



## Stakeholder Workshop on University Innovation Ecosystem, CEDAT, Makerere University

### Catalysing Engineering Innovation: Strengthening Makerere University's Innovation Ecosystem *A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Research, Innovation and Commercialisation at Makerere University*

**Venue: CEDAT Conference Hall, Makerere University**

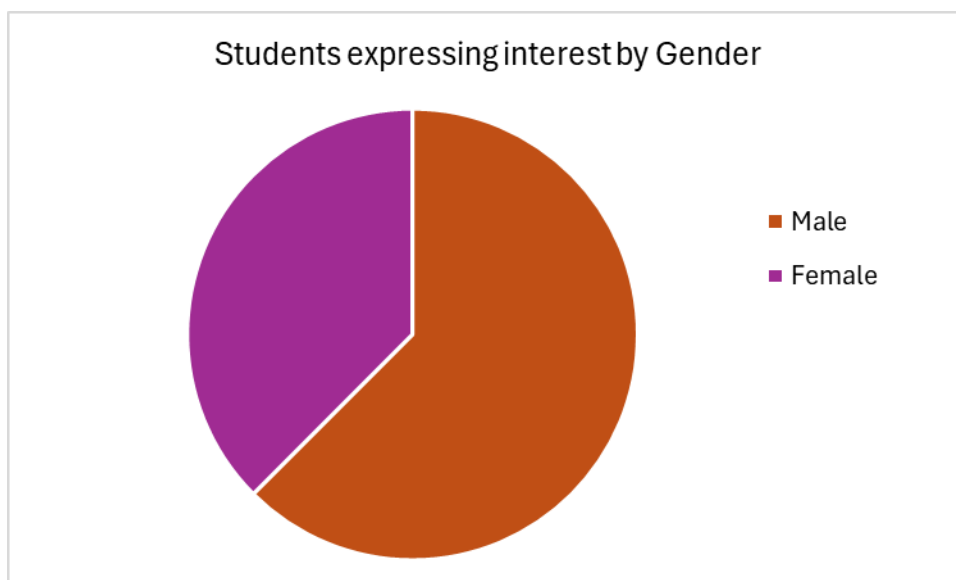
**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

#### Concept Note

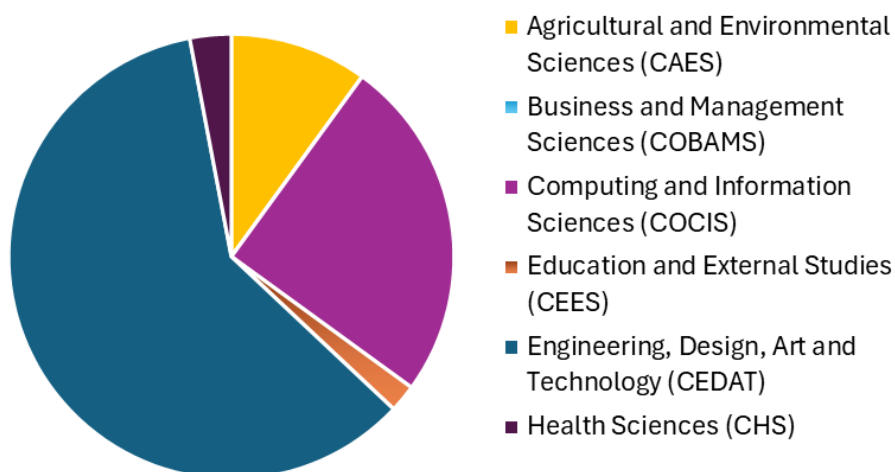
##### Background and Rationale

Uganda's higher education institutions are increasingly recognized as vital enablers of innovation and national development. However, the potential of universities to drive industrial innovation, employment creation, and technology commercialization remains underutilized. Bridging this gap requires an integrated ecosystem that connects academic research, technical prototyping, entrepreneurship, and real-world application.

