

# INNOVATING TOMORROW TOGETHER CONTENTS

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# **EDITORIAL TEAM:**

# FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO



This period marks the last quarter of the 2023/2024 financial year. It has been an extraordinary year filled with challenges, but there have also been great accomplishments. As we approach the end of the financial year, let us accelerate our efforts to deliver on the outputs outlined in our Annual Performance Plan.

## **Annual report presentation**

TIA presented the 2022/2023 annual report in Parliament in October. I ampleased to announce that the report was adopted by the Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Science, and Innovation. During this period, despite challenging backdrop, the agency achieved a good operating performance and recorded an achievement of 94% of its annual output targets.

The committee expressed appreciation on the performance and good work of the agency. I take this opportunity to express a word of appreciation to the Board, TIA management and TIA staff. This excellent performance is a manifestation of ongoing commitment to our core purpose as well as our innovative thinking, tenacity and drive. I am proud of what we have achieved, and I believe in our purpose and potential now, more than ever.

# Collaborative partnerships

Establishing relationships with stakeholders and harnessing strengths and capabilities of our cooperating partners in the ecosystem are key to scaling our effectiveness and outcomes. The agency partnered with stakeholders in the ecosystem to provide thought leadership and insights on matters of national importance. These include BIO Africa convention, SA Innovation Summit, AfricArena Grand Summit, and Afri Aari.

In its role as an industry builder, TIA signed a strategic collaboration agreement with Milk SA as the umbrella industry body. This collaboration is a good example of a public-private partnership that would contribute to economic growth and a competitive industry, leading to improved quality of life for South Africans.



### **Customer satisfaction**

In our quest to be a customer centric organisation, meaningful engagement will continue to stand central in our endeavour. TIA embarked on an annual customer satisfaction survey and scored an overall satisfaction rating of 8.9 out of 10. The positive feedback is applauded; however, we will continue working hard in providing the best service to our stakeholders. I would like to thank our stakeholders who continue to engage with us constructively on key matters that impact our work and for being an important part of our journey as we deliver on our core purpose.

# Outstanding achievements by our investees

Afrobodies, Pelebox and Medsol Al solutions, TIA investees have won the 2023 Irish Tech Challenge and BCX annual digital innovation awards respectively. It is exciting and encouraging to see our investees recognised for their novel innovations. This is affirmation of our vision to be a leading technology innovation agency that stimulates and supports technological innovation to improve the quality of life for all South Africans.

### Product launch cloSURE

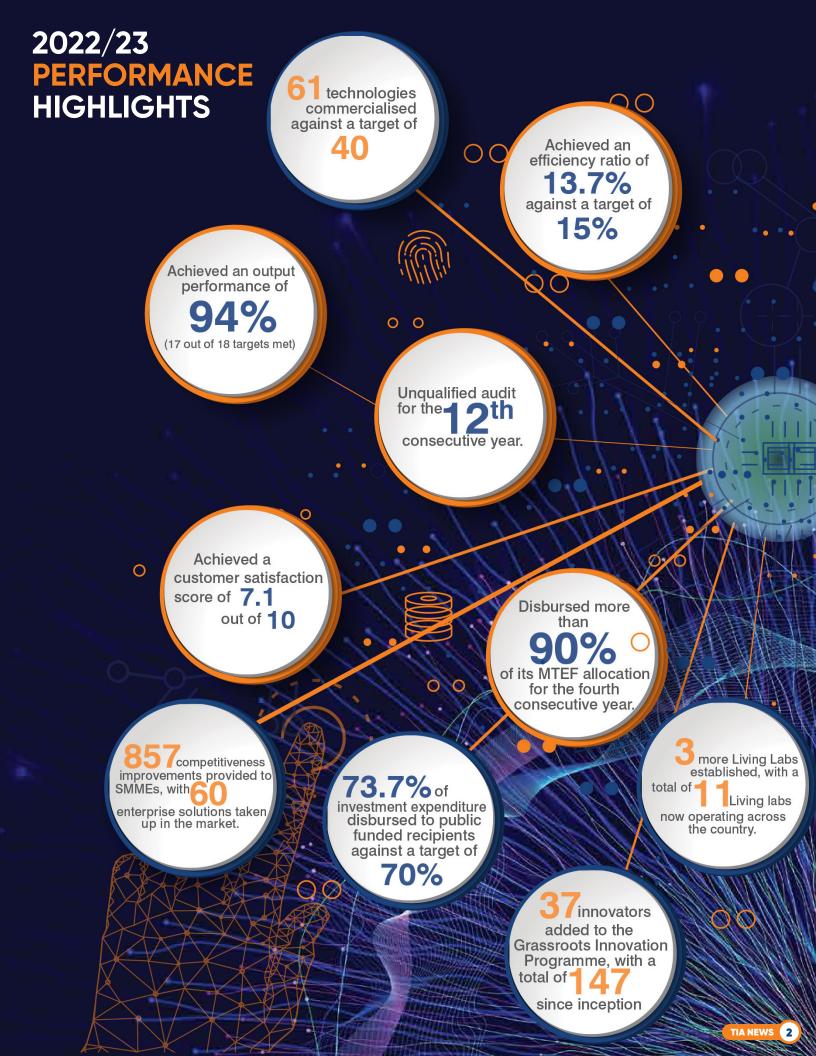
TIA in partnership with Mintek, University of Pretoria, Thungela (Pty) Ltd and the Moss Group launched a Biological Process for the Treatment of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), trade marked as cloSURE®. The co-funded project addresses key challenges of water and food security through the treatment of acid mine drainage which poses a pollution threat to the environment and water quality.

