

TOWARDS EFFICIENT CAPACITY BUILDING: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

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In Africa the higher education (HE) sector is challenged to contribute to the ambitious Millennium Development Goals. The high dependency of economic development on the agricultural sector, the decreasing support to higher education by the international donor community as well as the generally poor recognition of emerging problems by local academics call for a revitalization of African HE institutions. African policies must support the creation of a critical mass of African top researchers and educators, who are trained, willing and able to work together. Maximising potential benefits of innovative HE programmes require implementation of an impact-oriented strategy. The paper presents a couple of action oriented best practice initiatives. In conclusion, training and research programmes build on regional and international mutual partnership and networking programmes could become milestones in an effort to create a positive investment climate in Africa.