



Gender & Inclusivity

A PROJECT OF THE SCIENCE GRANTING COUNCILS INITIATIVE

FONDS POUR LA SCIENCE, LA TECHNOLOGIE ET L'INNOVATION, CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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The Gender & Inclusivity Project, a component of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), is led by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) of South Africa in partnership with Gender at Work (G@W), Jive Media Africa and the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA). G@W's unique methodology, Gender Action Learning (GAL), together with the Targeted Technical Assistance (TTA) process designed by the HSRC, supports a unique participatory process that responds to councils' needs, builds partnerships and encourages ownership of the change process.

Promoting excellence: Women as catalysts for sustainable development

Working with limited resources, the Fonds pour la Science, la Technologie et l'Innovation (FONSTI) has facilitated a series of targeted actions aimed at raising the number of women – and girls – in science.



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Despite past efforts, the number of women researchers securing grants, the number of female academics in universities and the number of women in decision making bodies continues to remain low relative to men.

Challenges

One of the major challenges is to mobilise financial resources for the purposes of training women researchers and supporting them in the effective implementation of research.

As the main funding agency for research in Côte d'Ivoire, FONSTI's objective is to promote the equitable sharing of national resources while promoting interaction between the different categories. No development can be achieved without the involvement of all.

Targeted actions

To achieve this, FONSTI and the Programme d'Appui Stratégique à la Recherche Scientifique (PASRES) organised a series of targeted actions which took shape during the organisation of the Africa GRC and the SGCI Annual Forum in 2018 in Côte d'Ivoire. These include:

- The development of a gender policy which is being finalised.

- Within the framework of the STEM promotion, the council organised four editions (2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022) of a ceremony recognising the best female STEM students in public universities and awarding them scholarships to continue their studies.
- The launch of a special call for projects aimed at encouraging female researchers as principal investigators in 2022.
- The holding of training sessions for women researchers in universities and Grandes écoles on scientific themes in order to make them competitive at national and international levels.

Looking ahead

Future plans include:

- The promotion of female excellence in high schools, colleges and even primary schools with an emphasis on encouraging girls to continue their studies and assume positions of responsibility.
- Development of networks, including women in rural areas, aimed at supporting the development and promotion of innovation.
- A mentoring system to support young researchers.

