

# Research and Development in Nigeria: Building Research Networks across and beyond Nigeria

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# Outline of the presentation

## **Research and Development in Nigeria**

- ❑ *The Importance*
- ❑ The Trend

## **Building of Research Networks across and beyond Nigeria**

- ❑ Reasons to build research networks
- ❑ How to build research networks

# Research and Development in Nigeria

## ***The Importance***

- R&D is the most sustainable means of boosting sustainable economic development.
- It encourages competitiveness in the face of rapid growth in the industries, countries and population.
- It helps in raising the living standards of the people in a country

# Trend in research and development in Nigeria

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1940's  
& 60s

- R&D - Govt. Owned Departments
- Headed *by* scientists and engineers
- Universities

1970's

- Nigerian Council for Science and Technology (NCST)
- 23 Research Institutes created
- More universities

1980s and  
90s

- Creation of Ministry of Science and Technology
- Creation of more research institutes and universities

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**Table 1: Type of Research and Development Institutions in Nigeria and Periods Establishment**

Period	Year	Type of Research and Development Institution
'40s	1940	Government owned department
'60s	1960	At least one research department in each ministry of the federal government of Nigeria
'70s	1970	Nigerian Council for Science and Technology (NCST)
	1971	The Agricultural Research Council
	1972	The Industrial Research Council
	1973	Medical Research Council and the Natural Science Research Council of Nigeria
	1977	National Science and Technology Development Agency [NSTDA]
'80s	1980	Ministry of Science & Technology
	1984	Ministry of Education, Science & Technology
	1985	Ministry of Science and Technology
'90s	1992	National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure [NASENI]
	1993	Ministry of Science and Technology

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# R&D Challenges in the Country

- Slow adoption of research materials and methods from already developed researches
- Little value added to industry and relevant fields
- Inadequate funding
- Poor collaboration within and between the different and relevant research agencies in the country and beyond
- Absence of coordination with private and international research agencies.

# Development of Research Networks across and beyond Nigeria

## **Reasons to build research networks**

- ✓ Local knowledge recycling
- ✓ Limited capacity to conduct research that leads to development
- ✓ Limited relevance and impact of research
- ✓ Failure of the countries to finance her own research
- ✓ Isolation of scientists and researchers from counterparts from other continents
- ✓ The needs for global competitiveness

# Research Networks/Connections in Africa

Global Research on Africa (2004 – 2008) by Adams et al.'s (2010)

- First group lies in North Africa -Algeria, **Egypt**, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Second group- Francophone, largely West African, **Cameroon** as hub centre-Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

