

## MEDIA RELEASE

### NAMIBIA AND MOZAMBIQUES' SCIENCE INSTITUTIONS COLLABORATE

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**Windhoek, Namibia** - Another partnership was cemented between the national institutions responsible for Science and Technology funding in Namibia and Mozambique recently. The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology ratified an agreement with Fundo Nacional de Investigaçã (The National Research Fund of the Republic of Mozambique) on several cooperative areas.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on Friday, 15 September 2017, detailed the areas of cooperation between the two national entities. The areas that would be considered for joint funding in terms of Science, Technology and Innovation would include agriculture, biotechnology, energy, tourism, infrastructure, ICT, indigenous knowledge systems, ethnobotany, environmental and climate change, social and human sciences, health, education and mineral resources. These priority areas were aligned to the focal areas within the National Programme on Research, Science, Technology and Innovation 2014/15 - 2016/17.

“The two institutions equally recognise the importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in the pursuit for national economic growth, sustainable development and competitiveness that would translate into the improvement of socio-economic standards of life for many hopefuls in our respective countries” stated Enid Keramen, Acting CEO of the NCRST.

At Strategy level, the NCRST aims to not only further RSTI by co-funding projects, however it has identified the need for skills development, skills exchange as well as information and documentation that are of scientific nature. Therefore, this agreement will ensure the exchange of staff, scientists, researchers and experts between the two countries. Furthermore, there will also be

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an exchange of teaching and learning material that could be used in the promotion of scientific libraries and centres of scientific and technological information.

At the signing, FNI Executive Director, Professor De Jesus noted that, "As part of our bilateral cooperation between the two countries, FNI aims to do further joint projects in South Africa and Zimbabwe in similar areas, in the hope that this will increase cooperation within the region and bring great added value to the development of science".

As part of the three (3) year agreement, a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) will be established between the two entities. The JTC will be responsible for drafting an action plan that will outline the activities for the MoU period, jointly manage calls for research and innovation projects and jointly mobilise resources to further fund initiatives identified under this MoU.

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About NCRST: ([www.ncrst.na/about-us/background](http://www.ncrst.na/about-us/background))

The NCRST was established through the Research, Science and Technology Act, 2004 (Act no 23 of 2004). The NCRST fosters excellence through knowledge and innovation by ensuring adequate coordination, monitoring and supervision of research, science and technology in Namibia. Our strategic themes are centered around 1. Operational Excellence, 2. Organizational Sustainability, 3. Strategic Partnerships and 4. Innovation Excellence. The NCRST further strives to provide direction and policy guidance to the research, science and technology innovation systems in Namibia.