

KIBABII UNIVERSITY
THE 1st ANNUAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE/WEEK
CALL FOR INNOVATIONS

Background

Kibabii University is committed to transforming ideas into tangible outcomes and market-relevant skills, and positioning innovation as a critical pathway to employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive socio-economic development. The innovation challenge will provide a dynamic platform for students, staff and industry players to actively engage and explore their potential for societal impact. Through public lectures, speeches and pitching of ideas and prototypes, participants will gain insights into new technologies, and intellectual property thus driving forward the university's mission to achieve excellence in generation, transmission and enhancement of new knowledge in Science, Technology and Innovation through quality Teaching, Research, Training, Scholarship, Consultancy and Outreach programmes.

The 1st annual Kibabii University innovation challenge is scheduled to take place from **2nd – 3rd April, 2026** at Kibabii University, AUD C. The theme of this year's innovation challenge is "*From Ideas to Impact: Skills, Innovation, and the Future of Work*" aligning with the national call to solve the growing youth unemployment.

Key Activities

1. Innovation pitching competition

The objective of this challenge is to foster creativity and innovation among staff and students while transforming ideas into tangible outcomes, strengthening market-relevant skills, and positioning innovation as a critical pathway to employment, entrepreneurship, and inclusive socio-economic development. The innovation challenge is open for staff and students to work individually or in teams preferably from different departments and schools. Submissions must demonstrate how they contribute to solving societal problem (s). Entries should include a detailed description of the innovation, its potential impact, and an implementation plan. Participants are encouraged to consider scalability, feasibility, and sustainability of their solutions. Submissions must be original work and adhere to ethical standards.

Challenge sub themes

- **Digital innovation:** innovations under this category will explore creative use of digital tools, platforms, and emerging technologies to solve societal problem (s)
- **Education and vocational training:** This category will seek to leverage technology to transform teaching and learning, making education more accessible and affordable across diverse settings
- **Food sustainability and agricultural innovations:** These are innovations that focus on new methods, tools, and agricultural practices to boost productivity, sustainability, and climate resilient agricultural practices, food systems, and rural livelihoods



- **Social innovations:** Designing solutions that address social problem such as inclusion, equity, health, and community well-being
- **Enterprise development:** innovations under this category aim at fostering entrepreneurship, business growth, and sustainable enterprises by introducing innovative models, products, and services that drive economic progress.
- **Health:** innovations that address healthcare challenges in society ranging from prevention, detection, surveillance, diagnosis, response, monitoring of health conditions to health promotion.
- **Waste management for sustainable development:** Innovations that focus on reducing waste generation, recovering value from waste, protecting the environment, creating jobs, and promoting circular economy principles.

Staff and students will have an opportunity to participate in the final pitching of innovations on 3rd April, 2026. The panel of judges will be drawn from internal and external experts. Participants will show case their innovative ideas towards solving societal problems.

To register for the innovation competition please click the link:
<https://forms.gle/kVZgMVGBT3KoWV8m6>

2. Public lecture

The public lecture is designed to enrich participants' understanding of Intellectual Property Management and the critical process of transforming research into commercialization. By engaging with expert insights and practical case studies, participants will gain valuable knowledge on how to protect innovations, navigate legal frameworks, and strategically position their research for the market. This session will not only broaden their awareness of intellectual property management but also equip them with the tools to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world application, fostering innovation-driven growth.

3. Keynote speech

The keynote address will focus on the transformative role of innovation in tackling pressing societal problems. It will explore how creative solutions and emerging technologies can be harnessed to address issues such as; unemployment, food security, inequality, healthcare, climate change among others. By highlighting real-world examples and visionary ideas, the keynote address aims to inspire dialogue on how innovation can serve as a powerful catalyst for building more resilient and inclusive communities.

4. Judging of innovation

All innovations showcased will be judged by distinguished panel of judges based on their potential impact and creativity. The top three (3) innovations will be awarded under three (3) categories: undergraduate students, postgraduate students and staff. The judging of exhibitions will take place on 3rd April 2026 from 8:00am

5. Award ceremony

There will be an award ceremony on 3rd April, 2026 at 2:00 PM to recognize and celebrate outstanding innovations with prizes and certificates.



For any queries and clarifications, please email dvcppri@kibu.ac.ke or visit the Directorate of Research and Innovation

Important Dates

Activity	Timeline
Deadline for Registration:	6 th March, 2026
Idea acceptance notification	13 th March, 2026
BootCamp/ Lectures and Keynote Speeches	2 nd April, 2026
Idea Competition/ prototype and product Judging:	3 rd April, 2026

SIGNATURE



Prof. Julius Maiyo

Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning Partnership Research and Innovation



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