



AIET Research Strategy Lab 2024 – 2029



July 2024

Introduction

The AI and Emerging Technologies Lab conducts extensive research in various areas including digital and data driven agriculture and food systems, digital teaching and learning, sustainable telecommunications system, digital health informatics.

Over the last two decades, the Tanzania Government has aimed to build a strong sustainable economy and better society through science, research and innovation ecosystem. The implementation of AIET Lab Research Strategy is a key step to achieving the research ambitions of the Lab and focuses on core strategic goal: ***delivering research and innovations for today and the future social-economic development using AI and emerging technologies.***

The AIET Lab Research Strategy also commits to providing opportunities for everyone by fostering the talent and skills to prepare Tanzania and Africa to take advantage of AI and emerging technologies for the social-economic development of the society. AIET Lab Research Strategy is also committed to shape the need and drive equality within the research, innovation and development sector, to advance social cohesion and inclusion, and crucially, contributing to the major societal challenges in the global south and north .

Strategic Goals

- To excel as an internationally recognized AI and emerging technologies research Lab
- To be a forerunner in social –economic scientific research on AI and new/emerging technologies
- To strengthen a collegial multi-disciplinary research community in AI and emerging technologies
- To maintain external sustainable funding in AI and emerging technologies research

Development themes

- To participate actively in international research funding opportunities
- To build dynamic research networks across the globe
- To manage the existing data infrastructure and expand new ones

- To integrate new generations of inclusive researchers into the AI and emerging technologies research community

AIET Lab Strategic Actions and Statements

- Build local, national and international partnerships and collaborations to drive social - economic impact and to address societal challenges using AI and emerging technologies, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals and African's Union 2063 Agenda/missions, with climate action, digital agriculture and energy efficient telecoms and future sustainable networks being an example of a key priority.
- Promote AIET's data analytics capabilities across the country to ensure that we respond to macro trends in the most efficient, effective and data-informed way for decision making. This will facilitate the modelling and prioritisation of how the Lab can contribute to resolving Tanzania's and Africa's future skills, knowledge and societal needs.
- Using data and analytics and working with computer scientist's experts and researchers at the national and international level, the Lab will promote research within National Research Priorities Areas and beyond.
- Improve evidence-based policy to better inform national policy making on AI and emerging technologies in Tanzania and Africa. The AIET Lab will work with other Government agencies and Departments to participate in a national policy and briefing opportunities for stakeholders to discuss national policies and challenges.
- Collaborate with policy makers, funders, researchers, enterprise and civic society at a national, regional and international level to build knowledge transfer capacity in the AI and emerging technologies research and innovation system across the country.
- Build a connected stakeholder network across the AI and emerging technologies research and innovation ecosystem at a national, regional and international level to drive the proactive and collaborative promotion of science, research and innovations.
- Expand research and innovations involving multiple disciplines (education, agriculture, environment, telecom, social sciences, food systems, climate change, energy efficiency, carbon farming etc) which is fertile ground for scientific breakthroughs, addressing complex economic and societal challenges in the National priority areas.