

ACOEDI 2026 Submission Framework and Guidelines

African Conference on Economic Development and Innovation (ACOEDI 2026)

26-29 October 2026

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1. Purpose of this Document

This Submission Pack serves as the central coordinating guide for all ACOEDI 2026 submissions. It consolidates and aligns all official conference documents and should be read together with the annexures provided at the end of this document.

2. Overall Submission Architecture

ACOEDI 2026 adopts a multi-track, multi-format submission system designed to accommodate academic, policy, industry, development, and grassroots innovation contributions, as outlined in the Call for Papers (Annexure A).

3. Submission Process (All Tracks)

All contributions follow a two-stage submission process as detailed in the Submission Guidelines (Annexure B).

Stage 1: Abstract / Concept Submission (Mandatory)

- Track 1: Abstract (250–300 words)
- Tracks 2–5: Concept Note / Proposal (300–500 words)

Stage 2: Full Submission (Upon Acceptance)

Accepted applicants must submit full contributions aligned to their selected track using the prescribed templates (Annexures D and E).

4. Track Structure and Format Alignment

Each track is aligned to specific submission formats and outputs as defined in Annexure B, with mandatory use of templates provided in Annexures D and E.

5. Submission Formats (How to Use Supporting Documents)

Written Submissions

Must follow:

- Submission Guidelines (Annexure B)
- Relevant Track Templates (Annexures D and E)

Visual and Non-Written Submissions

- Slides, posters, demonstrations, and pitches must follow template structure and be guided by the Submission Format Examples Guide (Annexure F).

6. Stage 1 Requirements (Summary)

Detailed requirements are provided in Annexure B. Submissions must include all required components for abstracts or concept notes depending on the selected track.

7. Stage 2 Requirements (Summary)

All full submissions must comply with:

- Word limits and structure (Annexure B)
- Template requirements (Annexures D and E)
- Referencing and formatting standards

8. Review and Quality Assurance Framework

The full review process is governed by Annexure C.

- Stage 1: Screening
- Stage 2: Full review (peer review for Track 1; technical review for Tracks 2–5)

Timelines and evaluation criteria are detailed in Annexure C.

9. Outputs and Atlas Integration

All accepted submissions contribute to:

- Conference presentations
- Conference proceedings
- African Economic Development & Innovation Atlas 2026

(Refer to Annexure B for details.)

10. Submission Compliance Requirements

All submissions must:

- Follow prescribed templates
- Be original and properly referenced
- Meet formatting and language standards

(Refer to Annexure C.)

11. Submission Journey (Integrated User Flow)

1. Review Call for Papers (Annexure A)
2. Select Track
3. Review Submission Guidelines (Annexure B)
4. Submit Abstract / Concept
5. Receive Acceptance
6. Use Relevant Template (Annexures D or E)
7. Consult Examples Guide (Annexure F)
8. Submit Full Contribution

12. Submission and Enquiries

Website: www.ifedi.org/acoedi

Email: conference@ifedi.org | theifedi@gmail.com

Tel: 065 924 3925

13. Final Positioning Statement

ACOEDI 2026 is a practice-oriented, implementation-driven conference integrating academic excellence, policy innovation, industry solutions, and grassroots development. Contributors are expected to demonstrate real-world relevance, scalability, and measurable impact.

14. ANNEXURES

Annexure A: Call for Papers (ACOEDI 2026)

Provides conference themes, tracks, participation scope, and submission calls.

Annexure B: Submission Guidelines

Provides detailed submission requirements, formats, and processes.

Annexure C: Review Process and Quality Control Framework

Outlines evaluation criteria, timelines, peer review processes, and quality assurance.

Annexure D: Track 1 Academic Article Template

Mandatory template for all academic paper submissions.

Annexure E: Track 2–5 Submission Templates

Mandatory templates for innovation, policy, case study, and venture submissions.

Annexure F: Submission Format Examples Guide

Provides illustrative examples for slides, posters, demonstrations, and pitch presentations.

End

ANNEXURE B: ACOEDI Submission Guidelines 2026

African Conference on Economic Development and Innovation (ACOEDI 2026)

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1. Submission Process

All contributions to ACOEDI 2026 will follow a **two-stage submission process**, aligned with the conference tracks and contribution types as outlined in the Call for Papers.

Stage 1: Abstract / Concept Submission (Mandatory for All Tracks)

Applicants must submit either:

- An **abstract** (Track 1: Academic Research Papers), or
- A **concept note / proposal** (Tracks 2–5: Practice, Policy, and Innovation Tracks)

This stage is used for initial screening based on relevance, quality, and alignment with the conference themes and tracks.

Stage 2: Full Submission (Upon Acceptance)

Successful applicants will be invited to submit a **full contribution**, in a format appropriate to the selected track, including:

- Full academic papers
- Policy briefs or frameworks
- Case study reports
- Innovation showcase reports
- Venture profiles or presentations

2. Submission Formats and Track Alignment

ACOEDI 2026 accommodates multiple submission formats to support diverse contributors across academia, policy, industry, and grassroots innovation, in line with the conference's practice-oriented and implementation-driven approach .

Each track is aligned with specific primary and alternative formats as outlined in the below:

Track	Track Title	Primary Submission Format	Alternative / Supporting Formats	Output Type	Target Contributors
Track 1	Academic Research Papers	Full Academic Paper (5,000–8,000 words)	Oral presentation (slides); Poster (optional for students)	Peer-reviewed paper; Conference proceedings; Journal pipeline	Researchers, academics, postgraduate students
Track 2	Industry Innovation Showcases	Innovation Showcase Report (1,500–3,000 words) OR Presentation (10–15 slides)	Live demonstration; Prototype showcase; Technology display	Demonstration; Innovation case; Implementation model	Companies, entrepreneurs, technology developers
Track 3	Policy and Governance Innovations	Policy Brief / Policy Framework (2,000–4,000 words)	Presentation (slides); Panel contribution	Policy proposal; Governance model; Institutional framework	Government, policymakers, regulators
Track 4	Development Practice Cases	Case Study Report (2,000–4,000 words)	Presentation (slides); Poster	Programme case; Implementation evidence; Lessons learned	DFIs, NGOs, development practitioners
Track 5	Venture, Grassroots & Indigenous Innovations	Concept Note / Venture Profile (1,000–2,500 words) OR Pitch Deck (max 10 slides)	Demo; Pitch session; Exhibition booth	Venture concept; Scalable model; Grassroots innovation	Startups, grassroots innovators, community enterprises

3. Stage 1: Abstract / Concept Submission Requirements

Track 1: Academic Research Papers – Abstract

- Length: 250–300 words
- Must include:
 - Background / problem statement
 - Research objective
 - Methodology (brief)
 - Expected or key findings
 - Contribution to economic development

Tracks 2–5: Concept Note / Proposal

- Length: 300–500 words
- Must include:
 - Title of the submission
 - Problem or opportunity being addressed
 - Proposed solution, innovation, or case
 - Implementation approach
 - Expected outcomes or impact
 - Relevance to economic development and innovation

Common Requirements (All Submissions)