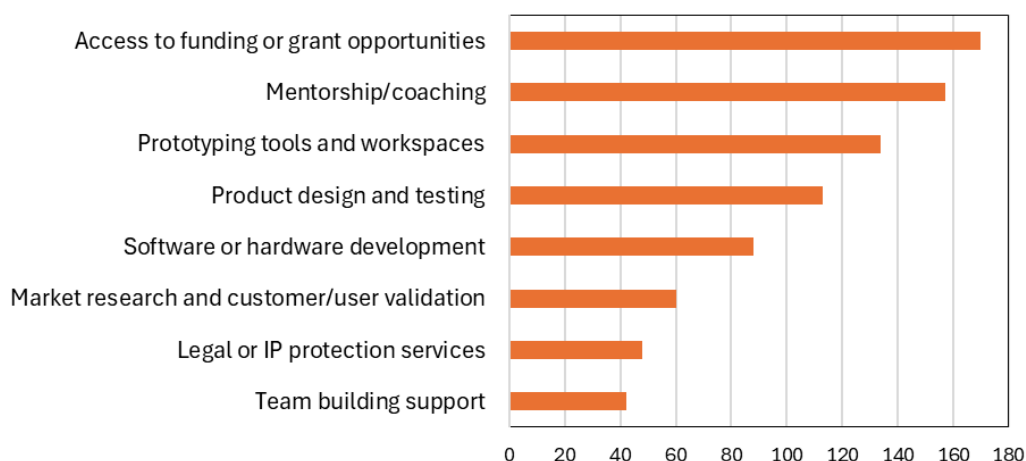
Over the past three years, the **UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust Phase III (CFIT III)** project has supported **Makerere University** and **Mbarara University of Science and Technology** in strengthening labor market-oriented education and fostering industry collaboration. Through this initiative, both universities have piloted innovation ecosystems that guide students from ideation to minimum viable product development, supported by research and business mentorship. At Makerere, student engagement grew significantly—from 7 students and 24 faculty in Year 1 to 188 students and 40 faculty in Year 2. The high interest, evidenced by over 350 applications for 100 slots in innovation hub tours in April 2025, underscores the momentum behind institutionalizing such ecosystems across Uganda's universities.



### Students expressing interest by College



### Support needed by students to move from Prototype to MVP



### Workshop Objectives

1. Showcase progress and lessons learned from CFIT III-supported innovation ecosystem development in Uganda's engineering education.
2. Facilitate dialogue between academia, industry, and government on the structures needed to institutionalize university innovation ecosystems.
3. Identify practical pathways to strengthen commercialization, industry co-creation, and policy alignment within university innovation processes.
4. Propose a framework for scaling innovation ecosystem models across public universities and technical faculties.

### Expected Outcomes

1. Validated Innovation Ecosystem Framework for Makerere University
2. A shared framework for university-based innovation ecosystem development
3. Action Plan for institutionalising Innovation Support Structures
4. Clear recommendations to University Management and Policy Units
5. Roadmap for institutionalization of the Makerere Innovation Ecosystem
6. Commitments from Stakeholders

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time	Session
8:30 – 9:00 am	Arrival and Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principal, CEDAT</li> <li>UNESCO CFIT III Representative</li> </ul>
9:30 – 10:00 am	Keynote Address: Positioning Makerere for an Innovation-Driven Future: Policy, Partnerships, and Institutional Vision – <i>Dr. Cosmas Mwikirize, Superintendent Industrial Value Chains Development at STI-OP</i>
10:00 – 10:30 am	Health Break & Networking
10:30 – 11:30 am	Panel 1: University-Led Innovation Systems – What Worked, What Didn't and What's Next? <i>Discussants: Academic leaders from CEDAT, CAES, CHS, Partner Universities</i>
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Panel 2: Tech Hubs and Industry as Co-Creators in University Innovation <i>Discussants: Tech Hub Managers, UIA, PSFU, Industry Partners</i>
12:30 – 1:00 pm	Presentation: Student Engagement in Innovation: Insights from Internship and Maker Space Visits under the CFIT III Project <i>Presenter: Assoc. Prof. Dorothy Okello, Institutional Coordinator, CFIT III Project</i>
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 – 2:40 pm	Innovation Showcase Tour <i>Visit to student project displays, prototypes, and tech hub demonstrations</i>
2:40 – 3:40 pm	Synthesis Session: Reflections, Insights, and Pathways Forward Facilitated session to capture participant feedback and co-develop action points
3:40 – 4:30 pm	Closing Remarks and Next Steps – UNESCO, MoES, CEDAT Leadership
4:30 pm	Networking & Departure at leisure