

A Partnership of:



# Shaping the Future of INNOVATION

Presents  
**The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant funding)**  
managed by:



# News

Issue 2, February 2022

**Welcome** to the second issue of the Shaping the Future of Innovation newsletter. Our aim is to contribute to building a culture of innovation and an innovation system by sharing news of the programme as well as information from Partner programmes and relevant topics around innovation. We hope the content will inspire the local community to put creativity to work for a better quality of life for all.

*Innovation must lead to a better quality of life for all. It must be inclusive.*

## Global Innovation Index (GII)



**Global  
Innovation  
Index 2021**



Reference:

[https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo\\_pub\\_gii\\_2021.pdf](https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo_pub_gii_2021.pdf)

The Global Innovation Index (GII) is a service of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It ranks the innovation ecosystem performance of over 130 economies around the globe. Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the index highlights innovation strengths and weaknesses and particular gaps in innovation metrics. The top ten countries in the GII ranking are:

1. Switzerland
2. Sweden
3. United States of America

4. United Kingdom
5. Republic of Korea
6. Netherlands
7. Finland
8. Singapore
9. Denmark
10. Germany.

In the 2021 Report, Trinidad and Tobago was ranked 97<sup>th</sup> overall out of 132 countries but 51<sup>st</sup> in its income group and 15<sup>th</sup> in its regional grouping. *While Trinidad and Tobago has a rich and creative culture, there may be a gap in terms of overall direction, policy, infrastructure and coordinated effort where it comes to strengthening the effort and results toward innovation.*

The Index comprises around 80 indicators on which a country is scored including: measures of institutions, human capital and research,

### Shaping the Future of Innovation and the Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund)

**Partners** - Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the European Union (EU) and IDB LAB in collaboration with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) as the executing agency.

**Aim:** to contribute to a diversified economic base in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Actions:** **Component 1:** The Innovation Challenge Facility (grant fund for business innovation); **Component 2:** Building Industry and Academic Linkages (support for further research and development towards commercialization); **Component 3:** Building the Innovation Network (towards a sustainable innovation eco system).

**Funding:** over Euro 8 million provided by the European Union and the IDB LAB to support this innovation programme in Trinidad and Tobago.

**The impact expected:** job creation, new skills, increased efficiency / productivity and competitiveness, new markets, export growth, business growth / profit potential and positive environmental, social and inclusive impacts.

Visit: Shaping the Future of Innovation website at: <http://future.cariri4.com/>.

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infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology outputs, creative outputs.

According to the 2021 report, innovation leaders and the economies that have consistently advanced up the GII ranks over the past decade, have dynamic innovation systems and combine efficiency in translating innovation inputs (R&D, education, infrastructure and institutions supporting innovation) into outputs with a balanced and strong performance across all GII pillars.

## Science and Technology Survey and Indicator -



You are cordially invited to  
A Stakeholder Knowledge  
Sharing Session

**Measuring the Investment in  
Science & Technology**

Date: March 4th, 2022  
Time: 10:00 a.m.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

  
niherst.gov.tt  
Enabling society through  
science and innovation

The National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) will be launching on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022, an initiative to measure investment in science and technology. The

“Survey of Science and Technology (S&T) Indicators” seeks to collect data on the expenditure and human resources dedicated towards S&T through annual surveys. S&T indicators can aid in developing policies and strategies to support the achievement of the vision 2030 goals (<https://www.planning.gov.tt/content/vision-2030>) and in international benchmarking including global indices such as the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) and Global Innovation Index (GII) explained above. The NIHERST session is an open session. Link to register: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

## The Innovation Challenge Facility Programme Update

### Highlight

Stage 1 Evaluation is nearing completion. A tentative compulsory workshop for Stage 2 Applicants is set for mid March 2022



Following the Call for Proposals on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021, over 170 proposals were received and 96 made it through the screening process and are being evaluated by an Independent Advisory Panel. The

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number of submissions was beyond the expectations and invalidated the original timelines for screening and evaluation. The Panel is expected to conclude its work by the end of February.

We are excited and encouraged by the projects which have been submitted. Innovation projects ranged across agriculture, agri processing, business services, creative industries, health, ICT e-commerce platforms, manufacturing, renewable energy, sports, waste and environmental management.

