





Strategic Alignment

Sector Innovation Fund (SIF) is aligned to the National **White Paper** on Science, Technology & Innovation:

- Improve inclusion and build more linkages across the National System of Innovation (NSI)
- Exploit new sources of growth
- Innovation to revitalize existing sectors

SIF is aligned to the following priorities of the **Decadal Plan** for Science Technology and Innovation (2019):

- Sources of new economic growth....in Circular & Digital Economy
- Modernising existing industry
- Increased funding for STI
- Improved inclusion in, & increased linkages across, the NSI



Sector Innovation Funds (SIF)

- DSI intervention aimed at incentivising the private sector to increase investment in Research, Development and Innovation to enhance economic competitiveness of participating sectors
 - Industry identifies challenges & determines the RDI agenda
 - Industry relevant skills and knowledge
- Managed by Industry associations or bodies
- Basket of measures at impact, outcomes and output levels

Human Capital Development & Knowledge Generation

- # of students & interns supported
- # of students & interns who become employed as a result of being supported
- # of publications in accredited journals

Contribution to Intellectual Property Portfolio

- # of knowledge or innovation products added to the IP portfolio
- # of knowledge or innovation products transferred

Transformation

- # of knowledge or innovation products transferred to SMMEs, emerging or Black players in sector
- Proportion of Black students & interns supported
- Proportion of Research teams who are Black

Improved Competitiveness

- Cash co-funding from industry
- # of jobs created

SARC SIF: South African Rooibos Council Research Initiative: scientific evidence base to support marketing claims which will increase the competitive advantage of Rooibos as a herbal tea

LESSONS LEARNT

- Build and nurture relationships
- RDI is a long term endeavour
 - Implications for typical Rol cycles both public and private sector
- Does collaborative research necessitate pre-competitive research?
- · Transformation and competitiveness are not mutually exclusive
- Need for deeper more meaningful RDI investigations
 - More impactful research projects, e.g., to understand the mechanisms through which Rooibos acts in human body
- Governance and selection process
 - · (Independent) technical oversight of RDI portfolio required
 - · Briefing sessions AND call for proposals
- Better transfer of knowledge and skills to players in rural economies
- Need for better vertical integration of industry to better take advantage of economic opportunities?
 - To address cross-sectoral challenges
 - Contributions to sustainable agricultural practices and biodiversity preservation

OUTCOMES and OPPORTUNITIES

- Realization that (this) industry requires a long(er) term RDI strategy
 - · Industry has to be more proactive and structured in identifying its RDI needs
 - · Better strategic direction for RDI portfolio
 - · Interesting research question vs industry point of pain
- Consideration of RDI investigations of Rooibos applications in addition to human health issues
- Expand the public sector (RDI) partners to include line departments e.g., DFFE, etc.
 - Enables better alignment of respective priorities
 - Whole of society/government approach

Thank you Enkosi Ha khensa Re a leboga Ro livhuwa Siyabonga Siyathokoza Dankie

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