



Innovation Hubs and Start-up Ecosystems in Kigali, Rwanda: A Survey Research

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Published: 14 April 2007 | **Received:** 04 December 2006 | **Accepted:** 17 February 2007

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18858824](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18858824)

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Abstract

In recent years, Rwanda has emerged as a hub for innovation across various sectors, including technology and entrepreneurship. Kigali, the capital city, is at the forefront of these developments with growing numbers of startups and established hubs. A structured online questionnaire was administered to a diverse sample of entrepreneurs, investors, and incubators in Kigali. The data collected were analysed using statistical software for comprehensive insights into the ecosystem's dynamics. The survey revealed that approximately 45% of surveyed entities reported increased collaboration opportunities facilitated by these hubs, indicating their significant role in promoting innovation within Kigali's startup community. This study underscores the crucial function of innovation hubs and startup ecosystems in catalyzing entrepreneurial activity and technological progress in Kigali. The findings suggest a need for enhanced support structures to further strengthen this ecosystem. Recommendations include fostering more collaborative initiatives between existing hubs, promoting access to funding and talent, and developing standardised metrics for evaluating the efficacy of these hubs.

Keywords: *African Innovation Hubs, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Network Analysis, Socioeconomic Indicators, Technological Development, Geographic Information Systems, Qualitative Research Methods*

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