



IPMO QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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Message from the Vice Chancellor

Prof. Thomas Cheruiyot



The University of Eldoret continues to strengthen its position as a hub for innovation, research, and societal transformation. A key highlight in this quarter was the successful hosting of the 7th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture from 4th to 6th February 2026, which strengthened our commitment and resolve to fostering a culture of creativity, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship among our students and staff.

It is particularly encouraging to witness the growing impact of our innovation ecosystem, reflected in the quality of innovations showcased during the 7th Innovation Week and the achievements of our students in various national and international innovation hackathons. The launch of the University of Eldoret Innovation Club during the 7th Innovation Week further demonstrates our dedication to institutionalizing innovation and providing structured platforms for nurturing innovations at the University.

As a University, we remain focused on supporting initiatives that translate knowledge into practical solutions that address societal challenges, contribute to economic development, and advance sustainability. I commend all those who have contributed to the various milestones highlighted in this Bulletin and encourage continued participation in driving the innovation agenda at our University.



Message from the DVC (Planning, Research & Extension)

Prof. Phillip Raburu

The period from January to March 2026 has been marked by significant progress, milestones, and achievements in the innovation space of the University of Eldoret. Through the KeNIA Institutional Commercialization Support Programme, the University's Institutional Working Group members participated in the Institutional Working Group Masterplan Development Workshop to review progress in developing the institutional Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Masterplan. Other capacity-building engagements and partnerships have steadily enhanced our institutional frameworks for research translation and impact.

Our focus and agenda remain on bridging the gap between research and the commercialization of research outputs. This includes strengthening intellectual property management, fostering industry linkages, and developing sustainable pathways for commercialization. With our Entrepreneurial and Commercialization Masterplan nearing completion, we are set to have a blueprint for our Research-to-Commercialization (R2C) agenda for the next five years. I encourage our researchers and students to actively engage in these opportunities, ensuring that their work contributes meaningfully to national and global development priorities and challenges.



Message from the Director, Research & Innovation

Prof. Lizzy Mwamburi

This quarter has demonstrated remarkable growth in the University's innovation landscape, driven by increased participation, strategic partnerships, and enhanced capacity-building initiatives. The diversity and quality of innovations presented during the 7th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture highlight the interdisciplinary strength of our institution. Equally notable is the performance of our students in various hackathons and innovation challenges, which reflects the effectiveness of our efforts in nurturing practical skills, creativity, and collaboration.

These achievements are a testament to the importance of experiential learning and industry engagement in shaping future innovators. Moving forward, the Directorate remains committed to strengthening support systems for innovation development, including mentorship, incubation, and access to resources to support innovations and innovators.



Message from the HOD, IPMO

Dr. Becky Aloo

The achievements highlighted in this issue reflect growing awareness of intellectual property and innovation within the University community. From the successful organization of the 7th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture to targeted capacity-building initiatives, it is evident that the culture of innovation is steadily taking root. The IPMO remains committed to supporting innovators in capacity building, protecting their inventions, navigating intellectual property processes, and exploring commercialization opportunities.

A key highlight of the 7th Innovation Week was the development of the digital Innovation Week platform that provided a one-stop shop for participant registration, innovation submissions, exhibition management, judging and evaluation processes, event schedules, and real-time updates, and transformed the experience for everyone. Beyond the Innovation Week, our students have continued to participate and excel in various innovation hackathons, demonstrating creativity, technical competence, and the ability to develop impactful solutions to real-world challenges.

There have been multiple engagements of students and staff members in training programmes, workshops, and collaborative platforms aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to transform ideas into tangible outcomes. I encourage all members of the University community to continue engaging with IPMO services and to take proactive steps in protecting and advancing their innovations.

Innovation is seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.” —
Albert Szent-Györgyi

7TH INNOVATION WEEK 2026: IDEAS, IMPACT, AND INSPIRATION

From bold ideas to real-world impact—this section captures the highlights of the 7th Innovation Week, where innovation, collaboration, and creativity came alive across the University of Eldoret.



University of Eldoret hosts the 7th Innovation Week and Public Lecture

The 7th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture at the University of Eldoret was held from 4th to 6th February 2026 under the theme “Sustainable Innovations for Climate Change Resilience.” The event brought together students, researchers, industry stakeholders, and partners to showcase innovative solutions addressing challenges in agriculture, health, environment, digital technologies, and the creative economy.



Officially opened by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Thomas Cheruiyot, the event featured a Public Lecture delivered by Dr. Carol Hunja, Secretary for Higher Education, representing the Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research. There were several activities that took place as part of the 7th Innovation Week, as highlighted next.

a) Transformative Capacity Building for Innovation Workshop

The Capacity Building Workshop for Students and Researchers on Innovation for Sustainability, held from 2–4 February 2026 as a pre-event to the 7th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture, successfully convened an engaged cohort of emerging scholars and practitioners. Facilitated by the Kenya Science Leadership Program (Ke-SLP) experts, the interactive workshop adopted experiential learning methods such as creative problem-solving, leadership development, and peer-to-peer engagement. Participants, comprising students and researchers from diverse academic disciplines and research institutions across the region, gained hands-on experience in ideation, problem reframing, teamwork, and sustainable innovation practices through a carefully structured series of collaborative exercises and facilitated discussions.



