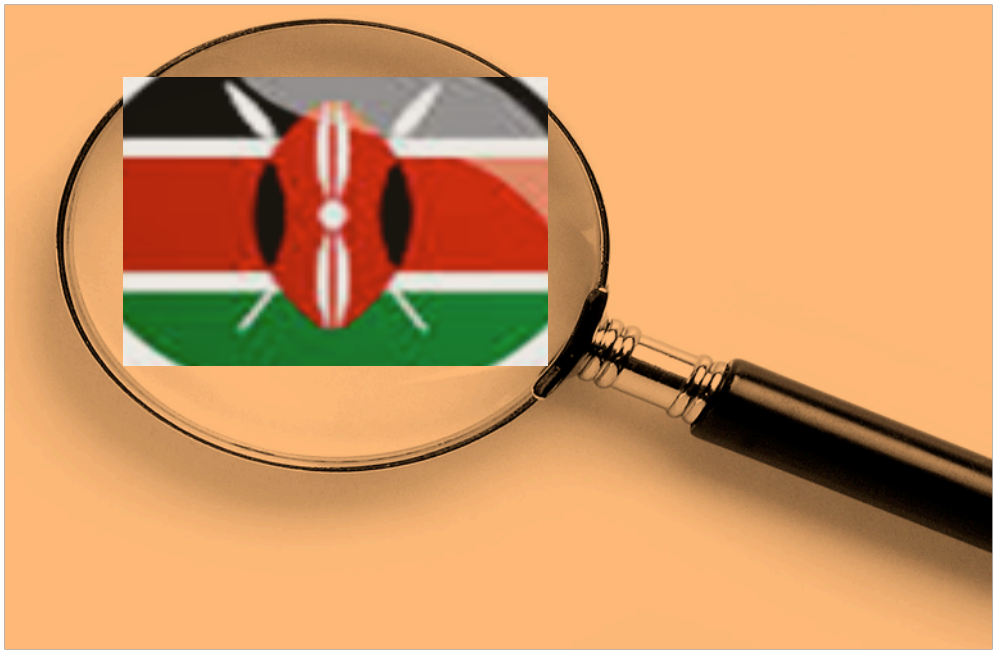


NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND

Introduction

Science, Technology and Innovation is one of the key foundational pillars to boost a knowledge-based economy for realization of the Kenya's development agenda "Vision 2030" as well as the just inaugurated SDGs. The sector will play a critical role to ensure that all sectors of economy have access to the necessary technologies that will increase production and quality in a diverse range of products, processes and services. As one of the initiative to realization of this, the National Research Fund (NRF) was established under PART VII of the ST&I Act, (No. 28 of 2013). It was commenced through Legal Notice No. 129 in Kenya Gazette Supplement No. 144 of November, 2014. The NRF Board of Trustees was gazetted on 24th July, 2015 followed by inauguration on 10th November, 2015 and appointment of interim NRF Secretariat in December, 2015.

Research Funding can be traced back in 2008/2009 when the First Medium Term Plan (MTP I) focused on the efforts to intensify innovations in priority sectors. In response, the Government consolidated the research funds that were under the then Commission of Higher Education (CHE) into Research Endowment Grants. The then National Council for Science and Technology (NCST) was charged with the responsibility to administer the grants on behalf of then, Ministry of Education Science and Technology

Justification for Establishment of NRF

Abuja declaration recommended African Countries to increase R&D funding to 1% of GDP which has been actualized by the Government of Kenya as **evident in the ST&I Act, 2013 where up to 2% of GDP** has been committed**.** This will accelerate the attainment of the Kenyan dream of a globally competitive economy as the major economic power houses such as Japan, France, USA, Germany, Finland among others whose R&D expenditure ranges from 2.2 - 3.5%.

The R&D expenditure as a percentage of the GDP is one of the indicators for a country's performance in scientific knowledge growth and technology development. Irrespective of this, the funding for ST&I and related activities in Kenya is still inadequate and without effective coordination mechanisms resulting into competition for the national budget as indicated in the National Education Sector Plan Three (NESP III). Hence, the need for