### Thank you

I am extremely grateful to TIA Board, Management and staff who have exemplified our values while bringing our core purpose to life through their commitment, and dedication. Finally, I want to thank our partners, and stakeholders. We look forward to continued success in the year ahead.

Enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Regards, Patrick Krappie, ACEO



# Presidential Plenary on Science, Technology And Innovation

In December, leaders in government, industry, academia, and civil society came together to discuss progress of the National System of Innovation (NSI) at the inaugural Presidential Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Plenary. Held at the CSIR International Convention Centre, the event explored how STI and skills development impact positively on the South African economy. The STI Plenary followed the adoption of the STI Decadal Plan, which guides the first 10 years of implementing the 2019 White Paper on STI.

Welcoming guests and delegates to the STI Plenary, Minister of Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande said, "We are widening, deepening, and transforming South Africa's national system of innovation (NSI), building on past investments and achievements, to raise the scale and intensify the impact of our nation's innovation capabilities. This we are doing through enhancing human capabilities, expanding the research system to increase knowledge creation in targeted areas, ensuring an enabling environment for innovation and its flow into the economy, and increasing both public and private investment in STI.

To illustrate: In ensuring that we are focused in education and skills development, we have recently, as part of the Innovation and Skills Compact, identified the critical skills needed to ensure effective implementation of the STI policies in line with the country's Skills Masterplan."

The STI Plenary was opened by the President Cyril Ramaphosa. He highlighted that STI is essential for economies to thrive and for societies to prosper. In his address, the President announced the establishment of the Presidential PhD Initiative through an initial R1 billion investment from the National Skills Fund.



"The aim of the first phase is to expose our country's brightest young minds to cutting-edge thinking and research by negotiating opportunities at world-leading universities and research centres," said President Ramaphosa. He added that their studies would be linked to large-scale and established research programmes, in both public research facilities and industry.



The programme will build critical skills in areas like artificial intelligence research, advanced biotechnology, fuel-cell development, batteries and other storage, and next-generation mining. TIA supported innovations exhibited technologies aligned with these thematic areas. The exhibition was a strong demonstration of the work that the NSI is doing to ensure that STI makes a positive impact on societal challenges.

### uYilo

The uYilo eMobility Cluster was established in 2013 as a TIA initiative focusing on mobilising the transition to electric mobility and to facilitate an enabling environment that supports the increased uptake of electric mobility vehicles in South Africa.

The Programme's activities include government lobbying, industry engagement, pilot projects, capacity development, enterprise development and thought leadership. The programme has facilities and expertise such as nationally accredited battery testing, materials testing, electric vehicle systems and a smart grid ecosystem. It serves as a live testing environment for interoperability of various



system components of the smart grid. In addition, uYilo programmes create technology solutions and deploy innovative business models, to support a human capital skills base that can support innovation and commercialise battery electric vehicle technologies, products and services. The Programme's uYilo KickStart Fund continues to support products and service development by providing funding for applied R&D.

