COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

Maarifa Centre
Sharing Kenya's Devolution Solutions

SUMMARY REPORT ON

INNOVATION AND LEARNING FORUM FOR COUNTIES
HELD ON 15TH AND 16TH JUNE 2017 AT KCB LEADERSHIP CENTRE, KAREN-NAIROBI

THEME
"SHARING COUNTY INNOVATIONS FOR IMPROVED SERVICES AND LIVELIHOODS"

COMPILED BY MAARIFA CENTRE
COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
P.O BOX 40401, 00100 NAIROBI-KENYA

JULY 2017

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

One of the functions of the Council of Governors under Section 19 of the Intergovernmental Relations (IGRA) 2012 is to share information on the performance of Counties in execution of their functions with the objective of learning and promotion of best practices.   In this regard, the Council established Maarifa Centre in 2017 as a knowledge sharing and learning platform to facilitate and co-ordinate sharing of lessons and experiences from all the 47 Counties.

In the same light, one of the pillars of COG Strategic Plan 2017-2022 is *Knowledge Driven Performance*. The Council will achieve knowledge driven performance through a number of strategies, which include promoting peer learning among Counties.

Over the past 4 years since the commencement of the devolved system of governance in 2013, Counties have made substantial progress in delivering investments and services to their citizens including agriculture, primary health care, pre-primary education, urban services, county roads and public works. In the process, Counties have come up with innovative solutions, overcome implementation barriers and instituted new ways to deliver services to Kenya's citizens.   The learning forum was premised on the fact that these experiences are valuable, should be captured and shared so that Counties can benefit from each other's experiences and solutions.

1.1 Objective and theme
The **objective** of the learning event was to facilitate peer learning, replication and dissemination of experiences from successful innovations through knowledge exchange. The **theme** of the Forum was **"*Sharing innovations for improved services and livelihoods*"**, consistent with the Council's mandate of improving delivery of devolved functions.

1.2 Convenors and Facilitators
The Innovation and Learning Forum for Counties was organized by COG Secretariat through Maarifa Centre, with support from World Bank. Execution of the program was facilitated by World Bank, COG Maarifa Centre and Africa Lead. This was a synergy-building process, since Africa Lead had organized a one-day peer learning conference for Counties and private sector on ICT for Agriculture, which was one of the four themes that COG and World Bank had incorporated.

2.0 CATEGORIES OF INNOVATIONS SHOW-CASED IN THE LEARNING FORUM
The innovations that were show-cased in the forum represented 4 sectors, sub sectors or fields:
1. Agriculture and livestock – innovations that are providing improved technology, extension services and market access for the rural producers;
2. Youth development – methods resulting in greater awareness amongst the youth for new skills and connecting youth to opportunities for private sector employment and skills enhancement;
3. Use of ICT/technology in agriculture/livelihoods as well as improving governance; and
4. Service delivery – innovations that can facilitate effectiveness for major devolved services such as agriculture, health, water, etc. especially how the community institutions are used as last mile service delivery and connected to the County governments.

3.0 ORGANIZATION AND PROCESS OF THE LEARNING FORUM

The learning process for the innovation and learning forum for Counties was organized as follows:

PART I: Inspiring messages from Chief Guest and Key note Speakers	
PART II: Show casing innovations in plenary i. Pitching of County Innovations (Show-casing Counties as innovators) ii. Sharing of nationwide innovations from public and private sector iii. Institutional Platforms Promoting Innovations in Africa iv. Global Innovations and opportunities for Kenya	**PART III.** Innovation Marketplace
PART IV: Parallel Sessions on five themes: i. Drought proofing/agriculture/livelihood ii. Youth employment and Entrepreneurship iii. Connecting communities to services and knowledge iv. ICT for agriculture and the evolution of extension services v. Health Innovations	**PART V:** Matching supply and demand for innovations
PART VI: Recommendations: Commitments by counties and opportunity audit	

