



COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT 2025

10th November 2025

Theme: Trust, Transformation, and Tomorrow: The Science We Need for 2050.

The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) joins the rest of the world to commemorate the World Science Day for Peace and Development 2025, under the theme ***"Trust, Transformation, and Tomorrow: The Science We Need for 2050"***.

The Government of Uganda recognises the critical role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) as key drivers of economic growth and social change and a means to achieving Vision 2040. STI is one of the pillars of Uganda's 4th National Development Plan (NDP IV), alongside Agro-industrialisation, Tourism and Mineral beneficiation, aimed at transforming the economy by increasing knowledge-based goods and services and boosting domestic productivity, import substitution and export-led development.

As we reflect on the importance of STI on this special day, UNCST reiterates her commitment to support and align with tenets of this year's theme for the World Science Day.

I. Building Trust in the Science

Trust is the cornerstone of successful science and innovation ecosystems. It allows stakeholders, including government, academia, industry, civil society, and communities, to collaborate openly and responsibly.

UNCST endeavors to build credibility, transparency, and public confidence in science by ensuring that public funds for research are deployed fairly, transparently, and for strategic research. Frameworks to support ethical conduct of research and research integrity are continually developed and updated, to align with developments in the national and global research regulatory landscape, while upholding strong research oversight and governance.

Our participatory and evidence-based STI policy processes and the institutionalization of open science, public dialogue and outreach to demystify science and combat misinformation, have been critical for ensuring inclusive participation, as well as enhanced legitimacy and public trust in science. The UNCST's programme for monitoring, evaluation, and learning seeks to strengthen accountability and augment impact of research and STI initiatives across the sectors of the Ugandan economy.

2. Transformation through Science, Technology, and Innovation

Science is essential for unlocking Uganda's development potential. It holds the answers to pressing societal challenges such as health crises, climate change, food insecurity, and low industrialization.

This day provides an opportunity to reflect on how to protect the gains, and re-align appropriately within the national STI ecosystem, in a bid to address the evolving societal demands today and tomorrow.

The UNCST continues to enforce the alignment of publically funded research conducted in Uganda with national development priorities. The Council's alignment of gender equity and inclusivity in programme implementation and governance ensures equitable participation of under-represented groups and communities in science, while efforts are ongoing to professionalize and regulate science professionals, enhance quality, ethics, and productivity within the STI landscape.

Further to this, UNCST is deliberate on fostering collaboration with academia and industry, through broad and robust mechanisms such as policy dialogues, networking platforms such as the TechnoMart, National Research Repository for Uganda, and other platforms that promote uptake of STI products and services, thereby transforming the society and economy. Strong research management and data systems are critical for triggering STI-led transformation at the STI ecosystem level. The UNCST is continually enhancing these capacities to align with national and global best practice.

3. Science for Tomorrow

We envision a future where Uganda is known as a leader in science, characterized by a society driven by knowledge and innovation that contributes to economic growth, social well-being, and environmental sustainability. To achieve this, we must cultivate a dynamic community of science professionals through continuous professional

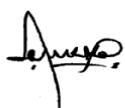
development. We need to promote research and innovation ecosystems and ensure that policies and regulations create a supportive environment for STI development.

UNCST's forward-looking initiatives in STI regulation and policy translation, foresight, and human capital development are positioning Uganda for emerging opportunities and challenges. Artificial Intelligence, climate resilience, digital science, biotechnology and other emerging technologies and research fields have been earmarked for strategic interventions aligned with UNCST mandate.

The UNCST seeks to promote the safe deployment of these and related technologies that are critical for industrial development. And through strategic partnerships at national, regional and global level, UNCST promotes data-driven science, digital transformation, and future skills development. Initiatives in human capital development, notably, support for early career researchers, mentorship of youth and next generation of researchers and scientists and professional excellence are critical for the desired future for science. Open science and data-sharing ecosystems will play a critical role in preparing for a future where collaboration and data-driven solutions are envisaged to be the norm.

We indeed celebrate science's transformative power and reaffirm our commitment to creating a future grounded in knowledge, innovation, and shared prosperity.

Happy World Science Day for Peace and Development 2025!



Dr. David Serukka
Acting Executive Secretary