


# Mozambique’s Innovation Push: A Case Study in Public–Private Collaboration

 Orizon Learning, November 23, 2025

**Mozambique has set its National Innovation System in motion, backed by a newly constituted working group tasked with guiding its development. The initiative marks a confident step toward organising the country’s disparate innovation efforts into a single, strategic framework. Its success now hinges on how effectively government, business and academia can collaborate — and on their ability to build the trust and transparency that make such partnerships work.**

Mozambique’s push to formalise its innovation agenda comes at a moment when technology, climate pressures and shifting economic dynamics demand more coordinated responses. The recent inception workshop of the NIS Working Group brought together stakeholders across government, the private sector and academia to clarify priorities and begin the work of building an innovation ecosystem that can serve the country’s long-term development goals.



Members of Mozambique’s National Innovation System Working Group with the Ministry of Education’s Permanent Secretary at the launch event

The logic behind public–private collaboration is increasingly well established. Innovation rarely thrives in isolation: governments offer regulatory coherence, convening authority and long-term planning, while firms

provide technical expertise, market intelligence and the ability to act quickly. Many countries have embraced such arrangements. The African Union's STISA-2024 strategy places collaboration at the heart of its vision for continental growth. The UNFCCC's Technology Mechanism takes a similar view, urging countries to strengthen innovation systems through joint research, development and demonstration. Through the Climate Technology Centre and Network, Mozambique is already drawing on this global architecture to align policy, capacity and investment.

The advantages of partnership are clear. Resource use becomes more efficient, duplication is reduced and information flows more freely. Technology transfer accelerates, helping countries adapt and deploy new tools at lower cost. Investment follows, spurring job creation and diversifying economies. Risks — technical, financial or operational — are easier to manage when shared. In a world where shocks are frequent and technologies evolve rapidly, such resilience is invaluable.

But partnerships are fragile unless they rest on clear foundations. Shared objectives help keep actors aligned. Strong governance, with roles and responsibilities defined, prevents drift. Open communication builds trust, enabling joint problem-solving. Flexibility allows partnerships to adjust as circumstances shift. And predictable legal frameworks give both sides the confidence to invest.

To make such arrangements work, government agencies must do their part: set transparent rules, consult stakeholders early, offer incentives where appropriate and build the institutional capacity required to manage complex relationships. Private firms must understand public-sector priorities, demonstrate reliability, invest in relationships and contribute expertise generously. Each side gains from understanding how the other operates.

Mozambique's NIS is at the start of its institutional journey. But it begins on solid ground: with a clear mandate, an active working group and a shared recognition that innovation must be cultivated, not assumed. If partners can maintain the habits that underpin productive collaboration — clarity, discipline and openness — the NIS could become a durable driver of innovation-led growth, helping Mozambique adapt to a fast-changing world while shaping its own economic trajectory.