

## **Science and Technology Indicators in Africa: Historical Development and Challenges**

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### **Abstract**

In recent years, there has been growing national and international attention to the availability of science, technology and innovation (STI) indicators. Increasing demand for evidence-based policy making instruments means that STI indicators have become part and parcel of the national and regional development planning processes including competitiveness measures in many economies. This research focuses on STI indicators development in Africa. It looks at the importance of and how collection of STI data and publications has evolved in many developed and emerging economies, including regional co-operation and integration institutions, but less so in Africa. It also highlights some of the challenges in producing and disseminating STI indicators, but acknowledges some national and regional efforts towards that as well as the present NEPAD African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative programme to produce an African STI Indicators Outlook. Any sustained growth of STI indicators in the continent requires the building of appropriate STI studies research centres and networks.

**Keywords:** Africa, STI Indicators, Innovation statistics, STI Indicators development.

**JEL Classifications:** O30; O39; O55.