## **Medical Diagnostech**

Medical Diagnostech developed COVID-19 Rapid Diagnostic Tests, the first antigen test kit to be made in Africa. The test was approved by SAHPRA. Medical Diagnostech has already commenced industrial-scale manufacturing of the test kits at its Cape Town facilities which will be available at affordable prices.



## **Cape Bio**

Capebio™ was licensed to manufacture rapid COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction test kits. The test kit was co-developed by CapeBio and the CSIR.



The work undertaken by the CSIR, involved biomanufacturing and purification of the enzymes used in the kit as well as testing robustness and scalability which were demonstrated internally by the CSIR and validated externally by the NHLS. Capebio™ has already commenced industrial-scale manufacturing of the test kits at its Centurion facilities. At full operational capacity, the company will be able to produce up to 5 000 kits a day.

### **Stone Three**

Stone Three Digital an industrial IoT company, developed a real-time Process Advisory Dashboard using non-contact sensors, advanced analytics, big data and deep process knowledge for the minerals processing, sugar and pharmaceutical industries.



Advanced diagnostics have been developed for the mining industry. The ground-breaking technology has been taken up by mining giants such as Anglo-American and obtained international partnerships with global giants such as Microsoft, FLSmidth, ABB, Bluecube Systems and General Electric Wabtec.

# **Congratulations!!**

# **Afrobodies and Pelebox winners**

# at the 2023 Irish Tech Challenge

he DSI and the Embassy of the Republic of Ireland recently announced the winners of the 2023 Irish Tech Challenge South Africa. The Tech Challenge was established to build networks between the South African and Irish tech ecosystems. Of the five winning start-ups, two are TIA investees, Benedicta Durcan and Neo Hutiri. The winners were selected among 300 entries offering products and services aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Durcan's company, Afrobodies, is

Benedicta Durcan - Afrobodies CEO

a biotech startup that produces recombinant alpaca antibodies and supplies them to domestic and global diagnostic, therapeutic and life sciences markets. Afrobodies is supported by the Bioprocessing Platform.

Hutiri's innovation, Pelebox, is a smart locker system that enables patients to rapidly collect their chronic medication. Pelebox, has with TIA's support extended its business footprint, having currently launched commercially in Namibia.



Neo Hutiri - Pelebox

The winners of the challenge will travel to Ireland in February, to participate in an "acceleration programme" at **Dublin's Dogpatch** Labs startup and innovation hub.



# **Medsol SME Category winner at BCX Digital Innovation Awards**

Innovation Awards, the awards recognise

Medsol was the overall winner in the SME category for their innovation. Medsol Breast Al was funded by TIA for the development of the online patient-based platform that receives specialist physician and the patient to provide diagnostic solutions, education, and support.

# TIA SIGNS MOU WITH MILK SA TO DRIVE INNOVATION IN THE DAIRY SECTOR

outh Africa has one of the most efficient and competitive dairy industries in the world whilst operating in a free market environment, unlike most of its international trade competitors which are supported with government interventions. The number of milk farms and processors of dairy products continues to decline, especially since deregulation in 1997, but the industry succeeds to increasingly provide sufficient unprocessed milk and dairy products of a high standard to consumers.

Milk South Africa (Milk SA) is the overarching body of the local dairy industry, with its members being the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) and the SA Milk Processors' Organisation (SAMPRO). Projects under its management are funded by statutory levies and include quality and safety, transformation, skills and knowledge development, research & development, industry information and consumer education.

In its role as an industry builder, TIA signed a strategic collaboration agreement with Milk SA as the umbrella industry body. Milk SA was established with the strategic intent to improve the competitiveness of the South African dairy industry, broaden the market for South African dairy products and empower existing black dairy entrepreneurs in the South African dairy industry to broaden the market.

The cluster model is TIA's approach for assessing value chains and stimulating the development of activities and interventions to facilitate sector or industry-level engagements through a cross-cutting approach. This approach is intended to address systemic weaknesses that hamper innovation and commercialisation beyond just the provision of funding to individual projects. In this collaboration, Milk SA will, amongst others, be the implementing partner for the current Dairy Genomics Programme / Cluster of TIA.



"We are delighted to have reached this milestone and we look forward to the contributions by TIA and Milk SA towards the prosperity of the South African dairy industry. The signing of this collaboration agreement is the culmination of years of negotiation and underscores the realisation that partnerships are central to the achievement of the developmental goals of South Africa.

