



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (EASTECO)

**LAUNCH OF
SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION GRANT INITIATIVE FOR EAST AFRICA
COOPERATIVE GRANT INITIATIVE -COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT
Nairobi – KENYA, 25th SEPTEMBER 2018**

PRESS RELEASE

EASTECO to Launch Regional Collaborative Research Grant

East African Science and Technology Commission, Kigali 24th September 2018: The East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) will launch a regional collaborative research grant, called Cooperation Grant Initiative (CGI) on 24th September 2018 in Nairobi. The aims of the initiative is to strengthen the capacity of Science Granting Councils (SGCs) through scientific cooperation with each other and with other science system actors.

Currently, members of the SGCs in the initiative include Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) of Rwanda, and the National Research Fund (NRF) of Kenya. The initiative is coordinated by the EASTECO, and the collaborating partners include the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) and the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO).

A major milestone for the CGI was the publication of the first call for research proposals in June 2018. The aim of the call was to provide funds to support research and innovation in the manufacturing sector, with focus on regional processing. The objectives are to support knowledge exchange between research institutions, and the private sector, and to strengthen partnerships between science granting councils and other science system actors. Grantees of the first

competitive call will be issued letters of grant award during the launch. The launch will be attended by policymakers from EAC Partner States' Governments and public organizations, representatives of academia, research and development institutions, the private Sector, development Partners and the civil society among others.

The launch of a homegrown regional research grant opens up a new chapter in support to regional collaborative research and will facilitate access to research funds for projects that address issues that affect the Community. In addition, the collaborative, multidisciplinary and regional nature of the funding will promote networking among researchers and technologists, focus on cross boundary issues holistic approaches, thereby facilitate achievement of regional integration and advancement of socio economic development across the region. The initiative is supported by contribution from partnering Science Granting Councils and development partners including Canadian International Development Research Cooperation (IDRC).

About EASTECO

EASTECO is a semi-autonomous institution of the East African Community (EAC), which is mandated to promote and coordinate the development, management and application of science, technology and innovation to support regional integration and socio-economic development. EASTECO. The commission therefore coordinates and facilitates the activities of the EAC Partner States and national science and technology institutions to promote the development and application of science, technology and innovation in all its aspects. Pursuant to this mandate, the commission published the First Competitive Call for Proposals for research grant in June 2018.

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