

SESSION 22:

IMPACT OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ON SOCIETY

Chair: Stanley Liphadzi (WRC) | Venue: Boardroom 2

The importance of research and innovations (R&I) in any society have been articulated in several ways and supported by many countries. However, many developing countries struggle to resource R&I with sufficient funding that can enable production of required new knowledge and innovations. In cases where innovations are stumbled upon in their research programmes, little or no support is provided to implement, demonstrate, or commercialise them. As a results society, funders and taxpayers have started to question the impact or the Return on the Investment (RoI) they make in R&I programmes. The RoI from Research and Innovation programmes is an issue that science and research institution have begun to address. This session will explore frameworks, case studies, and emerging thought and trends in this topic. This session will focus on:

- Conceptualisation of Impact of R&I in relation to the real needs of the society. It will should also enable participant to look at societal needs with both current and future lenses.
- What frameworks have various organisations put together to address this matter, and what are the results and outcomes?
- Case studies will be used to demonstrate organizational efforts in addressing the “Impact” challenges.

PROGRAMME

Welcome and introduction		Stanley Liphadzi (WRC)
13:45 – 14:05	Conceptualisation, thoughts and emerging issues regarding the impact of research and innovation	Sibusiso Manzini (NSTF)
14:05 – 14:25	Impactful projects: Examples of how R&I projects are creating value and impact	Valerie Naidoo (WRC)
14:25 – 14:40	Impact of R&I projects on enhancing transformation and human capacity development for the water and sanitation sector	Taryn Ralph (WRC)
14:40 – 15:00	Setting ourselves up to realise the impact of R&I in water and sanitation	Stanley Liphadzi (WRC)
15:00 – 15:40	Discussion	Facilitated by Mandla Msibi (WRC)
15:40 – 15:45	Closing remarks	Stanley Liphadzi (WRC)