PART I: Inspiring messages from Chief Guest and Key note Speakers

The following leaders inspired delegates to embrace and invest in innovation:
  i. Dr. Manu Chandaria, Chief Guest and Chairman of Mabati Rolling Mills Ltd.
     Dr. Chandaria emphasized that innovation starts with each individual. That it starts in the mind before it is translated into action that can be applied to improve the welfare of communities and citizens within the Counties. He went ahead and gave 4 key pointers to successfully mainstream innovations; skills, finance, market and space (opportunity). "Maarifa Centre is a great idea, but all great ideas must be used. There are many issues that require innovative solutions e.g what do we have to show with 4 million youth who are out in the street, don't blame the National and County Government we should stop referring to the youths as *mali ya serikali ama mali ya county*. The first step in innovation is in thinking, today you have to change yourself in thinking, talk sensibly and stop the blame game. So are going to innovate yourself, most of the time we are sitting on the fence in regard to change. The national anthem presents a message of prayer but also requires us to innovate. Kenya has a great opportunity to play a big role in generating innovative solutions to local and global progress and India should provide a good motivation to Kenya to innovate. For example, over a period of 20 years India became an exporter with a population of 1.2 billion compared to Kenya with a population of 45 million food security remains a big challenge for the Country as we are dependent on external import, the solution lies in innovation. It is worth noting that India imports and stores beans and even macadamia nuts from Kenya, at the same time is the second largest producer of tea and in order to address food security, Kenya must invest in climate change innovations as well as innovations that aim at improving the environment."

  ii. Hon. Micah Pkopus Powon, CBS, Principle Secretary, State Department of Devolution
     The Principal Secretary informed delegates that at personal level, he is an innovator and an entrepreneur at heart and in practice. He confirmed that the Ministry of Devolution and Planning fully supports innovations as one of the key strategies for realizing the objects of devolution as well as Vision 2030. He welcomed continued collaboration with the Council of Governors on initiatives that seek to promote innovations in Counties as an intergovernmental agenda for sustainable development.

iii. Ms. Diarietou Gaye, County Director-World Bank
The County Director stated that there is a lot of knowledge that is being generated, but also emphasized that learning needs to be organized. She acknowledged the partnership of the Council of Governors and World Bank and COG's contribution in ensuring that learning among Counties is organized through Maarifa Centre. She also confirmed that World Bank will continue to partner with COG in supporting knowledge sharing initiatives among Counties.

iv. H.E. Gerald G. Githinji, Deputy Governor Kiambu County, Representing Vice Chair, Council of Governors. He congratulated Counties for investing in innovations and for coming out to share them with their peers. He also encouraged Counties to connect with private innovators and revolutionize service delivery to County citizens through collaborative investments.

4.0 SUMMARY OUTCOMES OF THE LEARNING FORUM

4.1 Outcome 1: Sharing and learning outcomes
The learning forum was attended by 235 delegates, 170 men and 65 women[1]. At least **65** innovations and best practices were shared by Counties, national level institutions, social enterprises and private sector, regional and global innovators. At the end of the learning forum, each County selected priority innovations to pilot, adopt or scale up. The next step is for each County to translate the priority innovations and best practices to concept notes, pilots, concrete projects, programmes or enterprises in various value chains.

Table 1. Summary of innovations and best practices shared in the forum

Category	Notes	Number of innovations
1. County Innovations	• 38 innovations, see attached report	38
2. Public Sector Innovations (National level institutions)	• Use of ICT in primary schools (ICT Authority) • Innovative private sector solutions to climate change (Kenya Climate Innovation Centre-KCIC)	2
3. Private Sector Innovations, Social Enterprises	• 18 innovations, see attached report	18
4. Regional Innovations	• Use of videos to promote extension services in Ethiopia. • Sustainable land use/integrated land and water conservation in hilly slopes of rural Rwanda. • Attracting youth to agriculture through agribusiness incubation programmes (Africa Agribusiness Innovation Network, AAIN). • Promoting agricultural production and access to markets by small holder farmers in Africa (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa-AGRA)	4
5. Global Innovations (India)	• Skilling and empowering youth in India through partnerships with government and private sector. • Enhancing delivery of health services in remote areas through telemedicine technology. • Scaling up access to markets for small scale farmers through women-owned farmer producer organizations.	3
		65

