

Emerging Technologies

With the recent trend of globalization, it has become abundantly vivid that for any continent, region or country to be actively involved in the global economy, it must adopt competition as a benchmark for progress. Within this context, competitive advantage is derived from a knowledge-based economy (KBE) whereby innovation and technical progress are the long-term drivers for economic growth. This transition towards the knowledge-based economy describes the trend in advanced economic activities towards greater reliance on knowledge capacities - through the establishment of highly skilled labor force as well as the establishment of information, communication, and technology (ICT) infrastructure. In this way, the knowledge -economy puts humans rather than land (agriculture) and machines (industrial) at the center of economic progress.

Building national capacities in emerging technology is essential for local industries in developing countries to compete in today's increasingly integrated and

knowledge-based world economy. The capacity to adopt and use technologies, and to innovate, is critical to diversify economies into new areas with higher value added, raise productivity, generate well-paid jobs, reduce poverty and address environmental challenges. Unfortunately, many countries in SSA still lack capacities (i.e., infrastructure, institutional frameworks, productive knowledge) to fully absorb the technologies that emerged during the previous industrial revolution as there are several technological divides that represent significant barriers to the development and adoption of emerging technologies. Furthermore, within these countries there are often technological divides between people living in urban vs those living rural areas, between men and women, and between rich and poor. Many of these divides can be bridged with the emergence of innovative technologies, which can create opportunities if they have the necessary digital infrastructure and applications that are appropriate for smaller markets and different consumption patterns.

One significant component of a green economy strategy is to promote the development and adoption of sustainable technologies.

Therefore, as a complement to our green and blue economy thematic area, our emerging technology thematic area is dedicated to investments in:

Focus Areas:	Link to Green/Blue economy	Objectives <small>(thematic area specific impacts)</small>
Smart Agriculture and aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase productivity within our sustainable agriculture and aquaculture outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve (agricultural/aquacultural) productivity among small-holder farmers/fishers Reduce food insecurity among underserved communities
Biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase productivity within our circular economy outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote natural resource management Reduce waste along supply chains
Renewable Energy Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase productivity within our renewable energy outputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce pollution Promote equitable access to clean energy sources

Our Emerging Technology thematic area harnesses emerging technologies to accelerate our communities' economic transformation.

In this pursuit, we prioritize initiatives that bridge the digital divide, ensuring that the benefits of emerging technologies are accessible to all segments of our community.

Focus Areas:	Link to Green/Blue economy
Health-tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance equitable healthcare service delivery Improve access and uptake of healthcare
Edu-tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance equitable education service delivery Improve access and uptake of education
Fin-tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance equitable financial service delivery (financial inclusion) Improve access and uptake of financial services