Tanzania Innovation Week 2023 Report

23 May 2023

Introduction

Innovation Week Tanzania (IWTz2023) serves as an inclusive and accessible platform that unites a diverse range of individuals, including innovators, policymakers, corporate entities, development partners, researchers, and other stakeholders in the innovation ecosystem. The primary purpose of this event is to foster networking opportunities, facilitate learning, inspire creativity, and promote

collaboration with the ultimate goal of driving Tanzania's socio-economic development through the expansion of innovation.

The 9th edition of Innovation Week Tanzania (IWTz2023) was a remarkable event that showcased the power of innovation in the country. It went beyond being a mere platform for workshops and exhibitions; it embraced an inclusive approach that welcomed participants from various backgrounds. From primary and secondary school students to esteemed public and private institutions, the event fostered a vibrant atmosphere that encouraged innovation at all levels.

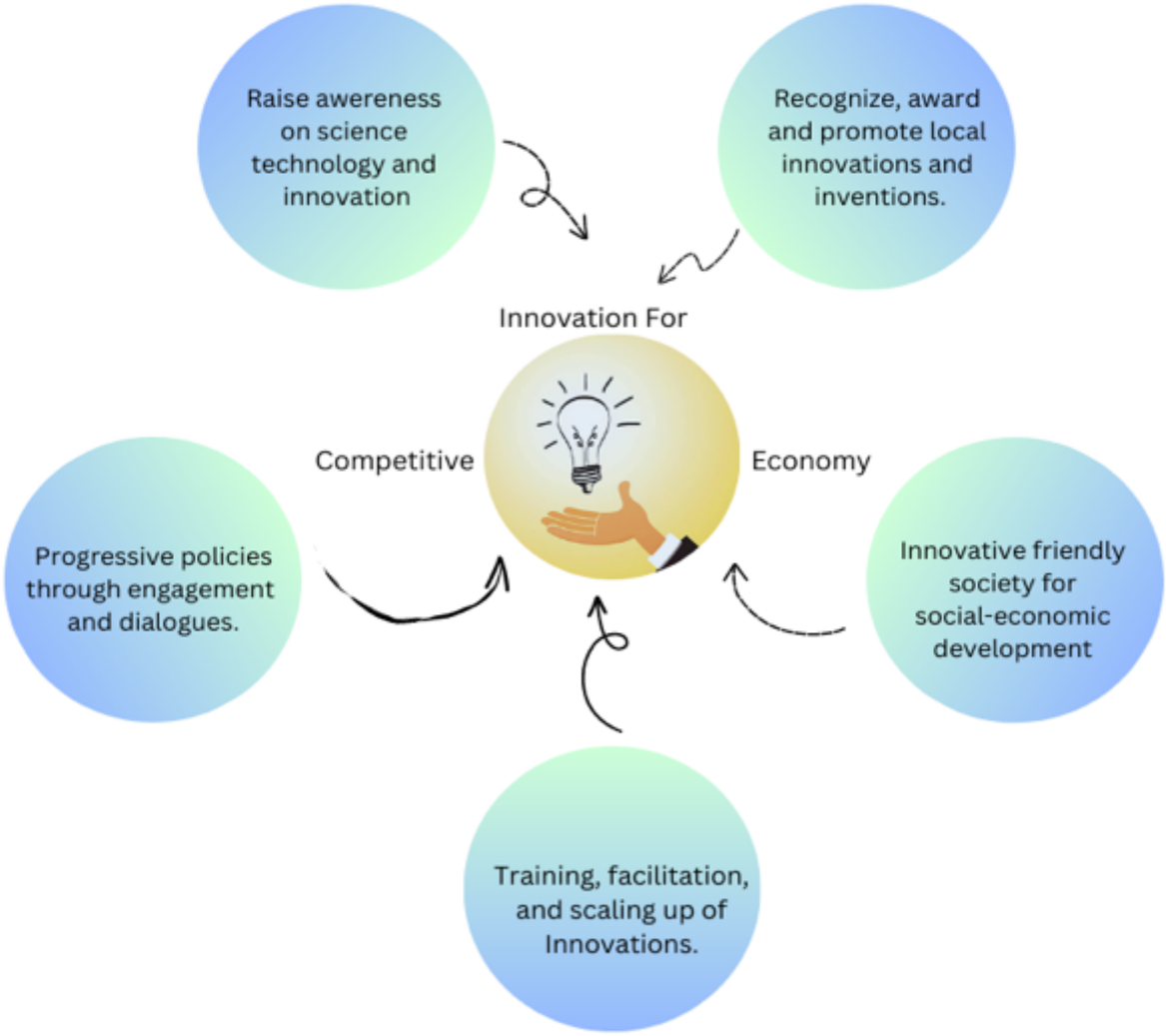
What made this year's event even more impactful was its focus on ready-funded and facilitated innovations with market-ready product solutions. By shedding light on these innovations, the event educated the public about their potential to contribute to a competitive economy. It showcased how innovation can drive economic growth and development.

