

**FGAI4H-N-055-A04**

E-meeting, 15-17 February 2022

<b>Source:</b>	WG-CO	
<b>Title:</b>	Att.4 - The Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform: Is there a case for collaboration?	
<b>Purpose:</b>	Discussion	
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<b>Abstract:</b>	This PPT contains a presentation from the "Catalysing Digital and AI Innovations for Health: Sharing Experiences from Africa and Asia" series.	



# The Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform

## Is there a case for collaboration?

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The Africa Oxford Initiative

Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health

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University of Oxford



Catalysing Digital and AI Innovations for Health:  
Sharing Experiences from Africa and Asia  
17<sup>th</sup> February 2022



# What is covered?



- Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform (AfOx-HIP)
  - What is it?
  - AfOx-HIP focus areas in health innovation
  - How AfOx-HIP provides support
  - Our approach
- Connecting research to industry
  - Valley of death
  - Disarticulating capabilities
  - Software does not solve all health problems
  - Innovation, technological change and technological trajectories
  - Technology adoption and technology diffusion
- Is there a case for collaboration?
  - Growing talent in innovation and entrepreneurship
  - Ability to exploit linkages between research and innovation?
  - Unique value proposition
- Q&A

# Africa Oxford Health Innovation Platform



- AfOx-HIP offers a **multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary** programme to support African innovators develop new solutions to Africa's health challenges

- Varied expertise (instrumental, critical and cognitive)
- Problem based, pragmatic, borrowing methodological approaches (solutions based)
- Outcome focused, using disciplinary mix to address wider questions (knowledge based)
- Disciplinary integration addressing dissonance

**1**  
*Challenges are  
multidimensional*

- Any type of technology leading to the creation of solutions to disease prevention, detection and treatment

- therapeutics
- vaccines
- devices
- diagnostics
- digital technologies

**2**  
*Health challenges will not be solved  
by software alone*

- How AfOx-HIP provides support

- The AfOx Innovation and Entrepreneurship Scheme (virtual training programme focused on the entrepreneurial journey)
- Oxford-based Fellowship Programme (technical collaborative support and mentorship delivered in Oxford)
- Alumni network

**3**  
*Co-creation and ability to  
configure and re-configure  
technologies is key*

- The AfOx-HIP approach

- Response to development challenges identified by our African collaborators
- Focussed on equitable and sustainable collaborations between African researchers/innovators and the University of Oxford
- Brings together leading academics, change leaders and other key players in industry and government across geographical boundaries

**4**  
*African led solutions*

# Connecting research to industry



- It is aimed at connecting research to industry to tackle prevention, early detection, and treatment through impact investment and innovation
- Connecting research to industry...
  - Framing the issue
  - Valley of death
  - Disarticulating capabilities
  - Innovation, technology change and technological trajectories
  - Pursuing a broader purpose for sustainable futures - creating and sustaining value through promoting pursuit of purpose through impact investment and innovation.

# Framing the issue

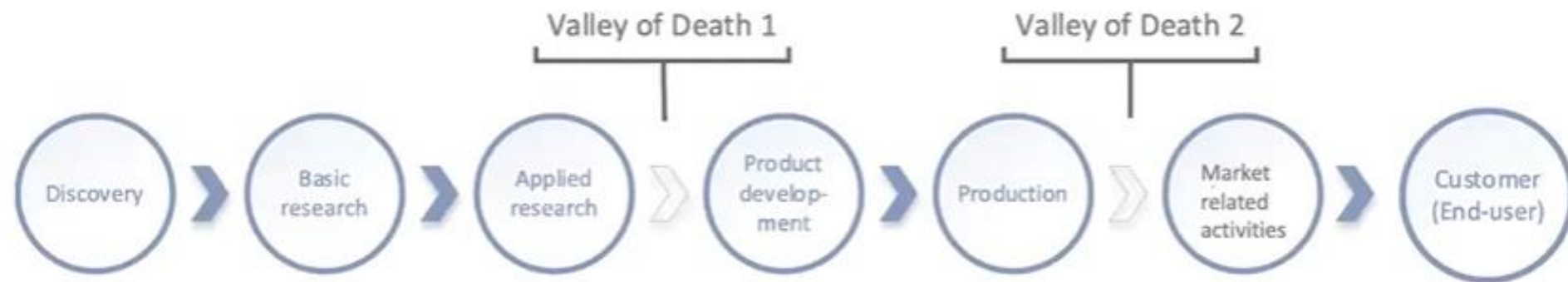
Ms. Wamae, Watu - ...

