

A photograph of a large, modern building with a red-tiled roof and white walls, surrounded by greenery. The building has multiple windows and a covered entrance area.

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)

Transformed lives in Africa through science

We are a pan-African organisation promoting scientific and technological development in Africa

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a pan-African organisation dedicated to advancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) across the continent. Established in 1985, the AAS strives to promote sustainable development, strengthen scientific excellence, and address Africa's socio-economic challenges through evidence-based research, capacity building, and policy advocacy.

AAS is the only continental Academy in Africa enjoying the support and recognition of the African Union, as well as several governments and major multilateral organisations.

The Academy serves as a platform for collaboration, fostering partnerships among scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders to address key issues affecting Africa's development.

The AAS is focused on catalyzing investments, strategies and programmes that engage the brightest minds in Africa, foster scientific excellence, inspire research leadership and accelerate innovation in ways that will improve lives and shift the center of gravity for African science to Africa.



By harnessing global resources and expertise, the AAS aims to promote sustainable development in Africa that addresses the challenges the continent faces in areas such as health, food security, gender equality, and climate change.

The Academy's activities are implemented in three areas:

- Recognising excellence.
- Providing advisory and think tank functions.
- Implementing science, technology and innovation programmes.

Mission

To leverage science technology and innovation for sustainable development.

Vision

Transformed lives in Africa through science.

We celebrate Africa's best scientific talent

In our efforts to recognise excellence we have:

The AAS Fellowship. Recognising African and non-African scientists working on the Continent, Fellows are elected by their peers based on achievements that include publication record, innovation, leadership and contributions to policy.

Associate Fellows are non-African scientists who have contributed to the development of science on the Continent.

Honorary Fellows are eminent members of society who have contributed to the achievement of the Academy's goals.

The AAS Affiliates programme seeks to mentor and develop young scientists into research leaders. We select Affiliates from each region who are below the age of 40, have PhDs, and work in academic and research institutions.

The Olusegun Obasanjo Prize for Scientific Discovery and Technological Innovation which is awarded every two years and carries a cash prize, gold medal and certificate.

Our programs are dedicated to building scientific capacity and promoting excellence across Africa

AAS is implementing programmes in partnership with various global partners that focus on our five strategic areas – environment & climate change, health & wellbeing, natural sciences, policy & governance, social sciences & humanities.

AAS programmes are Africa-led, Africa-centred, and Africa-specific aimed at accelerating scientific excellence, leadership and innovation.

We are developing strategies and mobilising resources that will catalyse the development and implementation of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programmes in Africa. AAS is leading the way in setting and aligning a scientific agenda that will inspire a new generation of scientific leaders and have a transformational impact on health and developmental challenges on the continent and globally.

AAS programmes are:

The African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE)

ARISE is an innovative research and innovation (R&I) support programme that provides a vibrant platform and pathway for R&I exchanges within Africa and beyond, contributing to sustainable and inclusive development, economic growth, and job creation. It aims to broaden and strengthen Africa's science base, transforming Africa into a knowledge-based and innovation-led entity continent.

The African Postdoctoral Training Initiative (APTI)

APTI is a postdoctoral training fellowship program that trains and supports African scientists to become scientific leaders who can advocate for increased research and innovation projects in Africa.



AAS Governance

The AAS is governed by:

The General Assembly the highest and ultimate decision-making governance organ of the Academy to which the Governing Council is responsible. It consists of all Fellows of the African Academy of Sciences. It appoints the Governing Council, oversees election of Fellows and approves long-term plans of the Academy.

The Governing Council this is the Board of Directors of the African Academy of Sciences. It is the policy and stewardship organ set up by the General Assembly to provide oversight for the overall functioning of the Academy. It establishes policies and provides strategic thinking. It consists of 11 members elected by the General Assembly.

The Secretariat, based in Nairobi, implements the Academy's activities under the leadership of the Executive Director.

We provide think tank functions to improve Africa's science strategies and R&DI investment

We are partnering with regional and continental bodies to use evidence to inform policies. AAS is leading our work in this and is focused on:

- Science diplomacy
- STI policy

AAS' goal is to create a leading science, technology and innovation (STI) knowledge hub that will set, align and ensure an Africa-led science agenda for the Africa we want.



For more information on the AAS:

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