Innovation Week Tanzania 2023 served as a catalyst for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the advancement of innovative ideas. By providing a space for both seasoned innovators and budding startups, it created an environment where everyone could learn from each other and contribute to Tanzania's innovative ecosystem. This event undoubtedly played a crucial role in inspiring and empowering individuals to embrace innovation and contribute to the country's progress.

The key theme of IWTz2023 was “Innovation for Competitive Economy” translated in Swahili as “Ubunifu kwa Uchumi Shindani” with supporting sub-themes. The

program was organized by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) in nine (9) regions Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha, Mbeya, Morogoro, Zanzibar, Songwe, Mara, Iringa, and Mwanza. The main event of the innovation and invention activities thereafter was held in Dodoma by showcasing the country's regional representatives.

Figure 1: Tanzania Innovation Week 2023 Thematic Areas



In Arusha, the Innovation Week Arusha-2023 was impactful with over 720 attendees across all the events physically in the region and many more participating online. These events were organized by YouLead Africa, Anza, Ndoto Hub, MS-TCDC Youth Hub Arusha, IAA Startup Business Centre, Twende Social Innovation Centre, and Westerwelle Startup Haus Arusha. The Regional Organisation Committee collectively hosted the opening day of the week, then each partner hosted their activity in different locations across the Arusha Region including Usa River, City Centre, Njiro, and Moshono. Some of the focussed areas of these knowledge exchange events were Tax and Compliance sessions for start-ups, Creative Capacity Building, and important networking and establishing strong innovative micro-ecosystems.



The opening ceremony was where organizers met up to plan the week's event; objectives, improvements, and innovators' elevation.

In Mara Region, through the Ministry of COMMUNITY Development Gender, Women and Special Groups had appointed Buhare Digital Innovation Center, to organize the events where secondary and primary schools selected, had the opportunity to prepare and organize events about Innovation boot camps, Incubation, Apprenticeship programs, Community Engagement, Gender Desk, and Social Inclusion. The activity of sensitizing the schools on creating innovation clubs in the prescribed learning institutions was set as an ongoing for future reference. The schools visited were:- Amani Secondary School

Musoma Technical Secondary School

Songe Girls Secondary School

Mwembeni Primary School

Musoma Primary School



Musoma Primary and Secondary School awareness enhancements where teachers emphasized and influence more innovations and creativity.

In Morogoro, IWTz2023 - Moro Edition took place at Savoy Hotel, in Morogoro Municipal, on Wednesday, 19th of April 2023, bringing together 62 participants, with 48% women and over 75% youth under 35 years old, physically and over 240 virtually to the day after the event date. The event organizers TAOTIC and Ifakara Innovation Hub, with higher learning institutions Sokoine University of Agriculture, Mzumbe University, Jordan University College, St. Francis University College of Health & Allied Sciences, and Muslim University of Morogoro, and Ecosystem partners like Morogoro Regional Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture (TCCIA), Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), DOT Tanzania, Anzisha Ventures, Procom Strategies, Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC), KINARA, and SNV. main objectives in the Morogoro edition were the Provision of space and an enforced environment to facilitate innovation, Raising awareness on the use of science and technology, Recognizing and rewarding local innovations, and Promoting the need for an innovation-friendly ecosystem to all innovators. The event provided opportunities to 11 innovators, with 55% of them being women in showcasing their innovative works.