	Problems for which solutions exist in AIC	Problems for which solutions have not been searched or found in AIC
Problems for which solutions suitable for DC conditions exist	Solutions acquired through imports	Solutions to problems need to be developed locally
Problems for which solutions suitable for DC conditions do not exist	Solutions do not fit conditions in developing countries	No solutions at all. New research needed

Source: Srinivas and Sutz 2008



# Valley of death

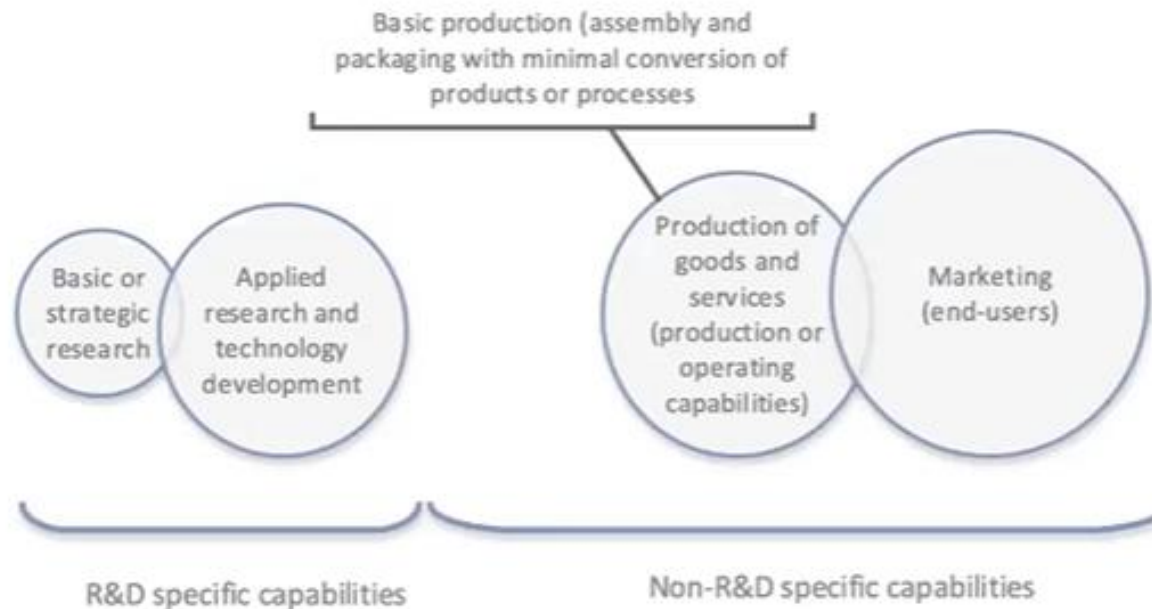


What about dis-jointed innovation ecosystems?