The next step will be 5 weeks for the preparation of stage 2 detailed plans with support from the management firm and its team of industry specialists.

## Network News

Learn what is happening in Innovation from Partner Organisations.

### CARIRI:

[http://www.cariri.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=featured&Itemid=435](http://www.cariri.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=435) –

Calling ALL MSMEs

TUESDAY 1ST MARCH 2022  
9:00 am - 10:30 am

**SCALING UP ARE YOU READY?**

Gain insights into:

- The benefits of participating in the Scale-Up Programme
- The requirements and criteria for the programme
- The application process
- The experience of successful MSMEs who have participated in the Scale-Up Programme
- The funding available to successful applicants

Call us for info  
1-868-637-6966 ext 1308  
Email: [events@chamber.org.tt](mailto:events@chamber.org.tt)  
[www.chamber.org.tt](http://www.chamber.org.tt)

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, CARIRI will launch a new Scale Up programme with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce for micro, small and medium-sized (MSMEs) enterprises.

### HORIZON EUROPE:



[https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en).

Horizon is putting emphasis on Innovation Eco-Systems across Europe. What are Innovation Eco-systems?

Innovation ecosystems bring together people or organisations whose goal is innovation, and include the links between resources (such as funds, equipment, and facilities), organisations (such as higher education institutions, research and technology organisations, companies, venture capitalists and financial intermediaries), investors and policymakers.

**IDB Lab, Trinidad and Tobago:** <https://bidlab.org/en>

View the End of Year 2021 Summary report and "Landscaping the Agri-Tech Ecosystem" video and report.

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## **The Alliances Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean emerged**

This is a special ongoing project which emerged from a European Union funded intra-ACP program and the Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP).

This project targeted the improvement of income and employment opportunities, food security, and overall competitiveness of the Caribbean coconut industry.

The project comprises 12 CARIFORUM countries and has been implemented through a partnership with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and other important regional and national partners.

Check out their website for special events for the Coconut Industry

<http://www.coconuts.cardi.org/>

International Symposium on Cocoa Research will be taking place on 5-6-7 December 2022 in Montpellier, France.

The International Symposium on Cocoa Research is becoming a well-established event in the sector. The symposium has previously attracted over 500 participants, not only from the scientific community, but also from the entire cocoa value chain (producers, traders, processors, manufacturers, policymakers, etc.), making it a must-attend event for anyone concerned with the future of cocoa.

CIRAD and the Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) in Trinidad and Tobago have had a long-standing relationship. CIRAD have had scientists working at CRC and vice versa.

**05-07 December 2022**  
**CORUM Montpellier**  
**France**



**International  
Symposium on  
Cocoa  
Research**

The International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) in partnership with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) is pleased to announce that the second edition of the

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## Management Firm

The Consortium led by Beta Technology Limited and EUROCHAMTT have been contracted by CARIRI to support in the management of components 1 and 2.

Beta Technology Limited (Beta) is a small innovation company based and registered in the UK. Beta was founded in 1984 by an entrepreneur as a spin out from the University of Sheffield. Its mission is to connect people and knowledge to promote innovation. Beta has worked for over 35 years supporting innovative SMEs across Europe on their innovation journey – from making grant applications to commercialisation and market development.

[www.betatechnology.co.uk](http://www.betatechnology.co.uk)



EUROCHAMTT was established in February 2013 as a non-profit company and supports companies in three main areas: (i). advocacy (ii). trade support and (iii). promoting and supporting its members and partners in climate action initiatives. EUROCHAMTT is part of a worldwide network of European Business Organisations (EBO Worldwide Network) and is in

close contact with other European networks facilitating access to expertise, benchmarking and market.

<https://eurochamtt.org/>



**EUROCHAMTT**

Working closely with CARIRI, who are leading the initiative, the ethos of the team is to build capacity for the future and deliver high quality support to businesses, academia and other stakeholders, to unlock the innovation potential in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Management Team is available to support businesses with queries about the facilities and have set up a dedicated email address for this purpose: [innovationchallengefacility@gmail.com](mailto:innovationchallengefacility@gmail.com)