In Mwanza, the joint Innovation Week in the region was planned and organized by SIDO TLED Hub (Small Industrial Development Organization - TLED Hub) with cooperation from CBE and Twende Hub. The main Objectives discussed were Ideas and Prototypes presentation to stakeholders, Contract Signings(Mutual Agreements between SIDO-TLED Hub and CBE-Hub), and Exhibitions; The event was carefully facilitated by Nasri Tumba, Jawadi Masudi, and Hassan Ally all from SIDO-TLED Hub accompanied by Happy Phania-Twende Hub and Frank Katumbaku-CBE-Hub. A total of 47 innovators of which 31% (15) female and (32) male presented, illustrated and showcased their innovations to get a total of 15 selected (4) female and (11) male for contract signing.



In Zanzibar, innovation Week which represented all the Zanzibar Islands was organized by Cube Zanzibar and Costech Zanzibar with different partners from both

public and private sectors, NGOs, and StartUps that hand interests to join hands such as UNDP, UKAID, State University of Zanzibar(SUZA), Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency (ZEEA), Pamoja youth initiatives(PYI).UNDP, UKAID, State University of Zanzibar(SUZA), Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency (ZEEA), and Pamoja youth initiatives(PYI). For Zanzibar edition, the discussed theme was “networking with like-minded individuals and organizations intending to grow local businesses and explore the opportunities in the digital market and competitive economy”. The event’s guest of honor General director of Zanzibar Economic Empowerment Agency with other important individuals like Ms. Neema Fabian-Cube Zanzibar, and Ms. Raya Ahmada-SUZA together performed activities to make the event a success.



In Mbeya, the Innovation Week Mbeya-Edtion was organized and coordinated by Mbeya University of Science and Technology(MUST) inviting

several stakeholders and key innovation ecosystem players. The event was characterized by three different events. The opening ceremony being the main event happened on 17th April 2023 where activities such as workshop training, panel discussions, dialogues, an exhibition of innovations, pitching, and networking sessions with a panel discussion focussing on the theme “Innovation for Competitive Economy” with several institutions and companies being BRELA, KIBO Hub, Livy Africa, Open University of Tanzania, Rich Minds, RLabs Tanzania, SANDC Technologies, Pandahill Secondary Schoool, and Iyunga Technical Secondary School making an estimated attendance of 450 people throughout. The second event on the 18th and 19th of April aims to Outreach to Secondary School Innovation clubs, one in Songwe and two in Mbeya City where Innovative Students and also incubates from MUST-CITT to ignite and motivate young students towards creating different impactful inventions. The third event was Hosted by KIBOHub Tanzania under their new initiative Inuka Youth Center in Collaboration with RLabs Tanzania organized a 1-day Training workshop on Mindset and Digital Innovation Opportunities for youth in Mbeya.





In Iringa, the event planning and organizing weren't met to the required standards, thus the region’s innovation week didn't happen and rather forfeited.

In Dar es Salaam, Innovation Week 2023 had a series of events run on days 19th, 20th, and 21st of April 2023. On the 19th Drone technology themed the day's event by providing a platform for individuals to acquire skills and knowledge in drone technology, develop innovative solutions, and showcase their drone technology solutions and products. Several experts and professionals in the Drone technology industry had different insights and experiences to share and educate others.



On the 20th and 21st, activities such as panel discussions, knowledge exchange debates, Policy adherence, and future projections for ecosystem nourishment. The panel consisted of special representatives of the innovation ecosystem players like Naana Halm-WIPO, Joseph Manirakiza-Funguo Program, Dr. Erasto Mlyuka-

COSTECH, and Raphael Mtalima-BRELA IP-Dept., Luckness Jangu-NM-AIST TTO Office, and Dr. Flora Tibazarwa (UDSM)-Panel Moderator. On the final day, innovators showcased their inventions and demoed to all visitors of this impactful innovation event.