"This historic moment of the signature of a memorandum of understanding between TIA and Milk SA has also ensured a meeting of minds regarding further support to the transformation agenda of Milk SA and TIA. As we pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion, we envisage a dairy industry in which the participation of women is



commonplace, and in which all opportunities within the value chain are opened for participation," said Dr Vuyisile Phehane, Executive: Bioeconomy at TIA.

"Milk SA regards the relationship with TIA as of high importance in supporting the research and development (R&D) programme of the dairy sector. Technology development and innovation in a competitive environment where profit margins are small is crucial and therefore, we anticipate that this relationship should provide increased opportunities to achieve such innovation and at the same time maintain sustainability," said Dr Heinz Meissner, R&D Programme Manager at Milk SA.

This collaboration is a good example of a public-private partnership that would contribute to economic growth and a competitive industry, leading to improved quality of life for South Africans.

As a strategic high-impact programme, the model of cluster creation and management supports the DSI's Decadal Plan and the implementation of the 2019 White Paper on Science Technology and Innovation.

The Decadal Plan guides on modalities for the state's intervention towards rescuing industries in decline, amongst other interventions defined in the Agricultural and Agro-processing Masterplan.

# TIA HOSTS GRASSROOTS INNOVATION AWARDS AT SCIENCE FORUM SOUTH AFRICA



The annual Science Forum South Africa (SFSA) serves as a prominent platform for fostering dialogue on the intricate relationship between science and society. The 2023 iteration of this pivotal event held in December at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria.

ver the years, SFSA has evolved into a critical event on the scientific calendar, attracting participants from various sectors, including government, industry, civil society, and the scientific community. With the overarching goal of stimulating vibrant discussions on the role of science in the society. The forum has become an integral space for the exchange of ideas, collaboration, and envisioning the future of science in South Africa. TIA actively participated in the SFSA recognising the importance of engaging with diverse stakeholders to drive innovation and progress. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for TIA to connect with the public, collaborate with fellow innovators, and showcase the groundbreaking work of its talented innovators.

TIA and the DSI hosted the inaugural Grassroots Innovation Awards at the Science Forum to celebrate and acknowledge Grassroots Innovators whose technologies have socioeconomic impact, address societal challenges, and can lead to job creation.

The award categories are in line with the transformation objectives of the White Paper on Science, Technology, and Innovation which seeks to increase the role of previously disadvantaged individuals, including women, youth and people with disabilities in the innovation discourse.

Outstanding Women Grassroots Innovator - This award honours women who are demonstrating exceptional creativity, leadership, and impact in driving positive change. The 1st prize winner in this category was Ms Busisiwe Ndabana of Street Governor. Street Governor is a data-backed decision support tool for formalization, compliance with employment laws and workforce management, and eradicating violence for all taxi drivers.

## **Outstanding Youth Grassroots Innovator**

- The award recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of young individuals whose innovative solutions demonstrate a potential for exceptional creativity and impact in the realm of innovation. Mr Simphiwe Peace Mjwara, of Mo\_Hand Hygiene Assistant was the winner. Mo is an internet connected hand sanitizer dispenser activated by a user's identity card and voice guided prompts for hand hygiene performance.

**Disability Innovation Award -** The award recognises and celebrates innovators that are demonstrating exceptional commitment to the well-being and inclusion of people with disabilities through innovative solutions.

Tieho Tsiane was the winner in this category with his Ka-Dah Device. Ka-Dah device is a technology tailored for the visually impaired, employing cutting-edge touch free smartphone navigation.

Gender-Based Violence Best Solution Award - The award recognises outstanding innovative solutions that demonstrate exceptional commitment and effectiveness in addressing and combating gender-based violence. The winner in this category was Ms Busisiwe Ndabana of Street Governor. Street Governor is a data-backed decision support tool for formalisation, compliance with employment laws and workforce management, and eradicating violence for all taxi drivers, especially GBV.

**INSETA Award -** The award is intended to inspire and recognise creative solutions in the insurance industry and to encourage innovators to develop new and innovative solutions to meet the ever-evolving needs of the market. The 6 INSETA award winners were awarded with an International Learning Trip.

The Forum featured renowned speakers, including the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande. In his address, the Minister said, "The National System of Innovation needs to work better together within science across the artificial boundaries imposed by the narrow definition of disciplines. And we also need a compact, reinforced collaboration between government, the private sector, the scientific and academic communities, and civil society at large.".

