Session		
12:30 – 13:00	<p>Participants work on drafting sections of their proposals</p> <p>Facilitators provide real-time guidance and support</p> <p>Group / Individual Work (TBC)</p>	Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
Excursion		
14:00 – 18:00	<p>Mukurwe wa nyagathang</p> <p>Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin</p> <p>4 x RM400 = RM1,600</p>	

DAY 4 – 2 May 2024 (Thursday)
Finalizing and Presenting your Proposal

Session 17: Peer Review and Finalization		
09:00 – 10:00	Peer Review of Drafted Proposals Individual Consultations with Facilitators	Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
Session 18: Presentation Skills for Proposal Defense		
10:30 – 11:30	Deliverables	Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin
11:30 – 12:30	Communicating Effectively in Proposal Defense Handling Questions & Feedback	Prof Manzoor Soomro Dr Daniel Nyanganyura AP Dr Nor Ashikin
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
Session 19: Closing Remarks and Certificates		
12:30 – 13:00	Recap of Workshop Highlights	Prof Manzoor Soomro
13:00 – 13:30	Certificate Distribution and Closing Remarks	
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch and End of Workshop	

CONTACT PERSONS:

IN COUNTRY

1. Prof. Chrispin Kowenje: Email: ckowenje@maseno.ac.ke (Local Organizing Committee Chairperson)
2. Dr. Elly Tetty Osewe; Email: tosewe@mut.ac.ke
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ISTIC-UNESCO

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