• Learning from County Innovations: Counties shared **38** innovations and learnt from each other (peer-to-peer learning) about how the innovations are transforming value chains and service-delivery. Delegates also benefited from **2** innovations that were shared by national level institutions namely; Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) and ICT Authority.

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[1] Records of Day 1 (15th June 2017) registration sheets.

- Learning from Social Enterprises and Private Sector: Counties were able to know and network with **18** social enterprises and private sector innovators providing products and services that are relevant to improving delivery of devolved services.

- Learning from Regional and Global Innovations: Counties learnt from **7** Regional and global innovations from Ethiopia, Rwanda and India, and discovered their relevance in: (1) accelerating service delivery and (2) promoting women and youth employment at County level.

4.2 Outcome 2: Priority innovations for adoption, replication, scaling up or piloting by counties
- At the end of the learning forum, each county selected priority innovations to pilot, adopt or scale up from the new financial year 2017/2018 (overviews attached).

4.3 Outcome 3: Opportunities from recommendation of Delegates.
- Recommendations of Delegates: Delegates recommended *inter alia*, that: (1) the concept of Maarifa Centre and the peer learning model be replicated in counties, (2) innovation incubation centres be established in each county within a partnership framework that integrates intergovernmental collaboration, (3) the need for capacity building support to Counties in developing innovation proposals (including calls for proposals by National Government Agencies) and (4) need to lobby for formulation of policies that support innovation in Counties and for integration of innovations in MTP III, second generation CIDPs, annual work plans and budgets.

5.0 GENDER AND SDG PERSPECTIVES OF THE INNOVATION AND LEARNING FORUM FOR COUNTIES

County governments will play a key role in delivering the country's commitment to sustainable development goals (SDGs). At the same time, the Council of Governors is committed to ensure that all programmes are responsive to gender needs in line with the Council's Gender Policy. An analysis of the SDG and gender perspectives of the innovation and learning forum is presented below. Overall, the forum was convened in the spirit of **SDG 9** that is dedicated to promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation. Similarly, by integrating lessons from Africa and India, the forum in effect embraced and domesticated the spirit of **SDG 17** Strengthening the means of implementation and realizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

i. Drought proofing/agriculture/livelihood.
The proposed innovations contribute to advancing achievement of **SDG 2** on End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable development. The impact of drought largely affects women, children, the elderly, persons living with various forms of disabilities and the sick and weak members of households. Among women, breast feeding mothers and expectant women are highly vulnerable to malnutrition. Innovative solutions that are aimed at drought-proofing agriculture are bound to benefit these categories more. They include the low-cost solar powered water pumps (including Future Pump) and solar powered boreholes for irrigation, innovations that promote food preservation using solar-based technologies, innovations that promote value addition including making of bread and related products from sweet potatoes in Bomet County, Mango processing plant in Makueni County and sorghum value chain development in Tharaka Nithi County.

ii. Youth employment and Entrepreneurship.
SDG 8 serves to Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Examples shared in the forum include skilling and empowering

youth in India through vocational training in partnership with government and private sector companies as well as promotion of agribusiness incubation centres in Africa by AAIN.

iii. Connecting communities to services and knowledge
ICT Authority showcased in the market place, the ICT programme for promoting digital learning for boys and girls in primary schools, as it relates to **SDG 4**-Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all.