# Valley of death



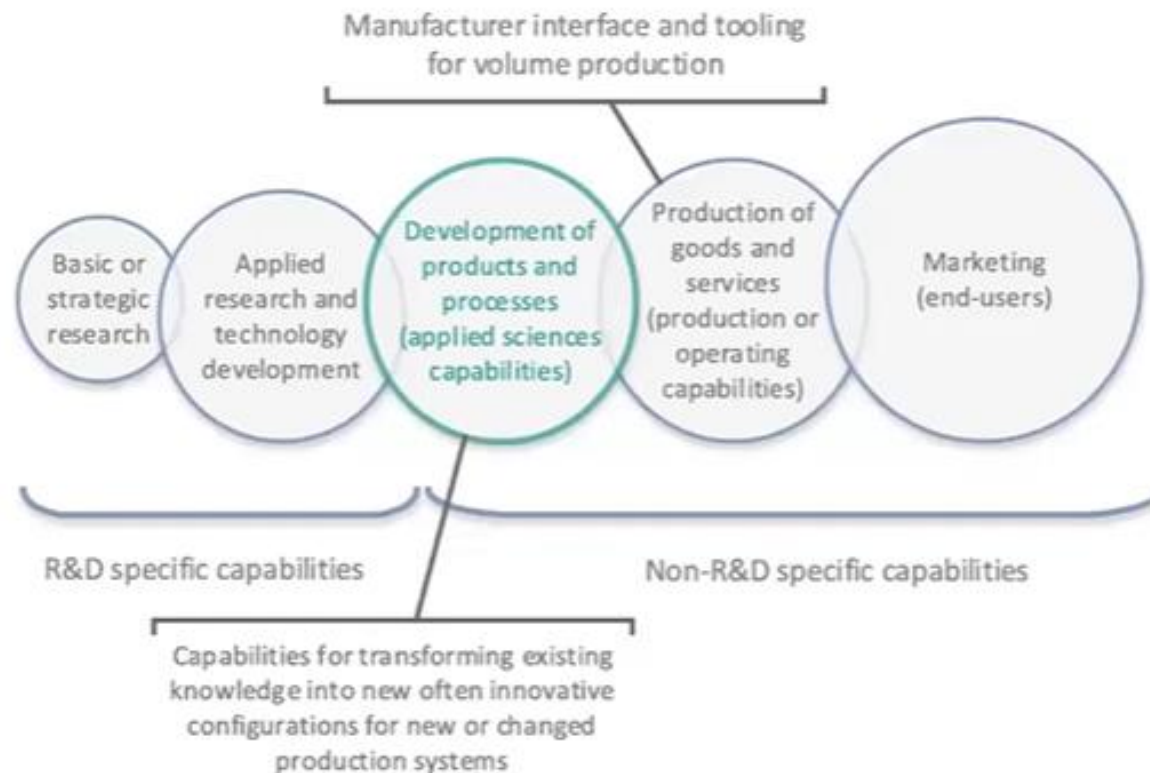
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# Valley of death

What about dis-jointed innovation ecosystems?