The IWTz2023 program comprised of;

i. Dialogues (Events)

ii. Exhibitions

Goals and Objectives

a) Raised awareness of the opportunities that the country has to offer in the sector of science and technology.

b) Brought people together to showcase their innovations, interact, debate, and discover.

c) Appreciated innovators of Tanzania and encouraged more to innovate and create solutions for problems that face our communities

d) Identified, assessed, and understood more parts of the innovation ecosystem of Tanzania that were yet to be discovered

e) Evaluated the needs and changes for innovators within the innovation ecosystem

- Discovered new talents from innovators
- Created connections between different people within and outside of the innovation ecosystem.

Methodology

IWTz2023 was conducted through digital and conventional methodologies. The gain participation of people from all around Tanzania and outside countries. There were exhibitions, workshops, and focused group discussions, all aiming to reach and engage more the society that strives for a competitive economy.

Innovation Week 2023 in Dodoma (Main Event)

The event was fairly constant with the number of citizens and different associate representatives from the innovation ecosystem, and government officials who made some time to visit and learn from creatives that were showcased all around the exhibition area. It's estimated that more than 8,000 citizens visited the exhibition area, coming across different groups of institutions and private sectors showcasing their innovations and inventions that provide vivid solutions to society's problems.

Day 1 - 24th April 2023







Day 2 - 25th April 2023

Citizens and different society groups came for the exhibitions such as schools and higher learning institutions and later on officials from the government came in for a round visit to the innovations.



1 Animated discussion with startups from South Africa under the Technology Innovation Agency



2 Kindergarten School Children we went through some simple STEM challenges for pre-schoolers

Day 3 - 26th April 2023

Special visit from a member of parliament representing the constituency of Shinyanga and a former Minister for Internal Affairs and had several inputs for the event and COSTECH as an Institution and ways forward to improve its efficiency.



Day 4 - 27th April 2023

Few exchanges from government officials representing districts, and Municipals from different areas of the government and regions, and General knowledge exchange between

COSTECH representatives and UNDP cooperation and working



Day 5 - 28th April 2023

On the climax day, the guest of honor Mr. …… had a chance to visit some innovations and shared his insights on what COSTECH has done best in recruiting and enabling young innovators and pruners to see through their troubles of business development. More to that, he urged *COSTECH to create specific strategies to reach the largest number of people in society through different aired Television and Radio programs with educative content enabling the social awareness of the Institution and its work as the current approach of using social media (youtube and others) seems to have the slowest engagement response from the society.*

Recommendations for the commission's future development include several key aspects. First, it is important to design a comprehensive and centralized database that consolidates all information and specific details of innovations within the country, along with the information of their innovators. This database will facilitate efficient evaluation and planning of government investments and related sectors for community development.

Second, there should be a dedicated system for announcing and providing opportunities to the community, enabling them to be aware of urgent challenges. The government, through COSTECH, can review various solution proposals through this system, allowing for a thorough screening process to identify the most suitable solutions for rapid development. This system should serve as a platform for presenting challenges to organizations like DTBi and Buni hub within COSTECH, leveraging their expertise and resources to generate the best community solutions.
Empowering citizens to carry innovation within the community is another essential step.

Additionally, there is a need to enhance the infrastructure and knowledge base of the managers and mentors working in innovation intermediaries such as Buni hub and DTBi. By providing relevant training and resources, these individuals can make informed contributions, initiate projects, and implement solutions that align with the advancements of technology in the world today.

Implementing these recommendations will enable the commission to foster innovation, address pressing challenges, and drive community development effectively. By leveraging data, engaging citizens, and empowering stakeholders, the commission can create a conducive environment for a vibrant and sustainable innovation ecosystem in Tanzania.