



S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)

invitation

Indigenous Knowledge (IK)-Based Technology Innovation Investment Summit

2-4 June 2026

The Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI), together with its partners — the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), The Innovation Hub, the Universities of North-West (NWU), Limpopo (UL) and Venda (UNIVEN), invites stakeholders, investors, researchers, industry leaders, youth, students, Indigenous Knowledge (IK) practitioners, and development partners to participate in the [IK-Based Technology Innovation Investment Summit](#).



Join the conversation and make your voice heard.
Click to register

BACKGROUND:

The Summit builds on the success of the 2021 National Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) Job Summit and aims to advance IK-based innovation, entrepreneurship, industrialisation, and job creation. It aligns with the national Science, Technology and Innovation White Paper and Decadal Plan, which promote the use of African knowledge systems for economic growth, poverty reduction, and social inclusion.

The Summit will focus on four key areas:

- **IK-Based research, development and innovation (RDI) Interface Symposium** – showcasing innovation and research in African natural medicines, nutraceuticals, cosmeceuticals, and bio-natural products
- **Youth and Students’ Jobs Programme** – supporting young innovators through pitching, mentorship, incubation, and investment opportunities
- **Bio-Natural Product micro, small or medium enterprises (MSME) Expo** – exhibiting IK-based enterprises and products for market access and commercialisation
- **IK-Labs Soft Launch and Awards** – highlighting innovation facilities and recognising outstanding IK holders, scientists, students, and entrepreneurs

WHY ATTEND?

The Summit presents a unique opportunity to:

- Explore investment opportunities in IK-based innovation, business and manufacturing
- Strengthen public-private partnerships for research infrastructure and enterprise development
- Support youth entrepreneurship, business incubation, and job creation
- Promote industrialisation and commercialisation of bio-natural products
- Building connections with local and international stakeholders, investors, financial institutions, and development agencies
- Contribute to inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and transformation of the National System of Innovation (NSI)

PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS

The Summit will convene participants from government, academia, industry, financial institutions, venture capital firms, development agencies, IK communities, and international organisations including the African Union, SADC partners, BRICS institutions, UNESCO, WHO, and other strategic stakeholders.

Development finance institutions, banks, innovation agencies, research councils, and commercialisation partners will also participate to explore collaborative investment and partnership opportunities.

The DSTI looks forward to welcoming you to this important national platform dedicated to unlocking the economic and social potential of IK systems for inclusive and thriving societies. Your participation will provide a valuable opportunity to engage with graduate-led ventures, contribute to inclusive development initiatives, and help catalyse partnerships that strengthen student pipelines and community-based innovation. We are confident that your involvement will make a meaningful contribution to advancing the economic and social value of IK, while creating lasting impact for young people and communities alike.

Together, let us position IK-based innovation at the centre of economic transformation, industrialisation, and sustainable development.

Indigenous Knowledge (IK)-Based Technology Innovation Investment Summit

Delegate registration information:

Date: 2-4 June 2026

Time: 2 June (07:30-17:00); 3 June (08:30-16:30) and awards gala dinner (18:00-21:30); 4 June (08:30-14:00)

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) points: CPD points will be awarded to attendees who are registered with the following NSTF members:

- [SACNASP](#) (South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions)
- [ECSA](#) (Engineering Council of SA), in collaboration with the Society for Automation, Instrumentation, Mechatronics and Computer Engineering ([SAIMC](#))
- [ITPSA](#) (Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa)
- [EAPASA](#) (Environmental Assessment Practitioners Association of South Africa)

For these and any other affiliations, please contact the NSTF office at enquiries@nstf.org.za.

Register (in-person event): The event will be held at Birchwood Hotel & OR Tambo Conference Centre. After registering, you will receive an email to confirm your subscription. Please confirm your subscription to receive a follow-up message containing the event logistics and further details. **CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.**

Attendance and participation are on invitation only and therefore FREE of charge. Please note that if you do not register, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the [event page](#) on the NSTF website.

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995:

- is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all science, engineering and technology (SET) and innovation organisations in South Africa
- gathers stakeholders around burning issues of national and global interest, across the public and private sectors, including matters of public policy
- includes a network of professional societies in SET and STEM education (STEM = science, technology, engineering and mathematics) - the NSTF proSET membership sector.
- recognises, awards and profiles the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation through the prestigious NSTF Awards
- runs and supports collaborative projects and youth outreach, including recognition of top performance in mathematics and science, role modelling, bursary and STEM career information
- runs and supports the STEMulator.org which attracts youth and educators to Explore>Discover>Learn the world of STEM including careers. (Established by NSTF proSET)

For more information
www.nstf.org.za
E-mail: enquiries@nstf.org.za

Disclaimer

The NSTF has taken all practical measures to ensure that the material contained in this newsletter is correct.

Privacy

Registration details submitted to the NSTF will be treated confidentially and will only be used by NSTF to communicate with its members and subscribers, as required by the South African Protection of Personal Information Act.

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