

INDUSTRY ACADEMIA PARLEY

A Presentation

By

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Simply put Industry-Academia Collaboration refers to a mutually beneficial partnership between industry and academia

Active interaction between academia and industry has been found to be essential in order to achieve greater competitiveness, University-Industry collaboration is a necessary condition for innovation

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Neither the academia nor the industry alone can generate all the necessary knowledge to create products, or innovative goods and services, in a global market

It is therefore necessary to identify easy-to-implement ideas and approaches that boost industry-academia partnership and that support proper knowledge transfer.

2.0 THE NEED FOR INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATIONS

Industry and Academia cannot exist independently of each other. Just as the education system prepares students for their future careers, it also has to collaborate closely with industry to try to understand the needs of the industry so that they can prepare the students accordingly. If there is no collaboration between industry and academia, the students graduating from the colleges and universities will be unemployable as they lack the requisite skills that are needed to succeed in the competitive corporate world.

2.0 THE NEED FOR INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATIONS

That explains why many employers feel that a majority of the graduates from our universities cannot be employed because they are simply not skilled enough for the jobs in the industry.

Further, research and development that takes place whenever industry and academia collaborate can lead to actualization of the needs that industry wants and which are fulfilled by the academic institutions hence the need for industry and academia must collaborate actively.

2.0 THE NEED FOR INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATIONS

A good example of the outcome of academia – industry collaboration is the creation of the internet, which started as a project by the Pentagon in collaboration with academia.

3.0 THE NIGERIAN SITUATION

Industry –academia partnership at the moment is minimal, one must however acknowledge the fact that there are some positive efforts in this regard, such as:

- ▶ Shell endowed a chair in ABU
- ▶ Lagos Business School – Sales Academy

(The LBS Sales Academy is designed to provide sales professionals with practical tools required to win in today's highly competitive and dynamic market)

- ▶ Flour Mills endowed a chair in UI – friendship
- ▶ Nestle – Bells University
- ▶ Lagos Business School – Sales Academy

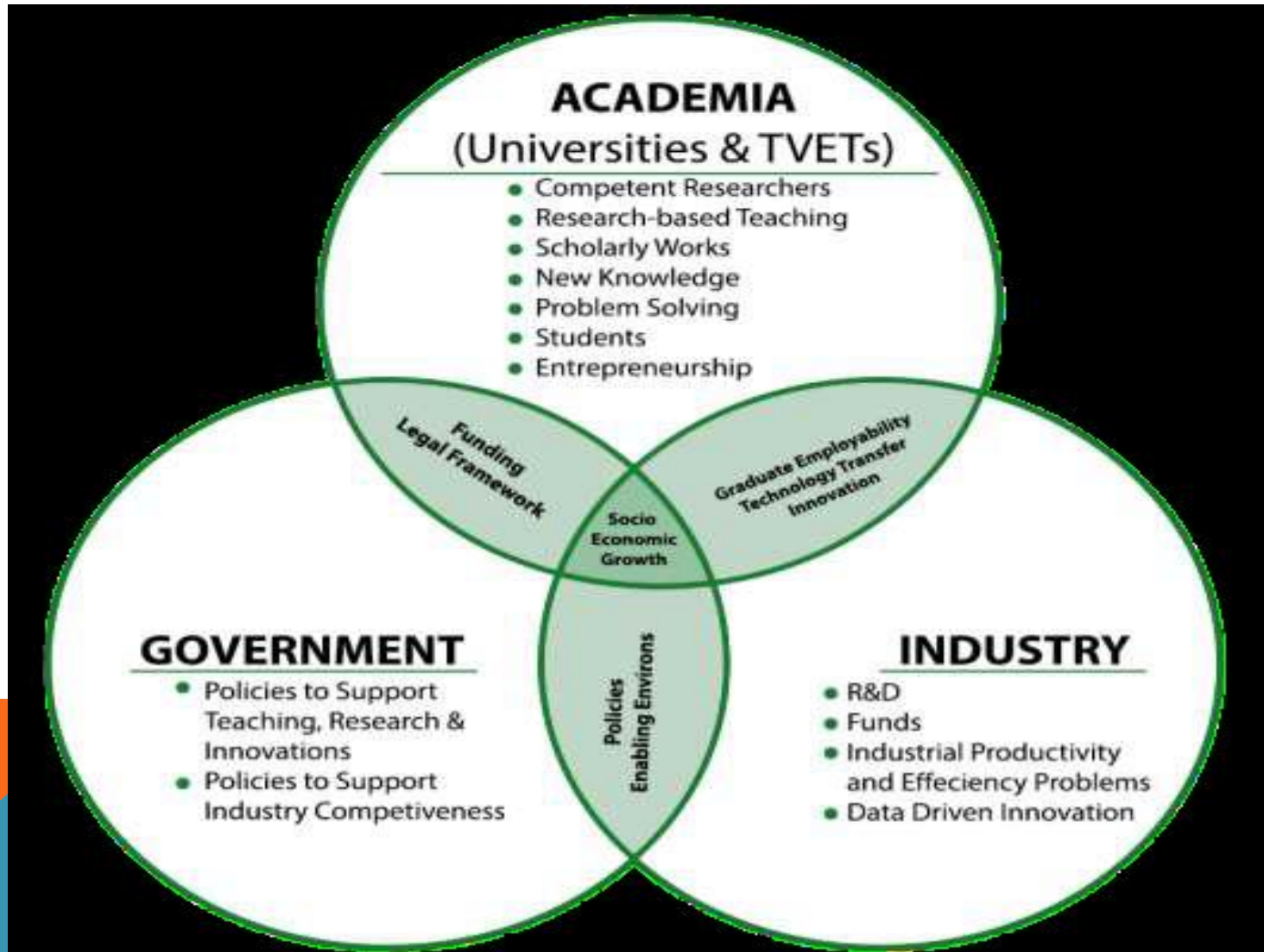
It may be right to infer that most of the existing linkages are based on connections rather than needs or value of research contribution