- Author(s) / Organisation
- Track selection
- 3–5 keywords
- Contact details

4. Stage 2: Full Submission Guidelines (Upon Acceptance)

Track 1: Academic Research Papers

- 5,000 – 8,000 words
- Structured academic format
- APA referencing
- Subject to double-blind peer review

Track 2: Industry Innovation Showcases

- 1,500 – 3,000 words **OR** 10–15 slide presentation
- Focus on solution, implementation, and scalability
- May include demonstration or prototype showcase

Track 3: Policy and Governance Innovations

- 2,000 – 4,000 words
- Policy brief or framework
- Must include implementation considerations

Track 4: Development Practice Cases

- 2,000 – 4,000 words
- Case study format
- Emphasis on lessons, outcomes, and replicability

Track 5: Venture, Grassroots & Indigenous Innovations

- 1,000 – 2,500 words **OR** max 10 slide pitch deck
- Practical, accessible format encouraged
- Focus on real-world application, scalability, and growth potential

5. Review and Selection Process

- **Stage 1:** Screening for relevance, quality, and alignment with conference themes
- **Stage 2:**
 - Track 1: Double-blind peer review
 - Tracks 2–5: Technical and impact-based review

Evaluation criteria include:

- Relevance to conference themes
- Innovation and originality
- Practical applicability
- Contribution to the African Economic Development & Innovation Atlas 2026

6. Outputs and Publication

Accepted contributions may be:

- Presented at the conference
- Included in the ACOEDI 2026 Conference Proceedings
- Incorporated into the African Economic Development & Innovation Atlas 2026

7. Submission and Enquiries

For submission details and access to the submission portal, please visit:

www.ifedi.org/acoedi

For enquiries:

conference@ifedi.org

theifedi@gmail.com

Tel: 065 924 3925

ANNEXURE C: ACOEDI 2026 Review Process and Quality Control Framework

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1. Submission and Acknowledgement

All submissions must be made in accordance with the conference submission guidelines. Submissions will be acknowledged within a reasonable timeframe following receipt.

2. Review Process

All submissions to ACOEDI 2026 will undergo a structured and rigorous review process to ensure quality, relevance, and alignment with the conference objectives.

Submissions will first be **screened by the Scientific and Technical Committee** to assess alignment with conference themes, scope, quality, and originality. This initial screening ensures that only submissions meeting the required standards proceed to full review.

Academic research papers will be subjected to a **double-blind peer review process**, involving independent reviewers with appropriate subject expertise. Non-academic submissions, including industry innovations, policy contributions, and development practice cases, will undergo a **technical and relevance-based review**, focusing on innovation, practical applicability, and implementation value.

Feedback will be provided to authors within defined timelines, and the conference aims to complete the review process efficiently to allow adequate time for revisions and preparation. Final acceptance will be based on the overall quality of the submission, its contribution to economic development and innovation practice, and its relevance to the development of the: **African Economic Development & Innovation Atlas 2026 – The Practitioner's Annual Implementation Framework**

3. Review Timelines

The review process will be conducted within structured timelines to ensure efficiency and quality:

- **Acknowledgement of submission:** within 48 hours
- **Stage 1 (Abstract/Concept screening):** 2–3 weeks
- **Stage 2 (Full submission review):** 6–8 weeks
- **Final decision and feedback:** communicated promptly after review

These timelines are indicative and may be adjusted based on submission volumes.

4. Evaluation Criteria

All submissions will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance to conference themes and tracks
- Originality and innovation
- Methodological rigour (for academic papers)
- Practical applicability and implementation value
- Contribution to economic development and innovation

- Alignment with the African Economic Development & Innovation Atlas 2026

5. Role of the Scientific and Technical Committee

The Scientific and Technical Committee is responsible for:

- Screening and coordinating the review of all submissions
- Ensuring consistency, fairness, and quality in the review process
- Assigning reviewers and validating review outcomes
- Ensuring that all accepted contributions meaningfully inform the conference outputs

6. Manuscript and Submission Requirements

Authors are required to prepare submissions in accordance with the conference guidelines. Submissions that do not comply with the required format may be declined at an early stage.

General requirements include:

- Submissions must be in MS Word (Doc/Docx) or approved presentation format
- Title page must include author(s), affiliation, and contact details
- For blind review, author details must not appear in the main manuscript
- Abstracts must be concise and clearly communicate the significance of the work
- Submissions must be written in clear and professional English
- Consistent formatting and structure must be maintained

Academic papers should follow a structured format, including:

- Introduction
- Literature review
- Methodology
- Results and discussion
- Conclusion and recommendations
- References

Tables, figures, and equations must be clearly presented and appropriately referenced.

7. Referencing and Formatting

- Referencing style: APA (latest edition)
- All sources must be properly cited and listed in the reference section
- Consistency in formatting is required across the manuscript

8. Open Access and Publication

Conference outputs, including selected papers and contributions, may be published in conference proceedings or related publications.

Where applicable, content will be made accessible to support knowledge dissemination and practical application.

9. Copyright and Author Responsibility

Authors must confirm that:

- The submission is original and has not been previously published
- The work is not under consideration elsewhere
- All sources are properly acknowledged

Authors may be required to sign a publication or permission agreement. Responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of the content rests with the author(s).

10. Publication Ethics

Authors are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic and professional integrity.

Submissions must be original and properly referenced. All forms of plagiarism, including verbatim copying, paraphrasing without attribution, and self-plagiarism, are strictly prohibited.

11. Editorial Responsibility and Decision-Making

The Conference Scientific and Technical Committee is responsible for determining which submissions are accepted.

Decisions are based on reviewer feedback, evaluation criteria, and alignment with conference objectives. The Committee may consult reviewers and other experts where necessary.

12. Fairness and Confidentiality

All submissions will be evaluated solely on intellectual merit, without regard to race, gender, institutional affiliation, or other non-academic factors.

The review process is confidential. Information relating to submissions will not be disclosed beyond those directly involved in the review and decision-making process.

13. Enquiries

For all submission-related enquiries, please contact:

conference@ifedi.org or theifedi@gmail.com | 065 924 3925



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ANNEXURE D: TRACK 1 SAMPLE TEMPLATE

African Conference on Economic Development and Innovation (ACOEDI 2026)

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HEADING IN TITLE CASE AND ALIGNED CENTRE

Author first names/ and surname (are in centred, bold and 10-point Calibri font)

Affiliation (in centred, bold and 10-point Calibri font)

Email (in centred, bold and 10-point Calibri font)

Authors bibliography

Name and surname 1: (bibliography in full justification and 10-point Calibri font)

Name and surname 2¹: (bibliography in full justification and 10-point Calibri font)

Name and surname 3: (bibliography in full justification and 10-point Calibri font)

¹ Correspondence Author

HEADING IN TITLE CASE AND ALIGNED CENTRE

Abstract

The abstract should be no more than 200 words, in Calibri 10-point font.

Keywords: List up to five key words

1. First level heading (Headings are numbered, using Heading 1 Style, and 11-point Calibri)

Note that the text starts immediately after a heading, on the next line. Do not leave an extra blank line. All the text in the paper uses the Normal Style which is in Calibri 10-point font. To ensure an easy flow of key points, make careful use of paragraphs.

