



Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in East Africa: A Survey Analysis

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs have been identified as critical components for fostering economic growth in many regions. In East Africa, these structures play a significant role in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), enhancing access to finance, knowledge sharing, and market opportunities. The research methodology involves a comprehensive survey analysis across Algeria, with data collected through structured questionnaires distributed among stakeholders including entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and academic institutions. A total of 120 responses were analysed to gather insights into the functioning of entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs. A notable finding is that while there are several active hubs in urban areas, rural participation remains relatively low, suggesting a need for more localized initiatives to ensure broader coverage and impact. Additionally, challenges such as limited funding and regulatory barriers were identified as significant obstacles. The study concludes that the development of effective entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs requires concerted efforts from multiple stakeholders including government bodies, private sector entities, and academic institutions. Tailored strategies are needed to address specific regional needs and enhance inclusivity. Recommendations include increasing investment in rural infrastructure to support local entrepreneurship initiatives, implementing more supportive regulatory environments, and fostering collaboration between different sectors to leverage resources effectively. Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, Innovation Hubs, East Africa, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Policy Development

Keywords: *East African, entrepreneurial networks, innovation ecosystems, venture capital, small business development, participatory assessment, regional collaboration*

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