Rural Innovation Assessment Toolbox: Owning tools for local innovation assessments – benefits for local municipalities

Peter Jacobs (RIAT Team)
LED Conference
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Economic Performance and Development
Presentation Outline

• Context
  • Local Socio-Economic Development Challenge
  • Innovation-Driven LED – Strategic Policy Imperative

• What is RIAT?
  • Nuts and Bolts of the Toolbox- Pilot LMs
  • Innovation Assessment Tools for Policy Action

• Benefits of RIAT for Innovation-Driven Local Economic and Social Development
## Development Challenge in Resource-Poor Municipalities - Rurality & Poverty

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Prov. Share (%)</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umzinyathi</td>
<td>KZN</td>
<td>510 335</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>425 619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Ruth S Mompati</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>460 482</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>301 615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Hani</td>
<td>EC</td>
<td>800 883</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>528 580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mopani</td>
<td>LP</td>
<td>1 120 287</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>969 048</td>
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Policy Imperative: Strategic Orientation – ILED & IID (DST)

• DST as NSI custodian wants to overcome the disconnect between NSI and sub-national spheres
• Underpinned by the local innovation theory and systems approach

• ILED, a component of IID, seeks to foster innovation-driven Local Economic Development primarily in PDMs
  • Systemic innovation-driven local sector development interventions to catalyse broader economic transformation
  • Stimulating Local Systems of Innovation to contribute to development of vibrant local economies in PDMs and other impoverished localities
  • Inclusive local innovation policy formulation
Local Innovation Information and Decision Tools

• Good practice to **institutionalise** Innovation Information and Decision Tools in Rural Local Municipalities (RLMs) with the aid of “local change champions”

• Begin localising the ownership of the toolbox: refine and handover ‘tools’; transferring skills required for the application thereof to municipalities (local change champions) and local universities.

• Specific objectives:
  • Identify, mentor and guide local change agents
  • Refine the Toolbox in Collaboration with local change agents
  • Oversee, support and quality assure application of Toolbox Components
RIAT Foundation - Rounded Conception of ‘Innovation’

Social Dynamics of Innovation Value Chains
Know the Innovation Assessment Tools

• Three sets of *information* and *decision* tools have been developed and tested (tools for local innovation assessment)

  • **Tool set 1**: Map local innovation landscapes

  • **Tool set 2**: Stakeholder conversations to explore innovative solutions

  • **Tool set 3**: Identify and support an innovative initiative with widespread and lasting developmental impact
RIAT3 – “Transfer Pilot” Local Municipalities per RDM

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<tr>
<th>RDM</th>
<th>Core RLM</th>
<th>Periphery RLM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mopani (Limpopo)</td>
<td>Greater Tzaneen</td>
<td>Greater Giyani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Hani (EC)</td>
<td>Lukanji</td>
<td>Encgobo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati (NW)</td>
<td>Naledi</td>
<td>Lekwa-teemane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uMzinyathi (KZN)</td>
<td>Endumeni</td>
<td>Nquthu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Taolo Gaetswe (NC)</td>
<td>Ga segonyana</td>
<td>Joe Morolong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ehlanzeni (MP)</td>
<td>Mbombela</td>
<td>Bushbuckridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR Tambo (EC)</td>
<td>King Sabata Dalindyebo</td>
<td>Mhlontlo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ugu (KZN)</td>
<td>Hibiscus Coast</td>
<td>Umuziwbantu</td>
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How formal is the local innovation system – uMzinyathi?
How formal is the local innovation system – Mopani?
Where are the applicants for local innovation support – Chris Hani?
Where are the applicants for local innovation support – Dr Ruth S Mompati?
Institutionalisation: What, How & Why?

- "Institutionalisation" - transfer ownership of information & decision tools to foster innovation driven local social and economic development

- **Know your local innovation landscape** - knowledge intensive and dependent upon ongoing support from knowledge producers (universities, science councils, etc.)

- **Effective local use of toolbox** – User-driven tools for effective policy actions (IPDs, LED Strategies, etc.)
Universities in Local Innovation Networks & Spaces

- **Local innovation networking** - Knowledge producers partner with local municipalities for twin benefits

- Help *foster ST&I mind-set* for municipalities to champion innovation-led change with lasting developmental impacts

- Partner with municipalities to *enhance the ‘innovation brokerage’* roles of municipalities

- **Main outcome**: uplift living standards of people in resource-poor municipalities through ST&I (developmental mandate of LG & DST-ILED)
Benefits in Fostering Innovation Capabilities

• Help foster innovation-driven approach (capabilities) among municipal officials
  • Knowledge producers (universities) matched with municipal end-users

• A participatory knowledge and skills transfer process
  • Primary users (municipal officials) customise and refine tools for local use
  • Greater awareness of innovation opportunities and challenges in municipalities
  • Build knowledge gained from experience into the IDP/LED Strategies
  • Explore innovation community engagement for IDP/LED processes
  • Help foster a workforce with ST&I orientation to LSED
RIAT Information Benefits for Municipalities

- Transition Municipalities into Local Champions of Innovation-driven Change

- An invaluable ST&I-driven tool to support policy decisions, planning and actions of the municipalities
  - Accurate and rigorous research
    - inform IDPs
    - LED Strategies

- Easy access to customised knowledge products
  - Research reports, Policy briefs, localised ST&I data
  - GIS Tool for each LM
Visit RIAT Webpage!

DM Reports available from:


Thank You
Basic Concepts & RurInnov Conceptual Framework

Mixed Methods Tools

Critical Knowledge Exchanges

RIS workshops; Seminars; Conferences

Reports; Research & Policy Briefs

Scientific Outputs

Map Innovation Activities (Per RDM)

Evidence Uptake/Use (IDP Source Data)

SELF-REFLECTION & HORIZON EXPLORATION

High Impact Local Innovation Catalysts (HILICs)

Participatory Evaluation, Reflect & Learn

Institutionalize Process & Mechanism (Living Lab?)

Change Agents

Networking

Coordination

Identify & Profile

Actors; Sectors; Proximity

PHASE 1: TOOLBOX BASICS

PHASE 2: SELF-LEARNING

PHASE 3: OPERATIONALISE
Our Contributions... New Ideas

• **Innovation Value Chains**: Adoption, adaption and diffusion are integral to almost every innovation value chain yet these are not often seen as ‘proper’ innovation activities.

• **Sub-national Space-bounded innovation systems**: discovering the creative potential and learning capabilities in rural areas

• **Social Innovation**: Direct participatory forms of local organisation of people to improve livelihoods through ‘new’ know-how...