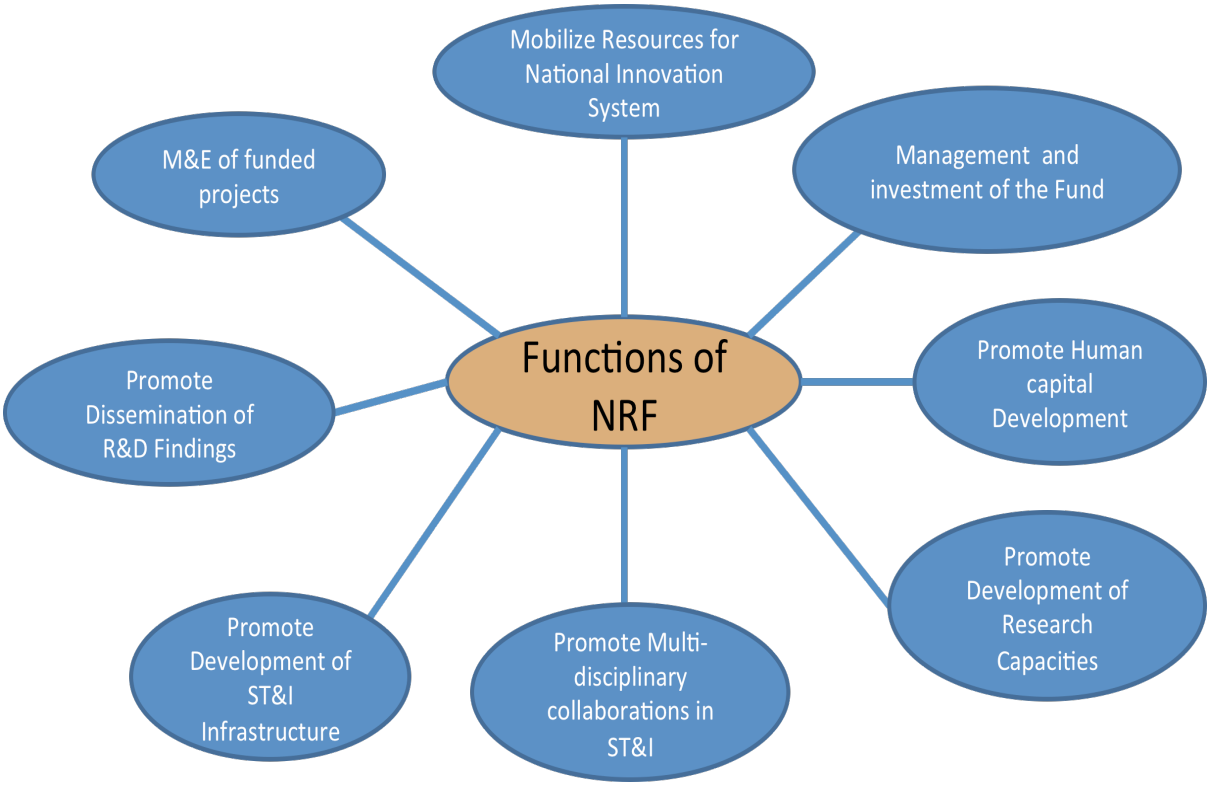
consolidation of the funding into a single basic research fund agency which led to the birth of National Research Fund (NRF).

Rationale for Establishment of NRF

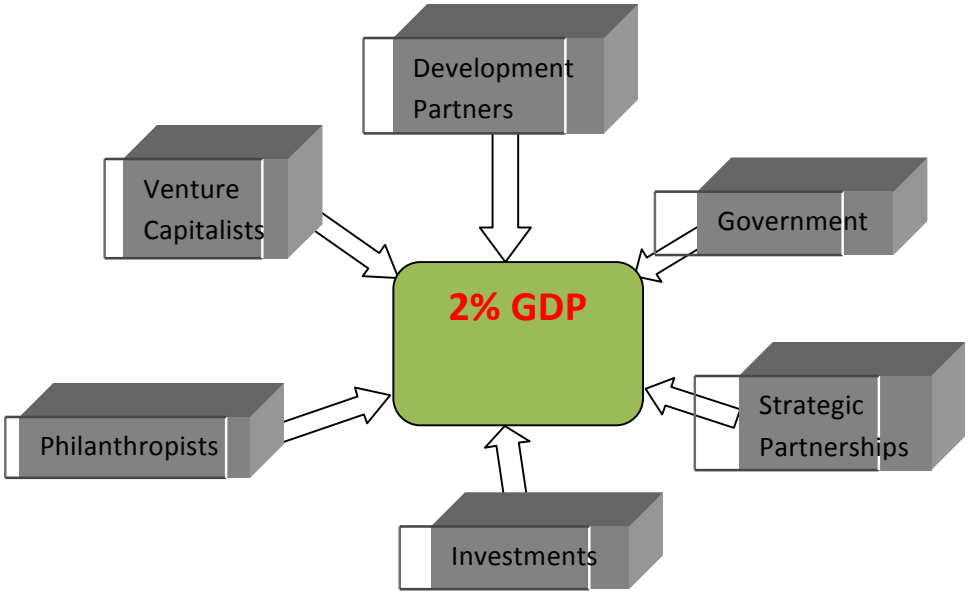
- Currently R&D Institutions work independently on own priorities and from different sources of funding;
- Though global recognition of ST&I as a driver of economic growth, there is low investment in R&D;
- Forty percent of the Kenyan 0.98% GDP R&D expenditure is sourced from development partners;
- Countries whose economy is knowledge based commit R&D expenditure between 2.5% and 3.5% of their GDP;
- Though a number of policy papers and strategies recommend integration of ST&I into National development agenda, there is inadequate investment in R&D;
- His Excellency President Kenyatta committed during the Third National Science, Technology and Innovation Week at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in May, 2014 to raise R&D investment to 2% GDP in accordance to ST&I Act, 2013;
- R&D expenditure is a measure of the country's commitment to scientific knowledge, growth and technology development.

