



Innovation Hubs and Ecosystem Dynamics in Kigali's Startup Landscape, 2008

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Abstract

Innovation hubs have become critical components in fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems, particularly in rapidly growing cities like Kigali, Rwanda, which is emerging as a significant hub for startups and innovation. A comprehensive literature review was conducted, analysing case studies from various innovation hubs in Kigali, along with secondary data on startup activities and community engagement. Key themes emerged regarding the role of mentorship programmes and networking events in enhancing startups' growth opportunities within these hubs. A notable finding is that over 70% of startups participating in hub-based mentorship programmes reported increased funding prospects. The review underscores the importance of strategic partnerships between government, private sector entities, and academic institutions to sustain vibrant innovation hubs in Kigali's startup ecosystem. Recommendations include the establishment of more formalized mentorship programmes and increased investment in digital infrastructure to support remote participation by startups from various regions.

Keywords: *Rwanda, Innovation Hubs, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Network Analysis, Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Socioeconomic Dynamics, Technological Incubators*

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