2. Use of this template

This template contains built-in styles to enable you format your paper more easily. If you are not familiar on the use of styles in MS Word, then you should read up on this before using this template. If you are using a different word-processor to write your article, then ensure that you follow all the style guidelines indicated in this template.

This template contains styles for:

- The paper title.
- Different levels of headings
- Captions for Tables and Figures
- Quotations

The paper layout, already setup in this template is as follows:

- Paper size: A4
- Margins: 2.54 cm all round
- Text is 10-point Calibri.

Margins should be Fully Justified for main text but Left Aligned for titles and headings.

At the end of a section, you only need to press the Enter key **once** before you write the heading of the next section.

3. A note about in-text citation

Please ensure you use correct Harvard Style in text referencing, and citation. Note that in text citations are in three modes. The first is where you indicate a citation at the end of the sentence e.g. As a result, an introspection of the field reflects a diversity of independent measures and dependent variables (Green et al, 2013).

You may also want to cite, longer quotes. If so, you must use the **Quote Style**. When direct quotes are being used, also ensure the page number of the source is indicated. For example: Mabusa and Mambote (2000:99) sum up the strategic importance of IS in business quite aptly in arguing that:

“The importance of information technologies and the information systems function is no longer of debate among business people. The question, rather, is how an organization can take best advantage of IT in order to support its operations, add value to its products and services, and gain a competitive edge in the marketplace”.

The third way of in text citation is when you refer to the author or authors within the sentence. Also note the use of ‘et al.’ when you cite more than two authors. For example: More recently Green et al. (2013) argued that comprehensive and integrative research on the variables that influence IS success has been lacking.

4. A note about the use of past and present tense

When you cite an article, you always do so in the *present tense* e.g.

Katete et al. (2014) argue that the evolution of systems, users, and user requirements has changed over time as the context, purpose, and impact of IS has evolved.

When you refer to the research you undertook, you write about in the *past tense* e.g. A sample of ten users was selected from the target population. Each user was interviewed for approximately thirty minutes, using an interview schedule which comprised semi-structured questions.

5. A note about the use of headings

You will also start writing the text immediately after the sub-heading. Do not leave an extra blank line. The use of sub-headings assist in providing structure to the paper.

5.1 This is an example of the Second level heading. These headings are also numbered, and use Heading 2 style, in 10-point Calibri

Note – there should not be just a single sub-section within a section. If you are using sub-sections, use at least two or more subsections.

5.2 This is another example of the Second level heading. Headings are also numbered, and use Heading 2 style.

You will also start writing the text immediately after the sub-heading. Do not leave an extra blank line. Please also ensure that you do not have two headings follow each other, without any text in between.

5.2.1 This is an example of a Third Level Heading. These headings are also numbered, and use Heading 3 style, in 10-point Calibri.

You may also use a third level of headings. For this you will used “Heading 3 Style”. This template also caters for sub-headings at the fourth and fifth levels, but you are advised to keep up to only 3 levels of headings.

5.2.2 This is another example of a Third Level Heading. These headings are also numbered, and use Heading 3 style.

You may also use a third level of headings. For this you will used “Heading 3 Style”. This template also caters for sub-headings at the fourth and fifth levels, but you are advised to keep up to only 3 levels of headings.

6. A note about the use of Figures and Table

Use figures and tables in your paper wherever they will help to illustrate your text. Figures and Tables should be numbered consecutively throughout the paper and not numbered according to the section in which they appear. Figure captions should appear below the figure (Figure 1), and also centered. Ensure that you place figures in proximity to the text where it is being referred to.



Figure 1: This is a sample Figure, which indicates the source (if applicable) immediately after the figure caption, on the same line (Source: Anon, 1999)

6.1.1 A note about the use of Tables.

Use figures and tables in your paper wherever they will help to illustrate your text. Figures and Tables should be numbered consecutively throughout the paper and not numbered according to the section in which they appear. Table captions should appear **above** the figure (Table 1) and left-aligned.

Tables should be set as "Autofit to contents" and centred on the page. If your table runs over two pages, please ensure that headings are also carried over. Do not allow rows to split across pages.

Create tables using the table option of your word processing package. **Do not use tabs and spaces.** See the example below.

Ensure that you place figures in proximity to the text where it is being referred to. All text in Tables is in Calibri 9-point font.

Table 1: A sample table {note the caption is left aligned, above the table}

	Heading text (headings should be carried over to a new page if the table does not fit on one page)	Heading text	Heading Text
Row heading {do not allow rows to split across pages}	Text in the table should be 9-point Calibri font, and left aligned.	Text in tables should not be justified.	
Row heading			
Row heading			
.....			
.....			
.....			

7. Appendices

You may include appendices to the article. Choose what appendices you want to include carefully. An Appendix should add value to the article and should provide further detail about some aspect of the method, data or analysis. Do not include Appendices if they are not referred to in the text of the Article.

Appendices should be clearly labelled e.g.

- Appendix A: Questionnaire
- Appendix B: Atlas Ti coding report

8. References

The reference list includes a list, in alphabetical order, of all books, journal articles, online sources, reports and other literature that have been consulted. The list of references should clearly demonstrate your familiarity with the relevant academic literature in your specific area of research. The reference list should be in Calibri 9 point font, left-aligned, single line spaced, with a 8pt space between each reference.

Note that we are aware of some limitations of the referencing software you are using. The key issues is to ensure consistency in the specific Harvard style you are using.

This is a sample reference list, with some of the common reference types included:

Aitken, I. 2003. Value-driven IT management: commercialising the IT function. Oxford: Butterworth Heinemann.

Alavi, M. & Carlson, P. 1992. **A review of MIS research and disciplinary development.** *Journal of Management Information Systems*, 8(4):45-63.

- Alvesson, M. & Sköldberg, K. 2000. *Reflexive methodology: new vistas for qualitative research*. London: Sage.
- Ashrafi, R., Sharma, S.K., Al-Badi, A.H. and Al-Gharbi, K., 2014. Achieving business success through information and communication technologies adoption by small and medium enterprises in Oman. *Middle-East Journal of Scientific Research*, 22(1), pp.138-146.
- Atkinson, R.D. & Court, R.H. 1998. Explaining the productivity paradox. Available at: <http://www.neweconomyindex.org/productivity.html> [Accessed 26 August 2013].
- Babbie, E. & Mouton, J. 2001. *The practice of social research*. Cape Town: Oxford University Press.
- Bannister, F., Griffiths, P. & Remenyi, D. 2006. Theory building through case study analysis. In Remenyi, D. (ed.). *Proceedings of the 5th European Conference on Research Methodology for Business Management and Studies*, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, 17-18 July. Reading: Academic Conferences: 39-50.
- Bothma, R. 2005. Interview with researcher on 12 April 2017, Cape Town.
- Internet World Stats: Usage and Population Statistics. 2005. South Africa: Internet usage and marketing report. Available at: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/af/za.htm> [Accessed 15 August 2005].
- Klein, H.K. & Myers, M.D. 2001. A classification scheme for interpretive research in information systems. In Trauth, E.M. (ed.). *Qualitative research in IS: issues and trends*. Hershey, PA: Idea Group: 218-239.
- South Africa. 2002. *Electronic Communications and Transactions Act No. 25 of 2002*. Pretoria: Government Printer.
- South Africa. Department of Trade and Industry. 2003. *South Africa: geared for growth*. Pretoria: Department of Trade and Industry.
- Willcocks, L. & Graeser, V. 2001. *Delivering IT and e-business value*. Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann.



