

NCRST Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with SASSCAL

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) and the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the 17th of May 2022.

The MoU aims to establish a strategic partnership between the parties by developing complementary scientific research as well as needs-driven cooperative activities which support the respective missions and objectives of both institutions.

The MoU mostly will focus on collaborations in scientific research, capacity development and service provision in the areas of climate services, food

security, water security, biodiversity conservation and sustainable forests and woodlands.

To ensure that the MoU is implemented successfully, the parties agree to jointly mobilise resources that are aimed at the development of products and services in the areas of cooperation.

To initiate the implementation process, the Parties further agree to hold topic-specific meetings to map out an action plan detailing activities to implement the MoU. For this purpose, a Joint Steering Committee will be established.

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Employee Profile

Ms. Dorothea Shailemo

GRASSROOTS INNOVATION (REGIONAL) INFORMATION SHARING MEETINGS

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST), through the Grassroots Innovation Programme – a subcomponent of the Innovation Fostering Platform, aims to promote and encourage innovations, technologies, and products from the grassroots communities to the market. The Grassroots Innovation Programme aims to provide funding, technical assistance, and support to grassroots innovators who are seeking to develop new or improved products, services, or methods from proof-of-concept stage to the prototype. Grassroots innovation is a particular type of innovation where ideas flow in a bottom-up manner, i.e., the ideas are generated by those who are least likely to have access to the resources to make them happen.

In contrast to mainstream business greening, grassroots initiatives operate in rural community and involve committed activists experimenting with social innovations as well as using greener technologies. Through these programmes, the NCRST team conducted the regional information sharing meetings with innovation stakeholders in the following eight regions, namely, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Kavango West, Kavango East, Zambezi and Otjozondjupa from the 8th to 21st of May 2022. The aim of these meetings was to discuss opportunities through which the stakeholders in these regions could participate in several innovation support interventions of the NCRST. The NCRST team also conducted a needs assessment survey with Small Medium Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in these regions to determine what NCRST can do to support innovators in developing creative thinking skills that will aid them in advancing efforts to extract economic and social value from knowledge, resulting in new or improved products, services, or methods.

These regional meetings were preceded by courtesy visits to the respective regional governors' offices, to brief them about the aim of the meeting and the way forward. SMMEs from the above-mentioned regions that want more information or wish to participate in the survey may send an email to ifp@ncrst.na. The NCRST team will continue to hold meetings in the remaining regions, and the dates will be communicated.



Grassroots Innovation Information sharing meetups in regions

Email: info@ncrst.na
Web: www.ncrst.na

c/o Louis Raymrod and
Grant Webster Street
Olympia, Windhoek

Tel: +264 61 431 7000
Fax: +264 61 431 7094
+264 61 431 7095

Employee Profile



Full Name: Dorothea H. P. Shailemo

Job Title: Scientist: Biotechnology

Brief description of your job responsibilities/duties:

Perform various biotechnological related lab tests on food samples to ensure compliance with the biosafety requirements and promote biotechnological research.

Qualification (s):

- MSc. Medical Biochemistry, BSc. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

How long have you been employed at NCRST?

- 1 Month

What are your interests?

- I am passionate about research, as it has always been my greatest desire to contribute towards the growth of scientific research and innovation, both in my country (Namibia) and globally. Along with this, I also enjoy reading professional journals, attending seminars/workshops for professional development and continuing education responsibilities.

Family status (Married, single, children, siblings etc):

- Single

Any other information you wish to share with your colleagues?

- I am extremely passionate about this job, and I believe my skills (including the skills I am currently developing) will contribute to the realization of NCRST's goal.

Employee Profile



Full Name: Panduleni Nghilifavali Nghitila

Job Title: Assistant Laboratory Technician - Biotechnology

Brief description of your job responsibilities/duties:

Provision of support in the execution of various laboratory tests to detect, analyze and monitor Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Biosafety Act, No.7 of 2006, and promote research in biotechnology. Participation in screening of GMO permit applications and unlimited administrative support to the Biotechnology division.

Qualification (s):

- Bsc (Hons) in applied Biochemistry (Biomedical)

How long have you been employed at NCRST?

- 1 month

What are your interests?

- GMO development, pharmaceutical research, molecular biology, genetics, finance, sports, and pathology.

Family status (Married, single, children, siblings etc):

- Single