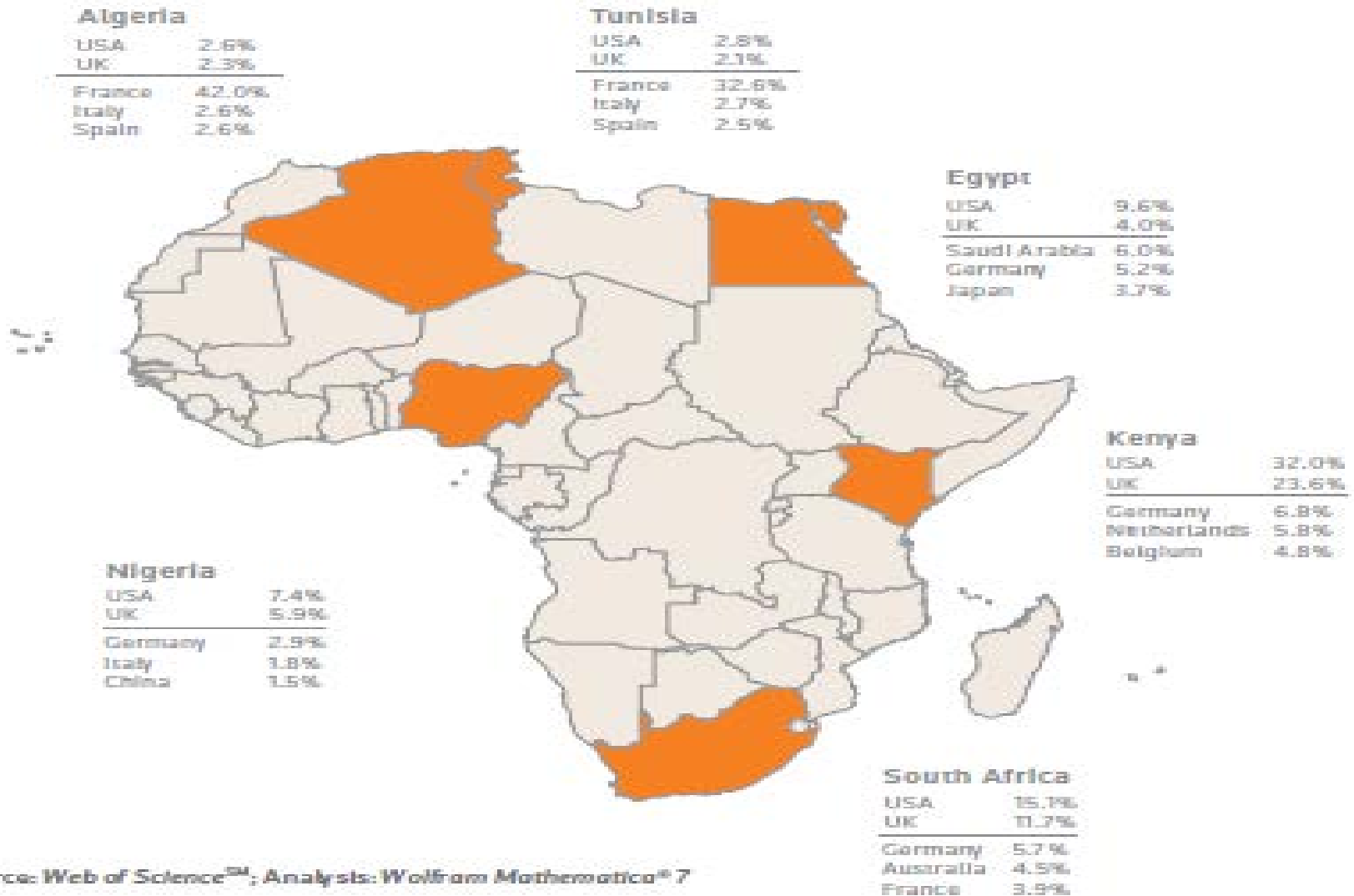


## Report cont'd

- Third group – where English language plays a unifying role links **Nigeria**, the Gambia and Ghana in West Africa with Botswana, Ethiopia; **Kenya**, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe in the east.
- Fourth group- **South Africa** provides the gateway - Gabon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Sudan and Swaziland.

# RN in Africa with Developed Countries

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Source: Web of Science<sup>SM</sup>; Analysis: Wolfram Mathematica<sup>®</sup> 7

# Barriers to creating Networks

## ***These are identified to be rooted in:***

- heavily dependent on - and limited by the colonial past,
- Language,
- Culture and history,
- Infrastructure e.g. ICT, equipment etc;
- And also in geography

# Building research networks

## ***Achieved by building:***

- ✓ **Capacity:** in form of training and scholarships
- ✓ **Infrastructure:** needs-based, practical and problem solving
- ✓ **Funding:** Institutional compatible, multi-donors, research agenda

# Building research networks cont'd

- ✓ **Mentoring between senior and junior researchers**
- ✓ **Attendance in conferences and workshops: locally, sub-regionally or internationally**
- ✓ **Getting research papers published in high impact journals**
- ✓ **Using social research network platforms like LinkedIn, Researchgate, Academia etc.**

Thank you for listening