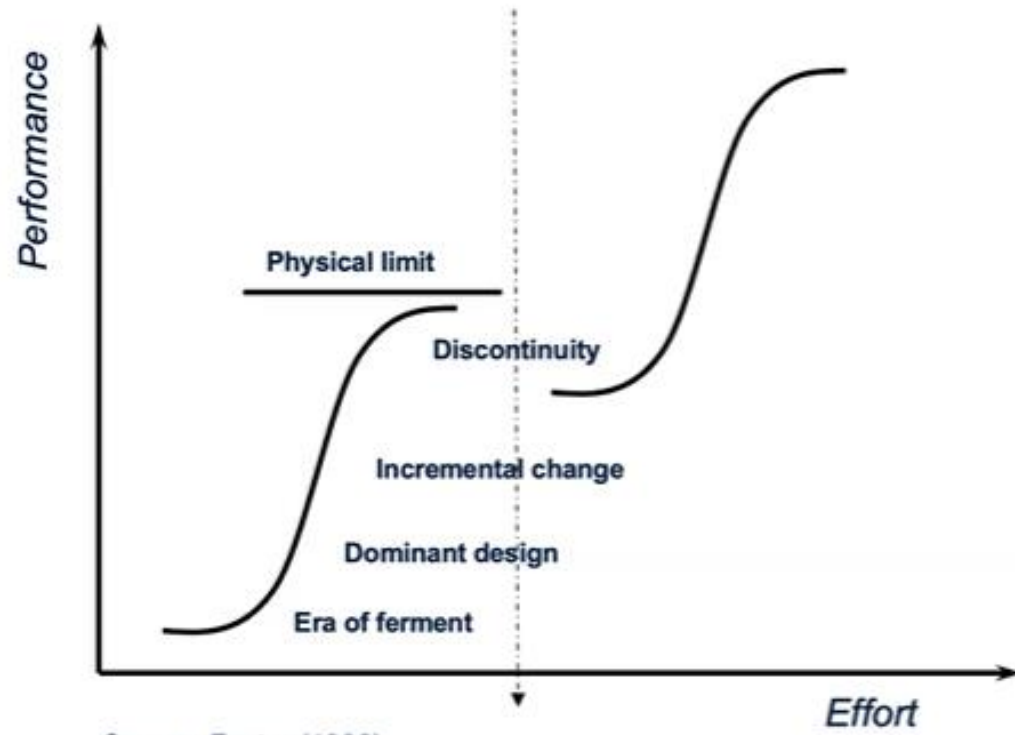




# Disarticulating capabilities

## Innovation, technological change and technological trajectories

Why innovate and how?  
Technological change



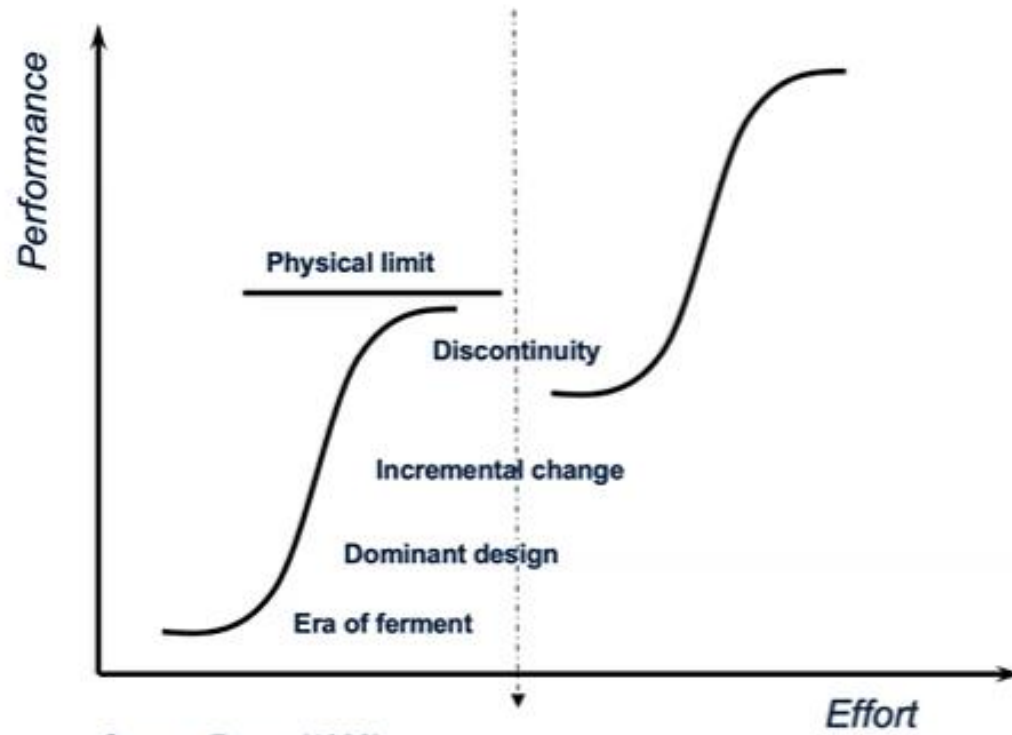
Source: Foster (1986)



# Disarticulating capabilities

## Innovation, technological change and technological trajectories

### Why innovate and how? Technological change



Source: Foster (1986)

### Why innovate and how? Exploit vs explore innovation strategy

#### Exploit

- routine work
- operational excellence
- make money now

Striking the right balance

#### Explore

- new ideas, experiment
- Innovation
- make money later, and persist into

### Learning is a fundamental process of innovation

Exploiting existing opportunities for continued creation, delivery and capture of value while simultaneously exploring new opportunities i.e., emerging technologies and emerging markets.  
(Tushman and O'Reilly 2015)

# Is there a case for collaboration?



## Across Africa there is an explosion of talent in innovation and entrepreneurship

- An explosion of talent in innovation and entrepreneurship remains substantially under-utilised
- The ability to exploit linkages between research and innovation requires nurturing and better channelling

### *Problem*

*Many African researchers and innovators, proposing new solutions for health face significant hurdles in accessing relevant and robust training in Innovation and Entrepreneurship*

### *UVP*

*A bespoke immersive, collaborative, co-creative learning experience, designed with informed attention to the specific technical needs of African researchers and innovators and for optimal accessibility for the busy working African professional.*



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## Creating and sustaining value through promoting pursuit of purpose through impact investment and innovation

### The start-up journey

What you learn (from idea to prototype, MVP, ...)

What you pitch to get funded



Rethinking funding/investment models is required