



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

Yousef Shaker¹, Osama Ahmed^{2,3}, Hisham Mohamed⁴, Kareem Khalil⁵

¹ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Assiut University

² Department of Advanced Studies, Alexandria University

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Cairo University

⁴ Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Cairo University

⁵ Environmental Research Institute (ERI)

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Correspondence: yshaker@gmail.com

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Author notes

Yousef Shaker is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Assiut University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Osama Ahmed is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Alexandria University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Hisham Mohamed is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Cairo University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Kareem Khalil is affiliated with Environmental Research Institute (ERI) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs are critical for fostering economic growth in developing regions. East Africa, with its diverse economies and innovative sectors, presents a unique case study for understanding how these systems function and can be improved. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews among entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and academic experts. Data was collected through structured questionnaires distributed across Egypt's major cities. A notable finding is the significant reliance on government support for innovation hubs, which accounts for approximately 40% of funding sources identified in our survey. The research underscores the importance of a balanced approach to entrepreneurship ecosystems that integrates both public and private sector initiatives to maximise impact. Policymakers should prioritise developing comprehensive support structures for innovation hubs, including mentorship programmes and streamlined regulatory environments. Additionally, fostering collaboration between different sectors is recommended to enhance resource allocation efficiency.

Keywords: East African, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Ecosystems, Hubs, Development, Geography

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