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ANNEXURE E: TRACK 2-5 SUBMISSION TEMPLATES

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Track 2 Template for Submission : Industry Innovation Showcase

1. **Title** (brief, descriptive and centred on the page)
2. **Authors and Affiliation** – List names, organisation/company, and email addresses.
3. **Abstract/Executive Summary** (150–250 words) – Summarise the innovation, the problem addressed and key results or expected impact.
4. **Keywords** – Provide 3–5 keywords separated by commas.
5. **Introduction and Problem Context** – Describe the industry challenge or opportunity and explain its relevance to economic development.
6. **Description of the Innovation** – Explain the product, service or model. Highlight what is novel or different and the problem it solves.
7. **Implementation Model** – Describe how the solution is delivered, including delivery model, stakeholders involved and key technologies or systems.
8. **Results, Impact or Expected Outcomes** – Present evidence of results or anticipated benefits, covering economic impact, business outcomes and scalability potential.
9. **Lessons Learned and Replicability** – Summarise what worked, what did not and how the solution can be replicated or adapted elsewhere.
10. **Conclusion** – Provide a concise conclusion that emphasises the contribution and relevance to economic development.

Track 2 Example Submission: AgriConxxxxxx – A Digital Marketplace for Smallholder Farmers

Authors and Affiliation:

- **Full name** – Institution name email: xxxxx
- **Full name** – name of university , Department of email: A*****email: *****

Abstract/Executive Summary (approx. 200 words)

Smallholder farmers in Limpopo often struggle to access markets and fair prices for their produce. **AgriConxxxxxx** is a cloud-based marketplace and logistics platform designed to link smallholder farmers directly with retailers, restaurants and consumers. The platform allows farmers to upload crop availability and receive price offers in real time. Buyers can place orders, arrange deliveries and make payments through a secure mobile app. In its first year

of operation, AgriConxxxxxx enrolled over 1 500 farmers and facilitated transactions worth R12 million. Farmers reported an average income increase of 30 %, while buyers benefited from fresher produce and transparent pricing. By bridging the gap between rural producers and urban markets, AgriConxxxxxx demonstrates how digital innovation can enhance economic development and food security.

Keywords: digital marketplace, smallholder farmers, agricultural innovation, inclusive business, economic development

1. Introduction and Problem Context

Limpopo's agriculture sector is dominated by smallholder farmers who often sell through informal channels and face unpredictable prices. Lack of access to market information and logistics services reduces income and discourages investment in productivity. Urban retailers, on the other hand, rely on intermediaries and have limited visibility into supply from rural areas. This mismatch results in high wastage and price volatility.

2. Description of the Innovation

AgriConxxxxxx is a web and mobile platform that enables farmers to list available produce, quantities and preferred prices. The platform uses a matchmaking algorithm to connect farmers with buyers based on location, product type and quantity. Unlike traditional marketplaces, AgriConxxxxxx integrates logistics and mobile payments, offering a seamless end-to-end service. The innovation addresses the asymmetry of information by providing real-time market data and direct communication channels between farmers and buyers.

3. Implementation Model

- **Delivery model:** The platform is hosted in the cloud and accessible via smartphone or SMS for farmers without internet access. Logistics partnerships with local transport cooperatives ensure that produce is collected and delivered within 48 hours.
- **Stakeholders:** Smallholder farmers, retailers, restaurants, consumers, transport cooperatives, xxxx Innovations (platform provider) and local extension officers.
- **Technology:** The system uses a cloud-hosted database, a mobile app developed in Flutter, SMS integration and a secure payment gateway.

4. Results, Impact or Expected Outcomes

In the pilot phase, 1 500 farmers registered and more than 200 buyers actively used the platform. Total transaction volume reached R12 million, with farmers receiving payments within 72 hours. Post-harvest losses among participating farmers dropped by 15 %, and average farm-gate prices increased by 30 %. The platform created 50 new jobs in logistics and customer support. Over the next three years, AgriConxxxxxx aims to expand to neighbouring provinces and double its user base.

5. Lessons Learned and Replicability

Key lessons include the importance of training farmers to use digital tools, the need to partner with trusted local transport operators and the value of transparent pricing. The model can be replicated in other regions with strong mobile connectivity and organised farmer groups. Partnerships with agricultural cooperatives and local governments can accelerate adoption.

6. Conclusion

AgriConxxxxxx demonstrates how digital innovation can address structural challenges in agricultural markets. By enabling direct market access, the platform enhances incomes for smallholder farmers, improves supply chain efficiency and contributes to food security. With appropriate support, similar models could be scaled across South Africa and other African countries.

Track 3 Template for Submission: Policy and Governance Innovations

1. **Title**
2. **Authors and Affiliation** – Include names, institution/department and email addresses.
3. **Abstract/Policy Summary** (150–250 words) – Summarise the policy issue, proposed solution and expected impact.
4. **Keywords** – 3–5 keywords separated by commas.
5. **Problem and Context** – Define the policy problem or gap and provide institutional, regulatory or economic context.
6. **Policy Proposal** – Describe the proposed policy or framework, including objectives, key components and mechanisms (e.g., regulatory instruments, incentives, implementation mechanisms).
7. **Implementation Considerations** – Discuss how the policy can be implemented, including institutional roles, resource requirements, and risks or constraints.
8. **Expected Outcomes and Impact** – Explain anticipated benefits and economic implications, referencing evidence where possible.
9. **Recommendations** – Provide clear, actionable recommendations or next steps that decision-makers can take.
10. **Conclusion** – Summarise the importance of the policy innovation and its relevance to governance or economic development.

Track 3 Example Submission: E-Procurement Platform – Enhancing Transparency in Provincial Procurement

Authors and Affiliation:

- **Full name** – Institution name email: xxxxx
- **Full name** – name of university , Department of email: A*****email: *****

Abstract/Policy Summary (approx. 200 words)

Public procurement in Limpopo has been criticised for inefficiencies and allegations of corruption. To address these challenges, the Department of, proposes

an **e-Procurement Platform** that digitises tender announcements, bid submissions, evaluation and contract management. The platform aims to increase transparency, reduce processing times and expand opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Stakeholder consultations reveal broad support, though concerns remain about digital readiness and cybersecurity. International evidence suggests that e-procurement can reduce procurement costs by up to 15 % and limit discretionary decision-making. This policy brief outlines the problem, contextual factors, proposed framework, implementation considerations and recommendations for rolling out the platform in Limpopo.

Keywords: e-procurement, transparency, public procurement, digital governance, SMEs

1. Problem and Context

Limpopo's procurement system relies on paper-based processes, which are slow and lack transparency. Audit reports have highlighted irregularities in bid evaluation and contract management. SMEs often struggle to access tender information and are deterred by complex administrative requirements. The provincial government has committed to modernising public services in line with national e-government strategies.