Dr Nzimande's insights and contributions added significant value to the discussions, enriching the forum with perspectives from a diverse range of sectors. The forum provided a fertile ground for networking with stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society.

Throughout the forum, TIA innovators showcased their cutting-edge technologies and solutions to a broad audience, garnering attention, and potential partnerships. These ranged from advancements in renewable energy to breakthroughs in healthcare. The positive feedback received from attendees underscores the public's recognition of TIA's impactful work and its role as a key player in the technology and innovation landscape.



# DEMONSTRATION OF A BIOLOGICAL PROCESS FOR THE TREATMENT OF ACID MINE DRAINAGE (AMD)

Acid mine drainage (AMD) is arguably one of the most serious environmental concerns in South Africa. With the country becoming increasingly water-stressed due to climate change, and various forms of pollution, water will continue to become much scarcer in the future. As a result of AMD's continued impact on South Africa's water systems, water security and socio-economic sustainability has become a highly contested issue.

As mining is a priority thematic area in the DSI Decadal plan, TIA as an implementing agent, prioritises innovations that will enhance the economic competitiveness of the South African mining sector.

One of the technologies funded by TIA seeks to address this challenge by ensuring that the impact of AMD is mitigated, and the water can be treated for reuse. The technology, trademarked cloSURE®, developed under the project, Demonstration of a Biological Process for the Treatment of Acid Mine

Drainage (AMD) was launched to the public in October at Thungela's Water Reclamation Plant at eMalahleni, Mpumalanga.

The development is jointly funded by TIA, Mintek and Thungela (Pty)Ltd. The other consortium members, the University of Pretoria and the Moss Group will focus on determining crops and plants that could be grown using the water product from the cloSURE® process.





The technology is a semi-passive biological process for the treatment of mine impacted waters after mine closure, to produce water fit for re-use, specifically in agriculture. It is based on bacteria that act on sulphates which are common in AMD.

The sulphates are precipitated with other metals such as iron as sulphides. The sulphide is oxidized to elemental sulphur which can be harvested as a bio sulphur for fertilizer purposes.

The effluent resulting from this process is aimed for agricultural purposes and in this demonstration, a vegetable patch has been prepared for crop planting and ready for irrigation. This work is conducted by the University of Pretoria Agricultural Unit. The treatment will be affordable, easy to implement, manage and maintain while treating large volumes of AMD to acceptable agricultural water quality.

# **BIO AFRICA**

# - THOUGHT LEADERSHIP PLATFORM FOR BIOECONOMY GROWTH

TIA partnered with Africa Bio to present the annual Bio Africa Convention at the Durban International Convention.



io Africa presents an excellent opportunity for the agency to intensify its efforts to accelerate the translation and commercialisation of publicly funded research and to scale up its efforts to implement the Bio-economy Strategy.

The BIO Africa facilitates a collaborative platform for the exchange of groundbreaking ideas and opportunities in the biotechnology industry. Biotechnology innovations in health, agriculture, industrial biotechnology and entrepreneurial sectors find expression and relevance among the delegates at the convention. The 2023 iteration of Bio Africa was held under the theme: "Re-imagining biotechnology innovation for Africa's development."

The convention was opened by the Minister of Science and Innovation Dr Blade Nzimande. In his address, the Minister highlighted Bio Africa as a forum that presents an opportunity for Africa to focus on its aspirations, opportunities, and vision for a continental bioeconomy. With the challenges faced by the continent, such as climate change, fossil fuel replacement, sustainable development, and healthcare, he said that biotechnology presents ever increasing opportunities for growth.

Dr Vuyisile Phehane, Executive: Biotechnology (TIA) was part of the opening plenary for the convention. He reiterated TIA's commitment to support the convention as it provides a platform for partnerships, collaborations, and networking, to advance Africa's bioeconomy.

"The bioeconomy provides a response to existing and emerging megatrends, such as the growing world population, socioeconomic pressures, the rapid development of new sciences, and climate change which if left unchecked, will result in GDP losses in parts of Africa," said Dr Phehane.

TIA curated and hosted sessions at the convention exploring issues in health, agricultural production systems, industrial biotechnology and the application of biocatalysis. These included ways to solve product and process challenges, big data, genomics and precision medicine, biopharmaceuticals, industrial biotechnology, the diversification of industries such as the sugar industry. Key to these were discussions on diversity, equity and inclusion, the role of the youth, people with disabilities, and women in bio innovation systems.