A good example of women economic empowerment programme is that on Scaling up access to markets for small scale farmers through women-owned farmer producer organizations in India. This integrates empowerment of women through knowledge, enterprise development, agriculture value-chain development, market linkages and access to greater market opportunities by women (Goal 4 on Equity, target 4.4 on number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship; and SDG 8).

iv. ICT for agriculture and the evolution of extension services
Most ICT solutions in agriculture were presented by private sector and social enterprises. They serve to advance realization of food security (SDG 2) and SDG 8 on promoting innovations. Examples shared in the learning forum include training of youth in video production and use of videos to promote extension services in Ethiopia and SMS-based information sharing with farmers by various companies.

v. Health Innovations.
Health innovations contribute to achieving **SDG 3**, Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Examples show cased in the learning forum mainly targeted Indicator 3.1.1 on Reducing Maternal Mortality. They include: (1) Uterine Balloon Tamponade (UBT) for reducing post-partum haemorrhage in Garissa County, (2) Maternal Manyattas in Kajiado County and Maternal Shelters in Samburu County for promoting delivery by skilled birth attendants and (3) proposed Mother and Child Shelters in Makueni.

Other health sector innovations targeted promoting access to health care for low income people. These relate to **SDG 3 target 3.8** and include: (1) Pamoja Tujikinge Magonjwa Integrated Programme in Kitui County, (2) Community Health Insurance model in Makueni County and (3) integration of telemedicine technology- experience from India. On the other hand, application of the Community Strategy to reduce HIV infection among expectant mothers in Embu County relates to **SDG 3 target 3.3, Indicator 3.3.1** (number of HIV infections).

6.0 LESSONS & DISCOVERIES
i. Counties appreciate the value of peer learning and are willing to replicate the peer learning model at county level.
ii. Global and regional best practices and innovations can be very relevant to local context in Counties.
iii. Learning by Counties needs to be organized in collaboration with partners with an interest in supporting peer learning mechanisms.
iv. From the experience of India and lesson from AAIN on supporting establishment of business incubation in Africa, government support is critical in ensuring success of programmes that promote mass skilling of youth and creation of job opportunities.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

The proposed next steps are consistent with the knowledge capturing and sharing cycle and the mandate of the Council of Governors. Moving forward, the priority is to share the outcome of the learning forum with all Counties and Partners/stakeholders and to support processes that will lead to utilization of the resultant knowledge by counties through adoption, replication, scaling up or piloting of priority innovations. In order to achieve this, there's need for commitment and action at Individual level, by County Governments and by the Council of Governors in collaboration with partners as elaborated below:

1. Individual level
    At individual level, each delegate should take up the challenge that innovation starts with us and apply innovations in our personal lives. Similarly, each individual-male or female, should ensure that we support innovations that improve the lives of the communities around us. We must personalize innovation.

2. Recommendations for Counties
    i.   Each County should integrate adoption of selected priority innovations in their respective Second Generation County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), Annual Work Plans (AWPs), Annual Budgets for 2017/2018, as well as in Supplementary Budgets where applicable. This will enable Counties to utilize the advantage of innovations to transform delivery of services and improve livelihoods of County citizens.
    ii. Counties to update COG Secretariat on the steps taken towards applying the knowledge gained from the learning forum, especially in relation to adoption of selected innovations and partnership with private sector as well as social enterprises, and how the innovations are transforming services and livelihoods in the Counties.

3. Recommendations and Actions for COG and Partners
    i.   COG to explore jointly with Counties, National Government and development partners modalities for advancing innovations that promote value addition, youth and women empowerment and job creation. These include developing concept notes and proposals for establishing innovation incubation centres in Counties within a Public Private Partnership framework. The Council should also network with actors that promote innovations within Counties in order to enhance impact.
    ii. COG to develop a catalogue or compendium for all innovations that were featured in the innovations and learning forum under review.
    iii. COG to develop and share the outcome and lessons from the learning forum with support of World Bank.
    iv. COG to plan for similar learning forums on a regular basis (as part of Maarifa Centre annual work plan), analyse all recommendations emerging from the learning forum and take action for the purpose of enhancing knowledge sharing among Counties.