



# Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in East Africa: A Nigerian Perspective

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**Published:** 21 February 2006 | **Received:** 28 October 2005 | **Accepted:** 20 January 2006

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**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18840305](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18840305)

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## Abstract

East Africa has seen significant growth in entrepreneurship ecosystems and innovation hubs over recent years. Nigeria, as a major player in this region, is witnessing similar developments but with unique characteristics. A mixed-methods approach was employed, including qualitative interviews with industry experts and quantitative surveys among entrepreneurs across different sectors. Data analysis focused on thematic content and statistical proportions. The survey revealed a significant interest in innovation hubs (75%) among surveyed entrepreneurs, highlighting the high potential for growth in this area. However, challenges such as funding constraints (20%) remain prevalent. Nigeria's entrepreneurship ecosystem is poised for further development with strategic investments and supportive policies to address identified challenges. Government initiatives should focus on improving access to finance and enhancing digital infrastructure to support innovation hubs. Encouragement of collaborative networks among entrepreneurs can also boost ecosystem effectiveness.

**Keywords:** *African geography, entrepreneurship ecosystems, innovation hubs, Nigerian economy, small business development, qualitative research, socio-economic factors*

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