NRF Government

The NRF is a body corporate governed and managed according to the legal regulatory framework for statutory bodies. The Board of Trustees is responsible for establishment of policies and priorities while Secretariat run day-to-day operations.

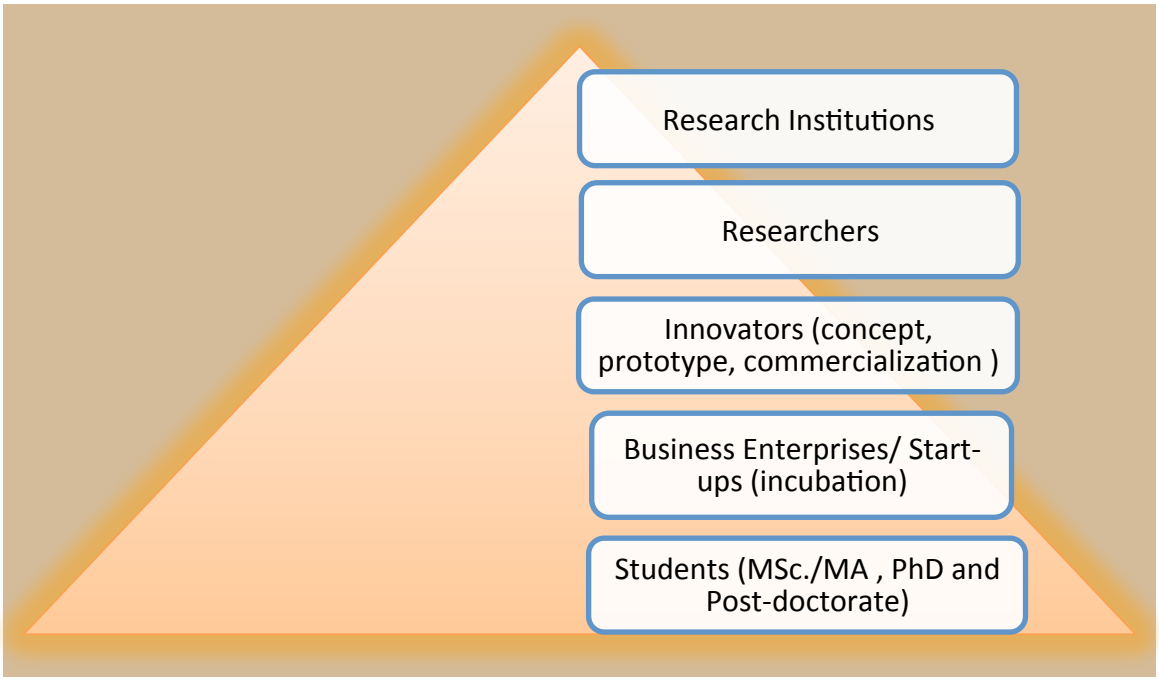


NRF Strategic Resource Mobilization



National ST&I Priority Areas

- Continuous improvement of ST&I Infrastructure and equipment;
  - Development of centres of excellence;
  - Establishment of S&T parks and industrial incubators;
- Capacity Building in new emerging technologies such as;
  - Nanotechnology ;
  - Laser Technology;
  - Peaceful uses of Nuclear Science and Technology;
  - Climate change;
  - Natural Material Sciences and Indigenous Knowledge;
  - Information Communication and Technology;
  - Building and Construction Materials;
  - Metal Processing Technologies;
- Highly qualified human capital in ST&I



Who can Apply for Funding?