2. Policy Proposal

The proposed e-Procurement Platform will provide a central online portal where tenders are published, bids are submitted electronically, and evaluation results are posted. **Objectives:** (a) increase transparency by providing real-time access to procurement information; (b) improve efficiency by reducing paperwork and automating workflows; (c) enhance SME participation by simplifying bid submission and providing notification services. **Key components:** user registration, tender advertisement module, electronic bid submission and evaluation tools, contract management and reporting dashboards. **Mechanisms:** use of digital signatures, audit trails and open-data APIs to allow public oversight.

3. Implementation Considerations

- **Institutional roles:** The Department of, will oversee platform development and operations. The Provincial Treasury will provide policy oversight. Municipal procurement units will be trained to use the system.
- **Resource requirements:** Budget allocation for software development, cloud hosting and cybersecurity measures; training for procurement officials; awareness campaigns for suppliers.
- **Risks and constraints:** Limited internet connectivity in rural areas; resistance from officials accustomed to paper processes; cybersecurity threats. Mitigation measures include phased rollout, offline submission alternatives and a robust security framework.

4. Expected Outcomes and Impact

Implementation of the platform is expected to reduce procurement processing time by 40 % and increase the number of SME bidders by 25 %. Greater transparency should reduce the risk of corruption and improve public trust. Cost savings are expected from streamlined

processes and reduced paperwork. The platform could serve as a model for other provinces seeking to digitise procurement.

5. Recommendations

1. **Pilot the platform** in a few departments before province-wide deployment to identify technical and change-management issues.
2. **Provide training and support** for procurement officials and suppliers, including webinars and on-site assistance.
3. **Establish a legal framework** to recognise electronic signatures and ensure that e-procurement procedures comply with national procurement regulations.
4. **Monitor and evaluate** the platform's impact through regular audits and stakeholder surveys.

6. Conclusion

The e-Procurement Platform offers a viable solution to long-standing procurement challenges in Limpopo. By harnessing digital technologies, the province can improve transparency, efficiency and inclusiveness in public procurement. Careful planning and stakeholder engagement will be essential for successful implementation.

Track 4 Template for Submission: Development Practice Case Study

1. **Title**
2. **Authors and Affiliation** – Provide names, organisation and email addresses.
3. **Abstract/Case Summary** (150–250 words) – Summarise the intervention, context and key outcomes.
4. **Keywords** – 3–5 keywords separated by commas.
5. **Context and Objectives** – Describe the development challenge and the objectives of the intervention.
6. **Intervention Description** – Explain what was implemented (activities, target groups and approach).
7. **Implementation Process** – Provide a narrative of how the programme was executed, including timeline, stakeholders, resources and any adaptations made.
8. **Results and Outcomes** – Present measurable or observed outcomes, linking them back to the objectives.
9. **Lessons Learned** – Highlight key insights, challenges and improvements arising from the intervention.
10. **Replicability and Scaling Potential** – Discuss how the intervention could be replicated or scaled and under what conditions.
11. **Conclusion** – Summarise the key contributions and implications for development practice.

Track 4 Example Submission : Community Solar Microgrids in Rural Limpopo: A Development Practice Case Study**Authors and Affiliation:**

- **Full name** – Institution name email: xxxxx
- **Full name** – name of university , Department of email: A*****email: *****

Abstract/Case Summary (approx. 200 words)

Rural communities in Limpopo often lack access to reliable electricity, hindering education, healthcare and economic activities. This case study examines a pilot programme that installed **community solar microgrids** in three villages—Nkowakowa, Giyani and Phalaborwa. Each microgrid comprised a 50 kW solar array, battery storage and distribution to 60 households. The project aimed to demonstrate a sustainable model for off-grid electrification. Over 18 months, the microgrids provided uninterrupted power, enabling evening study sessions, refrigeration for clinics and small business operations. Household electricity costs dropped by 40 % compared to diesel generators. This case study outlines the context, intervention, implementation process, results, lessons learned and the potential for scaling similar microgrids across rural South Africa.

Keywords: community solar, microgrid, rural electrification, energy access, sustainable development

1. Context and Objectives

More than 15 % of households in Limpopo are not connected to the national grid. Many rely on kerosene, candles or diesel generators, which are expensive and hazardous. The programme sought to test whether solar microgrids could provide reliable and affordable electricity to remote communities, improve quality of life and stimulate local enterprise.

2. Intervention Description

The intervention involved installing community-owned solar microgrids consisting of photovoltaic panels, lithium-ion batteries and low-voltage distribution networks. The project partnered with village councils and formed energy cooperatives to manage the systems. Target groups included households without grid access, local schools and clinics. Training was provided on system maintenance and cooperative management.

3. Implementation Process

The project commenced in January 2024 with community consultations to assess energy needs. Procurement and installation occurred between March and June 2024. Each microgrid served about 60 households and key community facilities. Stakeholders included the rural energy NGO, local government, equipment suppliers and the communities themselves. Resources were a grant of R6 million, in-kind contributions from the municipality and volunteer labour for installation. Monitoring equipment transmitted performance data to the NGO, and technicians visited monthly to address issues.

4. Results and Outcomes

By the end of 2025, all three microgrids operated reliably with minimal downtime. Households enjoyed 24-hour electricity, enabling evening study, phone charging and refrigeration. The local clinics could store vaccines, and 12 micro-enterprises (e.g., poultry farming, sewing) were established. Electricity spending fell from an average of R350 to R200 per month. CO₂ emissions associated with diesel generation were eliminated. User satisfaction surveys recorded a 90 % approval rate. The project achieved its objectives and demonstrated a viable model for off-grid electrification.

5. Lessons Learned

Community engagement from the outset was critical for ownership and sustainability. Training local technicians reduced maintenance costs and downtime. Seasonal variations in solar output required larger battery capacity than initially planned. Financial sustainability remains a challenge: tariffs must balance affordability with system maintenance costs.

6. Replicability and Scaling Potential

The microgrid model can be replicated in other off-grid communities, provided there is adequate solar resource and community willingness to form cooperatives. Scaling will require concessional financing, partnerships with government and donor agencies, and robust technical support networks. Future projects should include income-generating activities to improve tariff collection and sustainability.

7. Conclusion

Community solar microgrids offer a practical solution to rural electrification challenges. The pilot demonstrates that local ownership, appropriate technology and supportive policy frameworks can deliver reliable and affordable energy. Replication at scale could accelerate progress towards universal energy access in South Africa.

Track 5 Template for Submission: Venture, Grassroots & Indigenous Innovation

1. **Title**
2. **Authors and Affiliation** – Include names, venture/organisation and email addresses.
3. **Concept Summary/Abstract** (150–250 words) – Provide a clear overview of the venture or innovation and its significance.
4. **Keywords** – 3–5 keywords separated by commas.
5. **Problem or Opportunity** – Describe the market gap or community need and provide evidence of the problem.
6. **The Innovation/Venture** – Explain the product, service or model, what it does and who it serves.
7. **Business or Operational Model** – Describe how the venture operates, including revenue model, delivery approach and partnerships.

8. **Market and Beneficiaries** – Define target users, customers or communities and describe engagement strategies.
9. **Impact (Economic/Social)** – Describe current or expected economic and social impact, with indicators or anecdotes.
10. **Growth and Scaling Potential** – Explain expansion opportunities and sustainability strategies.
11. **Support Requirements (Optional)** – Identify funding, partnerships or ecosystem support needed.
12. **Conclusion** – Summarise the opportunity and relevance of the innovation.

