

Science and Technology Policy

The sub sector of Higher Education and Research is one of a top priority of Senegal. Indeed, the Head of State took the gamble to make Senegal an emerging country based on the quality of human resources and creativity.

On this basis, the President of the Republic has given clear directives that form the roadmap of the Ministry which is summarized in 7 points:

1. A map of the universities planned in space and time;
2. A specialization of regional universities and CUR with dominant fields;
3. A port of the new academic structures by Resources Universities as Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD) and Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis (UGB);
4. A location of first cycles in regional universities;
5. An implementation of the CUR in all the administrative regions of Senegal and in the economic centers with technicians and bachelors levels;
6. A massive use of ICT for e-learning;
7. An Orientation towards the economic development of the new universities: science fields, waste management methods, shipping and air routes and professionalization of current law and letters.

This new policy direction given by the Head of State to the Government on higher education and research has identified clear guidance regarding the educational and scientific research and enhance their contribution in dynamics of the objectives of the DSRP in the medium term and that of long-term MDGs.

These guidelines are based on the following options:

- Improving access to higher education;
- Creation of conditions for quality education at all levels of training;
- Expansion of community responsibility in the education system. This includes in particular the management of institutions, monitoring quality and resource mobilization;
- The elimination of disparities between economic groups (rich / poor), gender, inter-and intra-regional, inter environments (urban / rural), at all levels of education;
- The promotion and coordination of basic and applied research can stimulate the vital sectors of the economy such as agriculture, industry, energy, health, ICT, fisheries, livestock, environment, trade, services, etc. ;
- The development and dissemination of research results;
- The introduction of regional cooperation, especially within the ECOWAS region and internationally in particular with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UNIDO and CTBTO.

In accordance with the guidelines of the roadmap, the main thrusts of the strategy of the education sector are developed through the PDEF and operated by the Expenditure Framework Medium Term Sector (CDSMT).

On this basis, our Department has identified three main programs which are:

- Higher Education Program,

- Scientific Research
- Administrative Management.

These programs are broken down into three major components namely, access, quality and management.

- Access for all activities that contribute to improving the accommodation of students will be ensured by the continued deployment of the Universities map,
- Quality is about everything that contributes to the improvement of working conditions that is the academic and administrative environment,
- Management, for further devolution and decentralization.

Thus, for the year 2010 the implementation of activities under the annual operation plan, will be an important step towards sector objectives and the Millennium Development Goals.

Presentation of Scientific Research Program

The scientific research program in our country should serve primarily to remove constraints to development may be the basic or applied research.

Its major objectives are:

- Identify national priorities for scientific research;
- Piloting national research by fully utilizing the tools at his disposal (FIRST),
- To actively boosting technology transfer,
- Enhance the research results
- Play a full role in the implementation and execution of national research policy.

The tools and instruments available to achieve these objectives are:

- Fund for Scientific Research and Technology (FIRST);
- Fund of Scientific and Technical Publication (FPST);
- Thematic Groups Program (GTP);
- National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST);
- Centers of Research and Testing (CRE);
- International cooperation.

It will be discussed in this program to promote research quality oriented needs of populations by improving productivity and competitiveness of sectors of development such as agriculture, industry, energy, health, education, ICT, fisheries, livestock, environment, trade, services, etc.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the transfer of technology and exploitation of research results.

The activities in this program are:

ACCESS

- Grant research facilities including universities and research institutes;
- Funding of research projects in the thematic priorities identified;
- Establishment of research frameworks for the establishment of Thematic Groups Program (GTP);

- Establishment of Centers for Research and Testing (ICT, solar, food);
- Dissemination and popularization of research results;
- Continued research and development of palm oil;
- Grant aid and scholarships;
- Dissemination of Culture and Information Science (organization of scientific events).

QUALITY

- Support material scientific and technological research facilities (universities, institutes, laboratories);
- Grants;
- Establishment of National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CNRST);
- Valorization of research results;
- Training and technology transfer;
- Strengthening human resource capacity for research;
- Prospective studies, strategic thinking, scientific symposia and workshops;
- Editing and publishing of scientific journals;
- Organization of the Head of State Award for Science.

MANAGEMENT

- Monitoring and coordination of research;
- Monitoring and evaluation.