

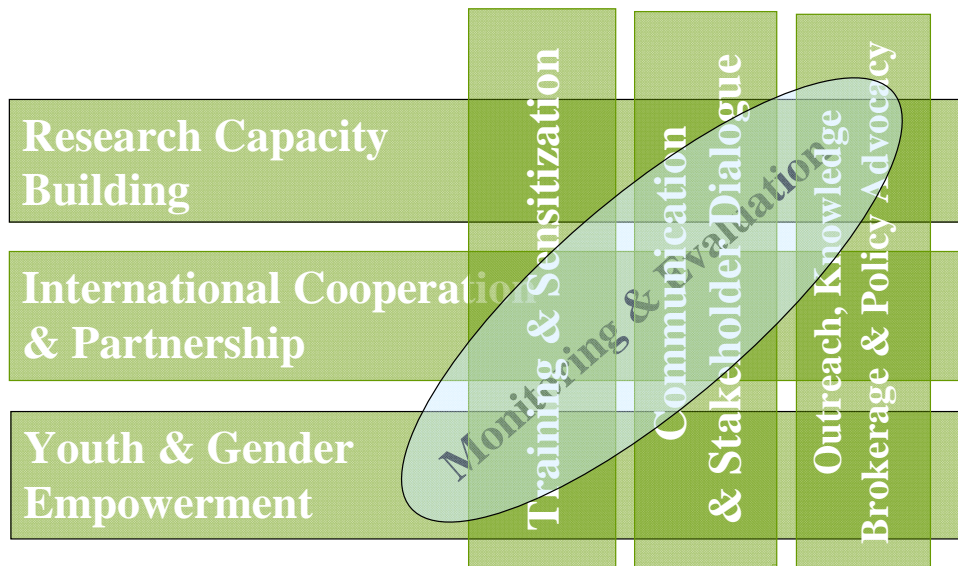
THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The following are the strategic priorities of the ATPS:

- a) Research Capacity Building (RCB)
- b) International Cooperation and Partnerships (ICP)
- c) Youth and Gender Empowerment (YGP)
- d) Training and Sensitization (TS)
- e) Communication and Stakeholder Dialogue (CSD)
- f) Outreach, Knowledge Brokerage & Policy Advocacy (OKBPA)
- g) Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)

These can be represented graphically as shown in Figure 1 below

Figure 1: ATPS Strategic Priorities:

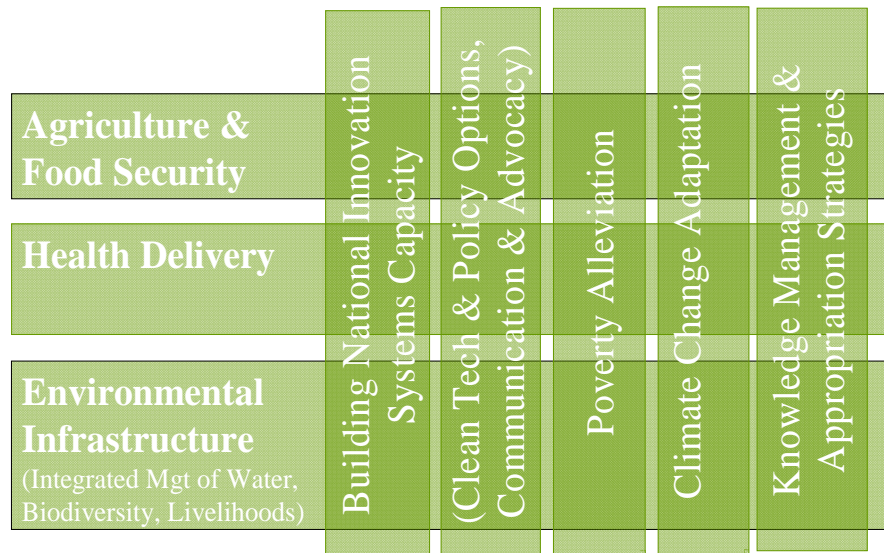


- A. Research Capacity Building (RCB):** All ATPS thematic research programs focus on facilitating innovation capacity development at individual and institutional levels. Each research program is therefore expected to include the "make" or "design" perspective, i.e. translation of the research outputs into "institutional" and/or "social engineering" designs, and/or cost effective "technical designs/technologies" that are necessary to the specific development and/or policy gaps addressed. To enhance the process, each research team is expected to include (or proactively engage) trans-disciplinary science experts; relevant policymakers and practitioners at all stages of the project cycle: from conception to implementation and dissemination of results.

The selected priority sectors for thematic research and research capacity building during the ATPS Phase VI Strategic Plan, 2008 – 2012 include: sustainable agriculture and food security, sustainable health delivery, and sustainable management of environmental infrastructure including integrated management of water, biodiversity and rural livelihoods. In each of the priority sectors, the research programs would focus on building national

innovation systems capacities for poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, and knowledge management and appropriation strategies. Other strategic priorities of the ATPS listed in Figure 1 above, forms integral parts of all thematic research capacity building programs.

Figure 2: Research Priority Sectors, Phase VI, 2008-2012



Details on the ongoing and recent ATPS research capacity building programs can be found under a different cover to be uploaded soon.