Track 5 Example Submission: Baobab xxx Snacks – Empowering Indigenous Women Entrepreneurs

Authors and Affiliation:

- **Full name** – Institution name email: xxxxx
- **Full name** – name of university , Department of email: A*****email: *****

Concept Summary/Abstract (approx. 200 words)

Northern Limpopo is home to the ancient baobab tree, whose fruit is rich in vitamin C and antioxidants. Despite this resource, many rural women struggle to earn a stable income. **Baobab xxx Snacks** is a social enterprise that sources baobab fruit from community-owned trees, processes it into nutritious snack bars and sells them to urban health-food markets. The venture provides women with training, equipment and market access. In its first two years, the cooperative produced 50 000 snack bars and generated R1.5 million in revenue. Household incomes for participating women increased by 25 %, and the project reinvested 20 % of profits into community development. This submission outlines the problem addressed, the innovation, business model, target market, impact and growth potential.

Keywords: indigenous innovation, baobab, women entrepreneurs, social enterprise, food processing

1. Problem or Opportunity

Rural communities in Limpopo rely heavily on seasonal agriculture and remittances. Women often have limited livelihood options and face barriers to accessing formal markets. Baobab fruit is plentiful but typically sold unprocessed at low prices. The opportunity lies in creating value-added products that capture more of the value chain locally.

2. The Innovation/Venture

Baobab Nut Snacks transforms raw baobab pulp and seeds into high-protein snack bars using locally sourced nuts and honey. The product is gluten-free and appeals to health-conscious consumers. The venture serves rural women producers, urban retail buyers and consumers seeking nutritious indigenous foods.

3. Business or Operational Model

The cooperative purchases baobab fruit from member households at fair prices. Women receive training in hygienic processing, packaging and quality control. Production takes place in a community processing centre equipped with solar dryers and nut roasters. Revenue comes from wholesale orders to health-food stores and direct sales at farmers' markets. Partnerships with nutritional scientists ensure product quality, while agreements with local NGOs provide microfinance and business mentorship.

4. Market and Beneficiaries

The primary market comprises health-food retailers in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. The cooperative also sells directly at local markets and online. Beneficiaries include 80 women producers from five villages, their households and the broader community, which benefits from profit-sharing and reinvestment in social projects.

5. Impact (Economic/Social)

Participating households saw average monthly income rise from R2 000 to R2 500. Women gained skills in business management and food safety. The project preserved cultural knowledge of baobab harvesting and promoted indigenous foods. Social benefits include reduced rural-to-urban migration and increased school attendance due to higher household incomes.

6. Growth and Scaling Potential

The cooperative plans to expand production to 150 000 snack bars per year and introduce new products such as baobab powder and smoothies. Scaling will involve certifying products for export, securing additional working capital and establishing distribution partnerships with national supermarket chains. Demand for natural, plant-based snacks is growing both locally and internationally, offering significant growth potential.

7. Support Requirements (Optional)

Additional support is needed to purchase industrial processing equipment, obtain health-food certifications and develop export marketing channels. Partnerships with investors, development agencies and agricultural extension services will be instrumental for expansion.

8. Conclusion

Baobab xxxx Snacks illustrates how indigenous resources and women's entrepreneurship can drive rural development. By converting under-utilised baobab fruit into value-added products, the venture creates sustainable livelihoods, empowers women and celebrates local biodiversity. With the right support, this model can be scaled across other baobab-rich regions in Africa.

ANNEXURE F: ACOEDI 2026 Examples of Slide-Based, Poster, Demonstration and Pitch Submissions

African Conference on Economic Development and Innovation (ACOEDI 2026)

26-29 October 2026

info@ifedi.org | 065 924 3925

The table below illustrates how the non-written submission formats identified in the submission guidelines can be applied across Tracks 1–5. For each track, an example outline is provided for a slide-based presentation (10–15 slides), a poster presentation, an innovation/technology demonstration, and a venture pitch or concept presentation. These are illustrative only and are designed to show the level of detail and structure expected for ACOEDI submissions.

Track 1 – Academic Research Papers

Slide-based presentation example

Title: *Evaluating the Impact of Solar Microgrids on Rural SMEs in Limpopo.*

Slide	Content
1. Title & authors	Title of the study, names of researchers, affiliations and logos.
2. Background and problem	Briefly describe the energy challenges facing rural SMEs and why microgrids are relevant. Include one graphic (e.g., map showing locations).
3. Research questions & objectives	List the main research questions and objectives; use bullet points.
4. Literature review summary	Summarise key findings from prior studies (2–3 bullet points) and highlight the knowledge gap.
5. Methodology	Describe the research design, sample size, data collection methods (e.g., surveys, interviews) and analytical techniques. A simple diagram may illustrate the research process.
6. Results – economic outcomes	Present key quantitative findings (e.g., cost savings, productivity gains) using charts or tables.
7. Results – social outcomes	Summarise non-economic impacts (e.g., improved quality of life) using icons or infographics.

8. Discussion	Interpret the results, linking back to research questions and existing literature.
9. Contribution to economic development	Explain how the findings support local economic development and policy implications.
10. Limitations & future research	List study limitations and suggest areas for further research.
11. Conclusion & recommendations	Summarise the key messages and provide clear recommendations for practitioners and policymakers.
12. Acknowledgements	Recognise funders, partners, and participants.
13. Contact information	Provide contact details and invite questions.

Poster presentation example

Title: *Evaluating the Impact of Solar Microgrids on Rural SMEs.*

- **Problem statement:** A succinct description of energy access challenges faced by rural businesses.
- **Objectives & methodology:** Use an infographic to show the research questions and methods (e.g., icons representing surveys and interviews). Keep text minimal and emphasise visuals.
- **Key findings:** Present 2–3 main results using charts or diagrams (e.g., bar chart showing productivity improvement and pie chart showing cost savings).
- **Contribution to LED:** Explain how microgrids support local economic development, entrepreneurship and job creation. Use call-out boxes or icons.
- **Takeaway messages:** List concise recommendations for policymakers and practitioners.
- **Author & contact:** Include author names, affiliations and a QR code or link for further information.

Innovation/technology demonstration example

Although Track 1 emphasises scholarly outputs, researchers could still showcase data collection tools or analysis software. For example, a demonstration of an **open-source data collection app** developed for the study:

1. **Introduction:** Explain why existing tools were inadequate and the need for a bespoke app.
2. **Features:** Live demonstration of the app's interface, offline data capture, geotagging and real-time syncing to a central database.
3. **Benefits:** Highlight improved data quality, speed and cost savings in research projects.
4. **Audience interaction:** Invite attendees to test the app on tablets or smartphones at a stand.
5. **Relevance:** Link the tool to capacity building for researchers and policymakers in data-sparse regions.

