



# **Catalytic Role of Intellectual Property Rights in Fostering Innovation**

**Regional Forum on Innovation and Intellectual Property  
as Engines for Competitive Agribusiness:  
Empowering Women Researchers and Entrepreneurs in  
Africa**

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**By**

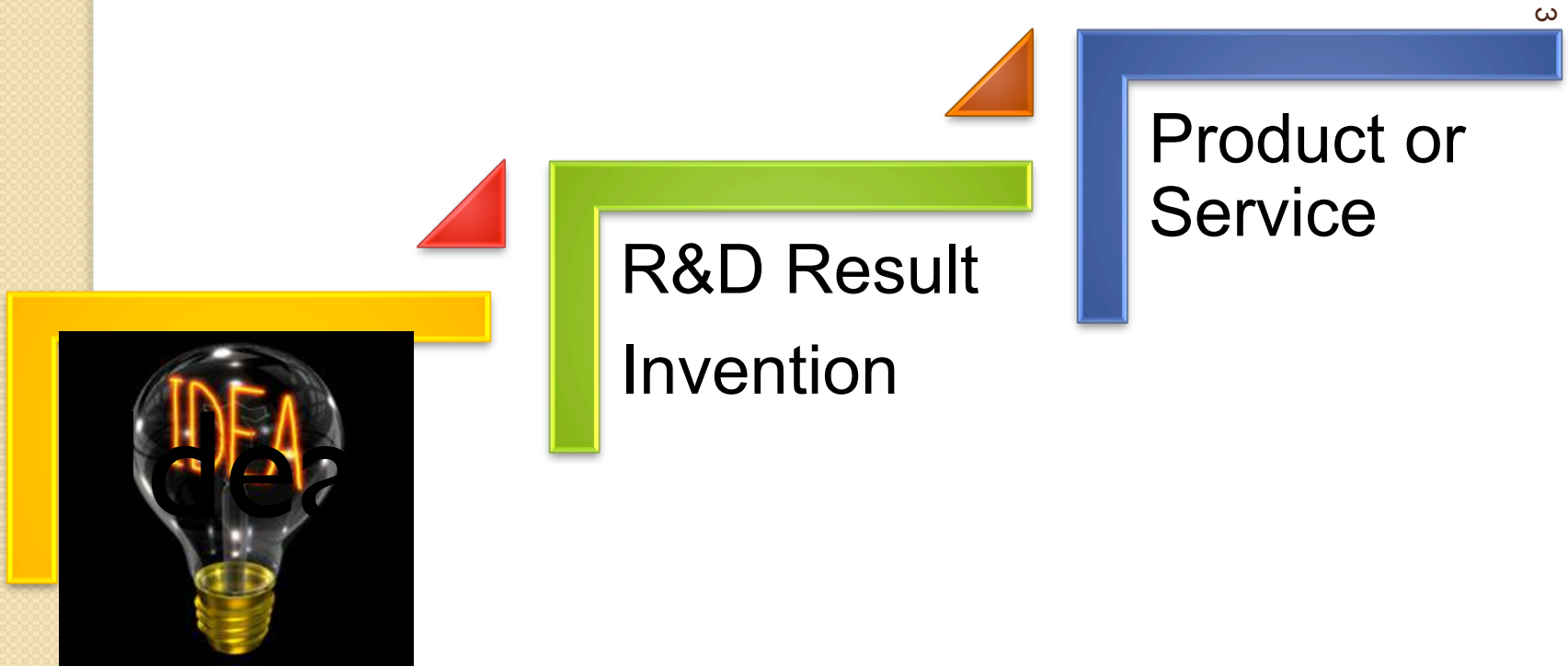
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# Introduction

- Key to development in today's knowledge economy
  - ✓ Prosperity & sustainability of a country & its development is no longer based on natural resources
  - ✓ Essential tool to enhance competitiveness and ensure market leadership
  - ✓ Change in living standard
  - ✓ help address challenges such as poverty, climate change and sustainable development
- IP plays a role in stimulating innovative activities and facilitating Commercialization

# Role of IP in Innovation

- idea to commercialization



## Innovation & IPS in Africa

- Role of innovation is well recognized
- Almost all African countries have IPS & belong to international IP agreements
- Encouraging developments and success stories

# Encouraging Developments

- Clarity of **policy** direction & increased **commitment**
- **Revision** of IP laws & strengthening of institutions
- Setting up and strengthening of **innovation support services**
- Increase in a number of African countries joining the **group of innovation achievers**
- **Increased use** of IPS by African innovators & **success stories**

# Success Stories

- Patent protection helped to:
  - ✓ secure **financial support** from development partners- Nigeria
  - ✓ **outsource** the making of machineries needed for exploitation of IP assets- Zimbabwe
  - ✓ maximize benefits through **licensing arrangement**-Burundi
- Use of **patent documents** in identifying and acquiring **transfer of appropriate technology**

# Conclusion

- **Significance** of Innovation & the need for creating enabling environment well **recognized**
- Policies issued, laws enacted & institutions set up
- Mandates of IP offices revisited
- Need to:
  - ✓ Ensure **implementation** of laws and policies, building implementation capacity
  - ✓ Put in place **monitoring and evaluation** mechanism
  - ✓ **Assess impact** on a regular basis
  - ✓ Ensure **dynamism** of the IPS

**Thank you very much  
for your attention!!  
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