B. International Cooperation and Partnerships (ICP): The ICP program aims to create a culture of networking, symbiotic collaboration and partnership amongst institutions and individuals working on similar STI subject areas across regions, cultures, languages, countries and continents. The ultimate goal is to move towards a more coordinated effort rather than the current uncoordinated and sometimes conflicting approach towards STI policy research and policy making in the continent. This is built on the firm belief that effective cooperation and partnerships between institutions, regions and countries would lead to more cost effectiveness & greater policy impact. Each partner would bring comparative skills to projects and program initiatives and build synergies for greater and sustainable policy impacts. Such collaborations are guided by consortium agreements, memorandums of understanding or contracts depending on the nature of partnership established.

C. Youth and Gender Empowerment (YGP): The African Youth Forum for Science & Technology (AYFST) was initiated in collaboration with the Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CTA), The Netherlands in 2005 to build a culture of STI amongst African youths. This is achieved through small grants for STI research capacity building; targeted training and sensitization, outreach, peer to peer dialogue/mentoring scheme, Youth internship programs, Expert mentoring programs; and other forms of capacity building initiatives including a recently launched Youth Innovation Challenge Program (YICP) and Women Innovation Challenge Program (WICP). The AYFST has recorded tremendous success to date with a self-governed membership spanning more than 17

African countries and the Diaspora [learn more](#). The African Women Forum for Science and Technology is a mirror initiative launched in 2008 with the aim to achieve similar awakening on STI amongst African women. The overarching goal of both programs is to instigate the cultures of innovation amongst African youths and women and build their confidence in the generation, use, mastery and self-governance of African STI for African development.

D. Training and Sensitization (TS): The TS program is designed to train members in different aspects of STI policy research, policy making and policy practice. The aim is to build necessary skills and technical capacity for kick-starting and sustaining a culture of autonomous innovation in the continent. Training programs cover subjects such as STI policy research methodologies, STI policy formulation and policy implementation, Communicating S&T to Parliamentarians, STI Journalism & writing for the fourth estate, science writing, writing policy briefs, STI art (drama, cartoons, and other forms of art), audio-vision, telling science stories in local languages, etc. The training stakeholders range from primary school children to Members of Parliament and top decision makers in Africa.

E. Communication and Stakeholder Dialogue (CSD): The CSD program is designed to ensure that program & project concepts, design, implementation and output dissemination are effectively shared and owned by all end-users. CSD is therefore considered as an integral part of the program conception, design, and implementation and dissemination process to ensure that program activities and program outputs are communicated in forms that are easily understood, internalized and applied to address individual and collective needs. All knowledge communities (both tacit and codified knowledge) are considered important in all phases of the CSD process. All stakeholders are proactively engaged throughout the research process from problem definition to results dissemination and use using the ATPS PQR Framework. The proactive engagement of stakeholders at all stages of the research process ensures that communication is a continuous ongoing process with each knowledge community (local communities, policy makers, practitioners and scientists) to ensure effective targeting of research efforts and ownership of the results, and enhanced valorization. By valorization here, we mean translation of scientific outputs into tangible social designs, institutional designs, technologies and products to aid poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

F. Outreach, Knowledge Brokerage & Policy Advocacy (OKBPA): The OKBPA program is designed to bridge the gaps the actors in the STI valorization chain: the scientists, the policymakers, the private sector actors, civil society, and local communities. ATPS outreach programs is built on the premise that unless science outputs are taken from the big libraries and internal journals to the streets, farms and local communities, the value added to funded research programs will be significantly limited. The knowledge brokerage function of the ATPS is built on the premise that there is so much wealth of knowledge (science, technologies and innovation) in the global

knowledge community that are not effectively translated to development efforts locally due to information asymmetry and other knowledge appropriation constraints. On the other hand, there is still a big gap between the different actors: African policy makers, scientists, practitioners and local communities. The ATPS therefore acts as a broker between knowledge and technology generators, the policy makers, the private sector, and local communities on the one hand, and between regions and countries on the other. Through Scientific Revival Days for Africa, press conferences, social networking at the regional & national chapter levels, annual conferences, targeted round table discussions, breakfast meetings, policy briefings, etc, the ATPS brings STI to stakeholders and vice versa. The aim is to encourage effective knowledge (technology) sharing between actors, between regions and between continents, while taking into account the need for adequate mechanisms for effective knowledge appropriation and adaptation strategies. The policy advocacy function of the ATPS focuses on advocating effective translation of STI knowledge into suitable policies, governance conditions and institutions to enhance effective and responsible innovations for development in Africa.

G. Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME): PME is an integral part of all ATPS activities. Depending on the nature of activity, peer review and stakeholder workshops are organized at regular intervals at both regional and national levels. In addition to the overall regional coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all programs by the ATPS secretariat, the national chapter coordinators provides on the ground coordination, monitoring and evaluation of national activities. All Thematic research programs are also coordinated by a team of dedicated international experts in the relevant area (Resource Persons) who provides external supervision and monitoring of the implementation and science quality of ATPS programs, delivery of required STI outputs and policy outcomes. In addition, the ATPS responsible STI Advisory Committee provides continuous peer review of the quality of outputs produced. The ATPS Board which provides strategic guidance on all ATPS activities meets twice each year to monitor progress towards stated program objectives, and approve planned activities and budgets. The general membership of the network also meets annually to review activities of the Network and prioritize programs for the year based on the needs of the country chapters.