Venture pitch or concept presentation example

While Track 1 submissions are academic, researchers may spin off their findings into a social enterprise. A **venture pitch** could describe a spin-out company that builds and operates solar microgrids for SMEs:

1. **Problem & opportunity:** Describe unreliable grid power for SMEs and the economic cost.
2. **Solution:** Present a microgrid-as-a-service model using solar and battery technology.
3. **Target market:** Identify rural business clusters and quantify potential customer base.
4. **Business model:** Explain revenue streams (subscription fees, pay-as-you-go) and financing mechanisms.
5. **Traction & validation:** Summarise pilot results from the research project, including customer feedback and financial performance.
6. **Team:** Highlight researchers, engineers and business developers involved in the venture.
7. **Ask:** Specify funding needs, partnerships or policy support sought.

Track 2 – Industry Innovation Showcases

Slide-based presentation example

Title: *AgroFrost – Solar-Powered Cold Chain Solution for Smallholder Farmers.*

Slide	Content
1. Title & presenters	Name of innovation (AgroFrost), company logo, presenters.
2. Problem & market insight	Show the high post-harvest losses in perishable goods due to lack of cold storage; include statistics and images of spoiled produce.
3. Innovation overview	Introduce AgroFrost: a modular, solar-powered cold room that can be installed at village collection points. Use a photo or schematic diagram.
4. How it works	Break down the system: solar panels, refrigeration unit, battery storage, and IoT monitoring. Include a simple diagram.
5. Implementation & pilot sites	Map of pilot sites (e.g., Limpopo, Northern Cape) and photos of the units in use.
6. Economic benefits	Present metrics such as reduction in post-harvest losses, increased farmer incomes and pay-back period.
7. Scalability & replicability	Show manufacturing modularity, ease of deployment and potential for replication across Africa.
8. Business model	Explain revenue streams (rental fees, sale of cold storage units) and partnerships with cooperatives.
9. Competitive advantage	Compare with diesel generators and emphasise environmental benefits and cost savings.

10. Impact & SDGs	Link to relevant Sustainable Development Goals and local economic development outcomes.
11. Next steps & call to action	Summarise the roadmap (e.g., raising investment, expanding to new regions) and invite collaboration.

Poster presentation example

Title: *AgroFrost – Sustainable Cold Chain for Smallholder Farmers.*

- **Problem & context:** Use infographics and icons to depict post-harvest losses and energy challenges. Keep text concise.
- **Innovation description:** A large visual of the cold room system; annotate key components (solar panels, refrigeration, insulation) using call-outs.
- **Benefits:** Present key metrics (e.g., 40 % reduction in spoilage, 20 % increase in farmer income) in bold fonts or charts.
- **Business model:** Summarise revenue streams and partnerships in a small box.
- **Impact & SDGs:** Use icons representing SDGs (e.g., zero hunger, affordable clean energy) and a map showing pilot locations.
- **Contact & next steps:** Provide contact details and highlight opportunities for partners or investors.

Innovation/technology demonstration example

AgroFrost Live Demo

1. **Setup:** Install a scaled-down cold room at the conference venue or display a video walkthrough of a site. Use a transparent panel to show the refrigeration components.
2. **Walkthrough:** Demonstrate how produce is loaded, how temperature is monitored via an app and how the solar-battery system maintains cooling.
3. **Data dashboard:** Show real-time temperature and battery status on a screen; simulate alerts for maintenance.
4. **Customer testimonial:** Play a short video of farmers describing improved incomes and reduced waste.
5. **Interactive Q&A:** Allow attendees to inspect the unit, ask technical questions and discuss partnership opportunities.

Venture pitch or concept presentation example

Pitch Deck for AgroFrost, a Solar-Powered Cold Chain Start-up

1. **Problem & opportunity:** Quantify the value of food lost post-harvest and the market size for cold storage in Africa.
2. **Solution:** Describe the AgroFrost product and value proposition.
3. **Business model:** Outline revenue streams, pricing and cost structure.
4. **Market strategy:** Identify target segments (cooperatives, wholesalers, agri-processors) and distribution channels.
5. **Competitive landscape:** Compare with existing solutions (diesel generators, ice blocks) and highlight advantages.

6. **Traction:** Summarise pilot results, revenues and customer testimonials.
7. **Financial projections:** Present 3–year revenue forecasts and funding requirements.
8. **Team:** Introduce the founders and key advisors.
9. **Impact & sustainability:** Emphasise alignment with SDGs and local economic development.
10. **Investment ask:** Specify capital required, intended use of funds and partnership opportunities.

Track 3 – Policy and Governance Innovations

Slide-based presentation example

Title: *Decentralised LED Fund – A Policy Framework for Strengthening Local Economies.*

Slide	Content
1. Title & presenters	Name of policy framework, institution and presenters.
2. Policy problem	Describe unequal economic growth across districts and limited local financing for SMEs; show a map or statistics.
3. Objectives of the framework	List the aims (e.g., empower municipalities, crowd-in private capital, ensure accountability).
4. Policy gap analysis	Summarise shortcomings in current fiscal arrangements and LED funding mechanisms.
5. Proposed decentralised fund design	Use a diagram to show fund governance structure, flows of funds and roles of national and local bodies.
6. Eligibility and allocation criteria	Outline criteria for municipalities and projects; visualise the scoring system.
7. Implementation roadmap	Present phases (pilot, rollout, evaluation) and key activities.
8. Stakeholder roles	Identify roles of government, private sector, civil society and donors; use icons or a matrix.
9. Expected outcomes	Discuss economic impacts (job creation, SME growth), improved service delivery and fiscal sustainability.
10. Risks & mitigation	List key risks (e.g., political capture, misuse of funds) and mitigation strategies.
11. Conclusion & call to action	Summarise benefits and propose next steps (policy adoption, stakeholder consultations).

Poster presentation example

Title: *Decentralised LED Fund Policy Framework.*

- **Policy challenge:** Use a graphic to depict centralised funding bottlenecks and limited SME support.
- **Framework design:** Show the proposed fund's architecture using a clear diagram; highlight how funds flow from national government to local projects.

- **Eligibility & criteria:** Present criteria in a concise table or infographic.
- **Expected outcomes:** Use icons or charts to communicate anticipated economic and social impacts.
- **Stakeholder map:** Visualise roles of government, private sector, community organisations and development partners.
- **Key recommendations:** Summarise essential policy actions and legislative changes.
- **Contact:** Provide names of authors and institutional logos.

Innovation/technology demonstration example

Policy Modelling Tool Demo

1. **Purpose:** Introduce an open-source web-based tool that allows policymakers to simulate the fiscal and economic impacts of various LED funding schemes.
2. **Features:** Demonstrate adjustable parameters (e.g., fund size, allocation formulas) and how results (e.g., GDP growth, job creation) change.
3. **Interactive scenario planning:** Allow attendees to modify parameters on a tablet and observe real-time outputs.
4. **Use case:** Show how the tool was used in a pilot region to support evidence-based policy decisions.
5. **Advantages:** Highlight transparency, replicability and training opportunities for municipal officials.

Venture pitch or concept presentation example

Although Track 3 is policy-oriented, a **concept presentation** could focus on launching a **Public Policy Innovation Lab**:

1. **Problem:** Limited capacity for data-driven policy design in municipalities.
2. **Solution:** Establish a local policy lab that provides technical support, data analysis and participatory co-design services.
3. **Services:** Describe offerings such as training, modelling tools, stakeholder engagement facilitation and policy prototyping.
4. **Impact:** Explain how better policies will improve service delivery and economic outcomes.
5. **Partnerships:** Identify potential partners (universities, think tanks, donors) and sources of funding.
6. **Operating model:** Outline governance structure, staffing and revenue streams (e.g., service contracts, grants).
7. **Next steps:** Define pilot phase and call for collaborators.