The agriculture session, titled The Presentation of New Models for the Inclusion of Smallholder Farmers in Africa's Value Chain, focused on the vital role that smallholder farmers play in Africa's agricultural landscape. The discussion explored innovative models and strategies that can enhance the participation of smallholder farmers in Africa's value chain, fostering economic growth, food security, and sustainable development.





Biocatalysis has gained significant attention due to its potential to enable greener, more sustainable chemical and pharmaceutical production processes. This aligns well with the growing demand for eco-friendly solutions in various industries. Africa possesses a rich biodiversity and diverse natural resources, making it an ideal candidate for harnessing biocatalysis for various applications. In the TIA hosted session: Biocatalysis for Bio-based Products in an African Context, the role of biocatalysis in the production of bio-based products, their relevance in the African context was explored.

The discussion also looked at the opportunities and challenges associated with the use of biocatalysis in the establishment of biorefineries. Biocatalysis holds immense potential for sustainable development, economic growth, and environmental conservation in Africa.

The session, Genomics, Big Data, and Precision Medicine, focused on the possibilities presented by advancements in genomics, the explosion of big data, and the concept of precision medicine. Experts, stakeholders, and policymakers engaged in an in-depth discussion about the transformative potential of these areas of medicine in healthcare. The session explored the challenges and opportunities in implementing precision medicine approaches, highlighting the ethical, legal, and privacy concerns associated with genomics and big data utilisation.

The TIA exhibition pavilion hosted twelve projects. The projects showcased innovations and technologies supported by TIA in various biotechnology areas, including clusters. The exhibition area presented a networking environment for innovators to interact with stakeholders in the biotechnology sector, potential investors, other SMEs, industry, and the research community.

These interactions result in initiating ideato-market partnerships, establishing opportunities to attract third party funding and commercialisation.

Presenting an opportunity for knowledge sharing, TIA also hosted a TIA Academy titled: Locally developed diagnostic and biomanufacturing technologies with commercial value and application. TIA stakeholders, TokaBio, Mintek, and Sawubona Mycelium offered courses related to their core businesses and commercialised technologies. The Academy was well attended by students, researchers, and other delegates.

TIA's support for platforms such as the Bio Africa Convention is in line with its role as the implementing agent of the country's Bio-economy strategy whose objective is to strengthen the country's local research, development, innovation and manufacturing capabilities. A thriving bioeconomy would support economic growth, and a globally competitive knowledge economy for South Africa and the African continent.

# AFRICA AGRI INVESTMENT INDABA A PLATFORM FOR THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND NETWORKING FOR TIA



The African Agri Investment Indaba (AAII) is the largest investment gathering in food and agriculture on the African continent – representing the entire agricultural value chain. TIA was among the organisations that participated at the Indaba, held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in November.

AAII is the meeting place for agrifood investment in Africa. It brings together key stakeholders from governments, financiers, private sector, investors, commercial farmers and the agroprocessing industry. The Indaba

is a platform to discuss trends that will influence food and agribusiness economics over the next decade in Africa.

Throughout the Indaba, a powerful message resonated: the future of African agriculture hinges on innovative collaboration, technological advancement, and strategic financing. The event served as fertile ground for ideas and strategies aimed at tackling two of the most pressing global challenges – climate change and food security.



Demonstrating TIA's thought leadership in funding within the agriculture value chain, Mr Sibusiso Manana, Head: Agriculture was a panellist on the session: Financing Agribusiness' Equity and Debt in South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria's Midstream Tech and Food Companies – Sustainability and Scalability. Among the issues highlighted in the session was the need for governments in developing countries to collaborate with industry in finding innovative ways to fund and finance agricultural SMME's.

Among the vital discussions that were tackled at the Indaba is the challenge of climate change, a factor presents negative impact on the future of agriculture in Africa. The discussions underscored the need for agricultural practices that are productive and environmentally sustainable. This included exploring ways to reduce emissions and adopting techniques that are in harmony with the environment. The link between food security and environmental sustainability was a focal point, highlighting the need for practices that safeguard the environment while ensuring a stable food supply.



