The Supporting Innovation in the Technical and Vocational Education Sector (SITVES): Towards Productivity and Competitiveness project supports Kenyan TVET institutions to nurture youth entrepreneurship, self-employment and gender equality.

- SITVES is a 3-year project (2019-2022) implemented by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) in partnership with Linking Industry with Academia (LIWA) and the Rift Valley Technical Training Institute (RVTTI).
- SITVES is a competitive innovation fund supported by Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC).
- It will foster innovation in Kenya’s TVET ecosystem by positioning TVET to contribute equitably to the socio-economic transformation of counties and Kenya’s development agenda through innovation and research with a focus on women and girls.
- The project has 3 pillars: Innovation and Applied Research Hubs; Gender Equality in TVET; and Action Research.
- SITVES will build the capacity of 4 TVET institutions to develop an effective and sustainable innovation system that links TVET institutions to businesses and their communities aligned with the Big Four Agenda (Manufacturing, Affordable Housing, Universal Health Coverage & Food Security) of the Government of Kenya.
- SITVES will build and enhance the capacity of TVET institutions by providing 3 gender-focused activity, project or research grants in finding the most effective ways of addressing gender barriers to access, increasing women’s utilization of TVET and enhancing gender equality in the TVET system.
- It will also provide 3 action research grants to understand and address local challenges related to the relevance of training to labour markets, improving productivity and efficiency, enhancing entrepreneurship, understanding how these affect men and women differently and generally contributing to contextualized solutions.
- A Canadian institution will provide technical support to 4 TVET institutions through the development of an innovation and applied research hub toolkit and provision of training and guidance.
- An annual workshop for each pillar will be held to showcase and disseminate the results of the three pillars.
- SITVES will improve skills and employability for female and male students studying TVET and will foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment and gender equality.
The Supporting Innovation in the Technical and Vocational Education Sector (SITVES): Towards Productivity and Competitiveness project

The 3 Pillars

1. Innovation and Applied Research Hubs

**Target:** Public TVET institutions

A competitive funding grant to develop the capacity of 4 TVET institutions to implement innovation and applied research projects.

A competitive consultancy service on how to develop innovation and applied research projects at TVET institutions and delivery of training workshops.

**Areas of Focus**

- Support applied research initiatives at public TVET institutions to foster linkages with industry, aligned with the sectors in the Government of Kenya’s Big Four Agenda.

- Integrate gender considerations to explore how activities will impact both men and women.

- Incubate/accelerate student projects by potentially allocating funds to promising student-led initiatives.

- Actively develop links with other TVET centres, business and local community, women-led organizations, academia and industry to support innovation in counties across Kenya.

2. Gender Equality in TVET

**Target:** TVET institutions, policymakers, or NGOs/civil society organisations working in the gender and TVET space

A competitive funding grant for activities, projects or research that examine gender equality and gaps in TVET and propose policy and practical applications to address findings.

**Areas of Focus**

- Identify role models and support the development of gender policies for TVET institutions;

- Develop gender-sensitive and industry-responsive TVET programs, design appropriate career guidance tools that support gender equality;

- Document case studies to analyze success stories and develop gender mainstreaming guidelines; and

- Reduce gender barriers in TVET and support gender transformative change in the Kenyan TVET system.

3. Action Research

**Target:** TVET institution researchers

A competitive funding grant for action-orientated research that is problem-based and linked to local community development with a specific focus on how to measure productivity, innovation and efficiency gains through systemic research.

**Areas of Focus**

- Link to and support the applied research hubs being developed through Pillar 1;

- Strengthen awareness by stakeholders of labour market trends, productivity and efficiency, new business models, workplace innovation, and entrepreneurship with the intent that solution-driven research will link to changes in policies and practices in the TVET ecosystem; and

- Address gender aspects so that practical solutions end up equitably benefitting both women and men.