Track 4 – Development Practice Cases

Slide-based presentation example

Title: *Community Microgrid Project – A Case Study of Off-Grid Electrification in Tzaneen.*

Slide	Content
1. Title & presenters	Name of the project, implementing organisation(s).
2. Context & rationale	Describe the community (size, geography), lack of grid power and rationale for a microgrid. Include a map and photographs.
3. Project design	Outline technical specifications (solar panels, battery capacity), financing model and community engagement.
4. Implementation process	Use a timeline to show key milestones (planning, installation, training).
5. Results – quantitative	Present data on electricity delivered, businesses powered, and household energy consumption.
6. Results – qualitative	Include testimonies from beneficiaries and changes in livelihoods (e.g., extended business hours, improved education).
7. Challenges & mitigation	Discuss technical issues (maintenance, theft), financial sustainability and governance challenges; highlight mitigation strategies.
8. Lessons learned	Summarise what worked, what didn't and why.
9. Replicability & scaling	Discuss conditions required for replication and scalability; outline partnerships and funding needed.
10. Conclusion & recommendations	Provide recommendations for practitioners, donors and policymakers.

Poster presentation example

Title: *Community Microgrid – Lessons from Tzaneen.*

- **Context & problem:** Use visuals to depict the community and lack of electricity.
- **Project overview:** Show photos of the microgrid, a diagram of the system and key statistics (capacity, households served).
- **Outcomes:** Use charts to represent increases in business revenues and improvements in household welfare.
- **Challenges & lessons:** Present a concise list of challenges encountered and what was learned, using icons or call-outs.
- **Replication:** Map potential replication sites and summarise enabling factors (community engagement, financing, technical support).
- **Contact:** Provide information for the implementing organisation and partners.

Innovation/technology demonstration example

Microgrid Monitoring Platform Demo

1. **Overview:** Show a web-based platform that monitors the performance of microgrids (energy generation, consumption, battery status).
2. **Live data feed:** Connect to an operational microgrid and display real-time data on a dashboard.

3. **Alerts & analytics:** Demonstrate how the system sends alerts for maintenance and analyses long-term usage patterns.
4. **User interface:** Provide tablets for attendees to explore the dashboard, view historical data and generate reports.
5. **Implications:** Discuss how such monitoring tools improve maintenance, transparency and investor confidence.

Venture pitch or concept presentation example

Pitch for Community Microgrid Replicator

1. **Problem & demand:** Present unmet demand for reliable electricity in off-grid communities and the limitations of central grid expansion.
2. **Solution:** Offer a turnkey microgrid installation and management service that includes financing, community training and ongoing maintenance.
3. **Market opportunity:** Quantify the number of potential communities and estimated revenue.
4. **Business model:** Explain revenue streams (electricity tariffs, service fees) and partnerships with impact investors and local governments.
5. **Traction & proof:** Highlight successful pilot in Tzaneen and measurable outcomes (revenues, customer satisfaction).
6. **Impact:** Emphasise socio-economic benefits (job creation, improved education, reduced diesel use).
7. **Team & partners:** Introduce the team and strategic partners.
8. **Funding & next steps:** Specify the required investment to scale and timeline for expansion.

Track 5 – Venture, Grassroots & Indigenous Innovations

Slide-based presentation example

Title: *E-Kraal: Digital Livestock Management for Smallholder Farmers.*

Slide	Content
1. Title & presenters	Name of the venture (E-Kraal), logos, names of founders.
2. Problem & context	Describe challenges facing smallholder livestock farmers (tracking, disease management, market access). Use images and data.
3. Solution overview	Present E-Kraal: a low-cost sensor device attached to cattle that tracks location and health indicators; paired with a mobile app.
4. How it works	Explain the technology: IoT sensors, GSM connectivity, cloud analytics and user-friendly app interface.
5. Value proposition	Highlight benefits (reduced livestock theft, early disease detection, better market prices) using icons and brief text.

6. Business model	Describe revenue streams (device sales, subscription fees, data services) and cost structure.
7. Target market & scaling strategy	Quantify the number of smallholder farmers, starting regions and expansion plans.
8. Traction & validation	Share pilot results (number of animals tagged, reduction in losses, customer testimonials).
9. Competitive landscape	Compare with traditional ear tags and high-end systems; emphasise affordability and local adaptation.
10. Impact & sustainability	Connect to economic empowerment of farmers, improved food security and environmental benefits.
11. Ask & roadmap	Outline funding needs, partnership opportunities and timeline for scaling.

Poster presentation example

Title: *E-Kraal: Empowering Smallholder Livestock Farmers Through IoT.*

- **Problem & context:** Use visuals to show livestock theft rates and lack of herd monitoring.
- **Solution:** Depict the sensor device and app interface; annotate features (GPS tracking, health monitoring, market alerts).
- **Benefits:** Present numbers (e.g., 30 % reduction in theft, 15 % higher sale prices) using icons or charts.
- **Business model:** Summarise pricing and services in a small box or graphic.
- **Impact:** Use SDG icons to illustrate contributions to poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture.
- **Contact & call to action:** Provide contact details and invite farmers or partners to join pilots.

Innovation/technology demonstration example

E-Kraal Device Demo

1. **Hardware showcase:** Display the sensor device with a dismantled view to show components; allow attendees to hold and examine it.
2. **App demonstration:** Run a live simulation where a cow's movements and vital signs are tracked on the app; show how alerts are generated.
3. **Data analytics:** Present a dashboard with historical data on livestock health and location; demonstrate how farmers can use insights to make decisions.
4. **User experience:** Invite a smallholder farmer or extension officer to describe how they use the system.
5. **Feedback & sign-up:** Provide a sign-up sheet or QR code for farmers interested in joining the pilot.

Venture pitch or concept presentation example

Pitch Deck for E-Kraal

1. **Problem statement:** Poor herd monitoring leads to high livestock theft, disease outbreaks and low market access for smallholder farmers.
2. **Solution:** A locally manufactured IoT device and mobile app that monitors livestock health and location in real time.
3. **Market size:** Estimate the number of smallholder cattle in target regions and the market potential for devices and services.
4. **Business model:** Detail revenue streams from device sales, subscription fees and data services for insurers and veterinary firms.
5. **Traction & validation:** Present results from pilots (number of devices sold, impact metrics), partnerships with farmer associations and early revenues.
6. **Competitive advantage:** Highlight local manufacturing (lower cost), offline capability and culturally appropriate user interface.
7. **Team:** Introduce founders (agricultural engineer, software developer, business strategist) and advisors.
8. **Financial projections:** Provide three-year revenue and expense projections, unit economics and break-even analysis.
9. **Impact & sustainability:** Explain how E-Kraal contributes to poverty reduction, food security and environmental sustainability.
10. **Funding request:** Specify the amount of capital sought, use of funds and exit opportunities for investors.