Beyond funding, TIA is committed to providing investees with opportunities for market access and further funding. TIA funded innovation iBATECH was a drawcard for delegates as a natural product designed to improve plant health. iBATECH is a plant growth biostimulant that can be used to enhance crop production instead of using chemicals such as fertilizers. It is formulated to protect plants against pesticide-resistant pathogens. The natural product is derived from the kraalbos (Galenia africana) plant. The good results obtained ascertain that biostimulant technology and science is critical in an environment where the use and application of synthetic nitrogenbased fertilizers needs to be reduced due to the environmental pollution.

The TIA exhibition was a hive of activity with various delegates showing a keen interest in the services offered by the agency. These included potential investees, co-funders, and the public.

For the agency, the AAII is a platform to increase the conversion of public-funded R&D outputs into commercialised innovations, foster collaborations and facilitate co-funding and third-party funding.

# BRICS YOUNG SCIENTISTS SHOW CASE INNOVATIONS WITH IMPACT



he Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) hosted the BRICS Young Scientist Forum (YSF) focusing on transforming skills development for the future. The YSF preceded the 2023 BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting under the theme, "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism".

Within the context of the BRICS Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation signed in Brazil, in March 2015, the Ministers of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met for the 11th Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting under the chairmanship of South Africa.

The 2023 BRICS summit was the fifteenth annual BRICS summit and was held under the theme: "Building BRICS and Africa Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism".

The DSI was supported by its entities TIA and ASSAF in creating meaningful collaboration among young scientists from the BRICS countries. TIA organised, supported, and led the 6th BRICS Young Innovator Prize Competition as part of the BRICS Young Scientist Forum. The competition saw twenty innovators from the five BRICS countries pitching and vying for the coveted prize. The Young

BRICS BRIC BR

Innovator Prize competition recognises young talented entrepreneurs and researchers, with outstanding innovations that can make an impact on the socio-economic, environment and improve the quality of life in BRICS societies.

After two days of pitching and deliberations by judges, Minister Blade Nzimande hosted a dinner to recognise the winners of the YIP and to acknowledge the participation of the BRICS young scientists. The winning innovators were, Prof Dmitry Yudin of Russia, (1st Prize), Dr Liu Guangsheng of China (2nd Prize) and Dr Marlon Machado Cunuco of Brazil (3rd Prize).



One of the strategic objectives of the annual Ministerial Meeting is to provide an opportunity for a high-level exchange on science, technology and innovation policy developments in the BRICS bloc and for the sharing of information on priority investment areas, as well as national progress in the implementation of BRICS partnership initiatives.

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The theme set for the 11th BRICS STI Ministerial Meeting was "BRICS and Africa: Enabling inclusive and sustainable development in a changing world through knowledge partnerships". This reaffirms the priority areas of cooperation based on common interests, recognising the importance of further embracing the BRICS spirit of openness, inclusivity, cooperation, and tackling the challenges with a view to further consolidating the BRICS STI partnership.

Meaningful engagement, and warm South African hospitality were factors of success for the BRICS Young Scientist Forum. The Forum created a good networking opportunity for young scientists to exchange ideas, and form partnerships in areas of mutual interest.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS: GRASSROOTS
INNOVATION PROGRAMME CALL 2 FY2023/24

# CLOSING DATE: 29 MARCH 2024, 17:00PM

Applications must be submitted by 17h00 on 29 March 2024, no applications will be considered after 17:00 on the closing date.

Contact customerservice@tia.org.za or call 012 472 2701/2928.

For more information, visit www.tia.org.za



# **Our Vision**

To be a leading technology innovation agency that stimulates and supports technological innovation to improve the quality of life for all South Africans



# **Our Mission**

To facilitate the translation of South Africa's knowledge resource into sustainable socioeconomic opportunities.

# **Our Values**



# **Teamwork**

Together we can do more. Fostering teamwork creates a TIA work culture that values collaboration and co-operation.



# **Integrity**

We strive to do what we said we would, when we said we would do it.



# **Professionalism**

We apply the most appropriate skills, competencies, experience and knowledge of best practices cohesively in conducting our work.



# **Transparency**

We engage in inclusive open communication, and hold each other accountable for our performance and conduct.



# **Excellence**

We will be accountable to all stakeholders to deliver exceptionally high standards of work and performance.



# **Innovation**

We foster a culture where we continually nurture and implement new ideas from our staff and stakeholders that enhance how we do things and deliver services.