Furthermore the adoption of locally developed industrial products – discouraging

- ▶ Dawadawa – Cadbury – not given adequate publicity

- ▶ Nestlé is known to have partnered with some African universities to develop personnel in the field of nutrition
 - set up a 3-year masters program together with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ) and the Ashesi University in Ghana
 - Academic network in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, as well as the Swiss Center for Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire.
 - Further more Covenant University and Honeywell Flour Mills Plc have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the use of Reverse Engineering for food production

4.0 THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT



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FINANCING, POLICY FORMULATION, INNOVATION SUPPORT, ADVISORY SERVICES.

A GOVERNMENT POLICY WHICH CREATES CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT TO INNOVATION

IMPROVING ACCESS TO FUNDS • GOVERNMENT SHOULD COMPULSORILY INCREASE FUNDING OF UNIVERSITIES ESPECIALLY RESEARCH •

5.0 THE SMEDAN INITIATIVE OF YEAR 2021- FURNITURE CLUSTER

SMEDAN had undertaken a study of its 23 Industrial Development Centres (IDCs) with a view to determining their viability for conversion into industrial clusters. The study which was concluded in August 2018 recommends the redevelopment of six of its IDCs into industrial clusters as pilot schemes, as follows:

5.0 THE SMEDAN INITIATIVE OF YEAR 2021- FURNITURE CLUSTER

- i) Abuja (Idu), Furniture**
- ii) Maiduguri, Agriculture & Agro-allied (Baga fish)**
- iii) Ikorodu, Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)**
- iv) Owerri , Agriculture, Oil palm**
- v) Port Harcourt, Petrochemicals**
- vi) Sokoto, Agriculture & Agro-allied (Spices)**

5.0 THE SMEDAN INITIATIVE OF YEAR 2021- FURNITURE CLUSTER

The Agency has further taken a proactive step to commence the redevelopment of its Idu IDC into Furniture Cluster. This shall further serve as a reference point for other clusters which shall be undertaken through Public Private Partnership (PPP).

5.0 THE SMEDAN INITIATIVE OF YEAR 2021- FURNITURE CLUSTER

Proposed Role of Universities

The report of the IDCs viability study rightly identified poor University-Industry linkage as one of the challenges limiting cluster development in Nigeria. Presently the mutual information between Universities, Industry and Government can be described as weak hence the low level of knowledge flow between innovation actors in Nigeria.

5.0 THE SMEDAN INITIATIVE OF YEAR 2021- FURNITURE CLUSTER

As the Agency progresses in its on-going Idu Furniture Cluster development works, it was considered appropriate to commence interaction with the university/research community within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. This will of necessity translate to the adoption of the triple helix approach (THA) which has proved effective globally. This effort will contribute to the promotion of the triple helix (University- Industry – Government) perspective of innovation systems in Nigeria.

5.0 THE SMEDAN INITIATIVE OF YEAR 2021- FURNITURE CLUSTER

Such a collaboration shall provide a platform to encourage the universities to direct some of their research effort towards industry related challenges and develop findings that can translate into new products/start up enterprises and the enhancement of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development. The collaboration further shall serve as a spring board for future elaborate collaboration with a focus on promoting innovation for MSMEs development in Nigeria.

STEP TAKEN

On 17 December 2020, SMEDAN initiated a communication with Nile, Baze and University of Abuja intimating the institution of its ongoing effort at developing a woodworking (furniture) cluster in Idu and the opportunity for University-Industry Collaboration in this regard. These universities were considered to be located sufficiently close to SMEDAN IDC located on 15, Abubakar Koko Avenue, Idu Industrial Layout, Idu, Abuja.

This maiden collaboration when fully developed (and eventually up scaled) shall help to promote industrial sustainability (through the triple helix approach).

SOME EXPECTED OUTCOMES

**IDEA GENERATION IN RESPECT OF INPUT RAW
MATERIALS, PROCESSES, MACHINERY &
PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT**

**RESEARCH LEADING TO DISCOVERY OF NEW
TECHNOLOGIES**

BUSINESS MODELS, ETC,ETC

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

There are a lot that universities in Nigeria can learn from a the West as far as Industry Academia collaboration is concerned. It is high time for the universities and the industry to get together and work together so that the country can become innovators and game changers in their own right.

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

With better collaboration, the creativity and expertise of academics could be a problem-solving resource for industry.

There is a need for industry to more effectively engage academic experts and for more useful knowledge exchange

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Researchers should reach out to relevant industries for funding
- Instead of a statutory allocation approved by Senate, funding should be based on needs and capability to utilize the funds judiciously
- Government should emphasize research in national development
- Investment in research should be seen as a development strategy

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Collaborative links between universities and industries is inevitable & should be encouraged

- Government should channel researches to universities and encourage industries to do the same
- Align Industry-university collaborations with the universities research and development strategy

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The lack of strong linkage between universities and the industry has led to the present situation where:

- The faculty, in general, have limited industrial experience or exposure;
- There is not much provision for continuing education in the universities and institutions for practicing engineers to update their technology competence;

6.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The universities and professional institutions should come out of their ivory towers and interact with the outside world.

Similarly, the industries should build confidence in the capabilities of the universities and the institutions and interact with them for mutual benefit.

Survival of industry largely depends on the improved, innovative and new technologies and for this purpose it needs the support of the academic institutions. Unfortunately, in our country universities including technological institutions and the industry have been run on parallel lines with minimal interaction.

Thank You