

AGROSYM

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



*XV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium
"Agrosym 2024"
Jahorina, October 10-13, 2024*

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DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICES TO SUPPORT INNOVATION: A CO-DESIGN PROCESS INITIATIVE IN BURKINA FASO AND NIGER

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Abstract

Until the 1990s, most national innovation systems operated on the belief that scientific discoveries and inventions would naturally drive economic development, thus advancing society. However, in the last two decades, a new approach has gained prominence. Research paths require validation among the public, aiming for positive societal impact and defined in collaboration with public input. At European level, this trend is emphasized through the adoption of the quadruple and quintuple helix system, considering innovation result of the collaboration between universities, the business world, policymakers, and local communities. This shift anticipates that involving various stakeholders will realign research paths with public preferences, resulting in more favorable and sustainable solutions. In modern rapidly evolving technological landscape, universities, research institutions, and industries continually strive to bridge the gap between groundbreaking research and real-world applications. One pivotal entity facilitating this transition is the Technology Transfer Office (TTO). TTO serves as a catalyst for innovation, acting as a liaison between academic research and commercialization opportunities. Its primary objective revolves around the transfer of intellectual property, scientific discoveries, and technological advancements from academic environments into practical applications. TTOs can be an invaluable resource for universities in Africa, contributing to their growth, innovation, and economic development. In SUSTLIVES project, starting from a need analysis made with all innovation actors and stakeholders, co-design workshops were organized to discuss with staff members of incubators and TTOs of Burkina Faso and Niger universities about the services to offer and procedures to put in place for entrepreneurial incubation, technology transfer to industry and support for the adoption of innovation within local SMEs.

Keywords: *Innovation, research, technology transfer, Burkina Faso, Niger.*