

## **Enhancing Innovation in Developing Country Systems: A Synthesis of Case Studies and Lessons from Uganda**

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### **Abstract**

A contribution to an improved empirical understanding of the nature of innovation system competence building in Africa is made. First: a framework of analysis for assessing system competence building is defined and applied to five case studies drawn from Uganda. Second: Drawing from the case studies three appreciative empirically grounded system building typologies is identified. We found the most common type continues to be that organized to introduce new knowledge and innovation and strengthen research and technology systems. Other kinds of system building have received far less attention. A comparative analysis of case studies reveals important sectoral and spatial specificities which help to explain why within a national system of innovation, the same approach successfully employed to build competences in one specific sector or geographical location may not have the same effect elsewhere. There is still a long way to go before all relevant actors acquire a full understanding of what it would take to build functional systems of innovation and the competences required.

**Keywords:** Innovation system, System building, Competence building, Continuous learning, Africa, Uganda.

**JEL Classification:** O55; O30; O39; D80.