Post-workshop evaluations reflected high satisfaction, with participants reporting enhanced capacity to apply knowledge in research, teaching, mentorship, and startup development, alongside strengthened professional networks and a renewed commitment to advancing sustainability-focused innovation within their respective fields.

b) Exhibition and Evaluation of Innovations

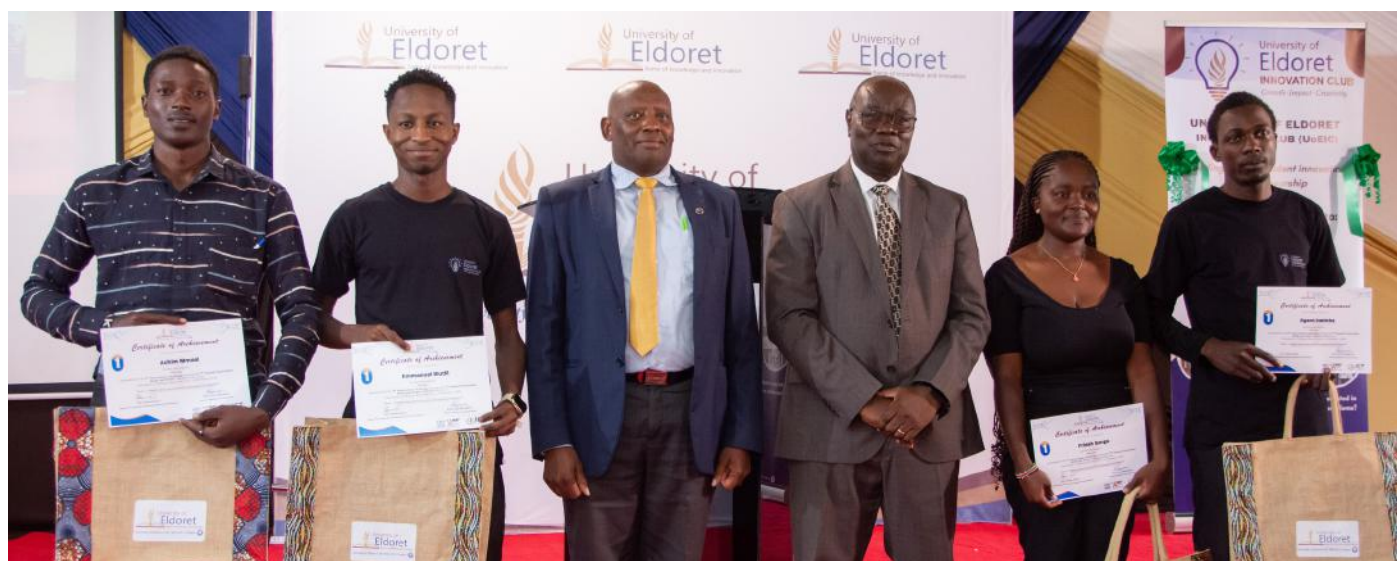
Throughout the Innovation Week, over 40 innovations from the University of Eldoret and partner institutions—including Kabarak University, Kisii University, University of Eastern Africa-Baraton, Eldoret National Polytechnic, Rift Valley Technical Training Institute, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, and the North Rift Herbalists—were exhibited, attracting more than 500 participants. The innovations were toured by the Vice Chancellor and the Chief Guest, Dr. Carol Hunja, Secretary for Higher Education, representing the Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, on 5th February 2026.



The Innovations were evaluated on 5th February 2026, and the best innovations were awarded in various categories during the Official Closing Ceremony on 6th February 2026.

c) Highlights from the Third innovation challenge for students

The 3rd University of Eldoret Student Innovation Challenge was successfully held on 4th February 2026 as part of the 7th Annual Innovation Week under the theme “*Sustainable Innovations for Climate Change Resilience*.” The competition provided a platform for student innovators to showcase creative solutions addressing real-world challenges in areas such as agriculture, environment, digital technologies, and sustainable development. A total of ten student teams pitched their innovations before a panel of judges drawn from academia, industry, and the innovation ecosystem. The challenge aimed to nurture a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among students while strengthening the University’s innovation pipeline by identifying promising ideas with potential for further development and commercialization. Outstanding teams were recognized and awarded during the closing ceremony of the Innovation Week, demonstrating the University of Eldoret’s continued commitment to supporting student-led innovation and building a vibrant institutional innovation ecosystem.



Position	Title of Innovation	Average Score	Team Members Names
1	Bikexify	38.8	Byson Kwimba, Fridah Sungu, Achim Mmasi, Emmanuel Mutili
2	Digifarms	35.4	Loyara Ekai, Diana Njeri
3	FarmTrade	31	Aloyce Otieno, Abishai Mwanja

d) Panel Discussion, Keynote Speeches, and Public Lecture

A key highlight of the Innovation Week was a Panel Discussion on *“Sustainable Innovations for Climate Change Resilience,”* which took place on 5th February 2026. The Innovation Week was also marked with several keynote speeches. and a Public Lecture from the Chief Guest, Dr. Carol Hunja, Secretary for Higher Education, representing the Principal Secretary, State Department for Higher Education and Research, on 5th February 2026. On 4 February, there were two keynote speeches, 1. Lessons from my Innovation Journey by Sam Okemwa, the Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder (Zalika Greentech Ltd), and 2. the Role of the Kenya National Innovation Agency in Supporting Youth Innovations by Mr. Phillip Gondi, Senior Innovation Officer – StartUp Economy Development and Management – KENIA On 6 February 2026.



The Innovation Week culminated with a Keynote Speech on *‘Innovative Digital Tools and Services for Building Capacity in Emerging Technologies’*. by Mr. Charles Sakari (Partnership and Fundraising Lead at Eldohub Innovation Centre), who highlighted the importance of leveraging innovative digital tools and services to build capacity in emerging technologies, emphasizing their role in enhancing skills development, fostering innovation, and enabling young innovators to develop scalable and sustainable solutions. He further reiterated Eldohub’s commitment to supporting youth innovations through different initiatives like hackathons, training, and mentorship programs.

e) Launch of the University of Eldoret Innovation Club

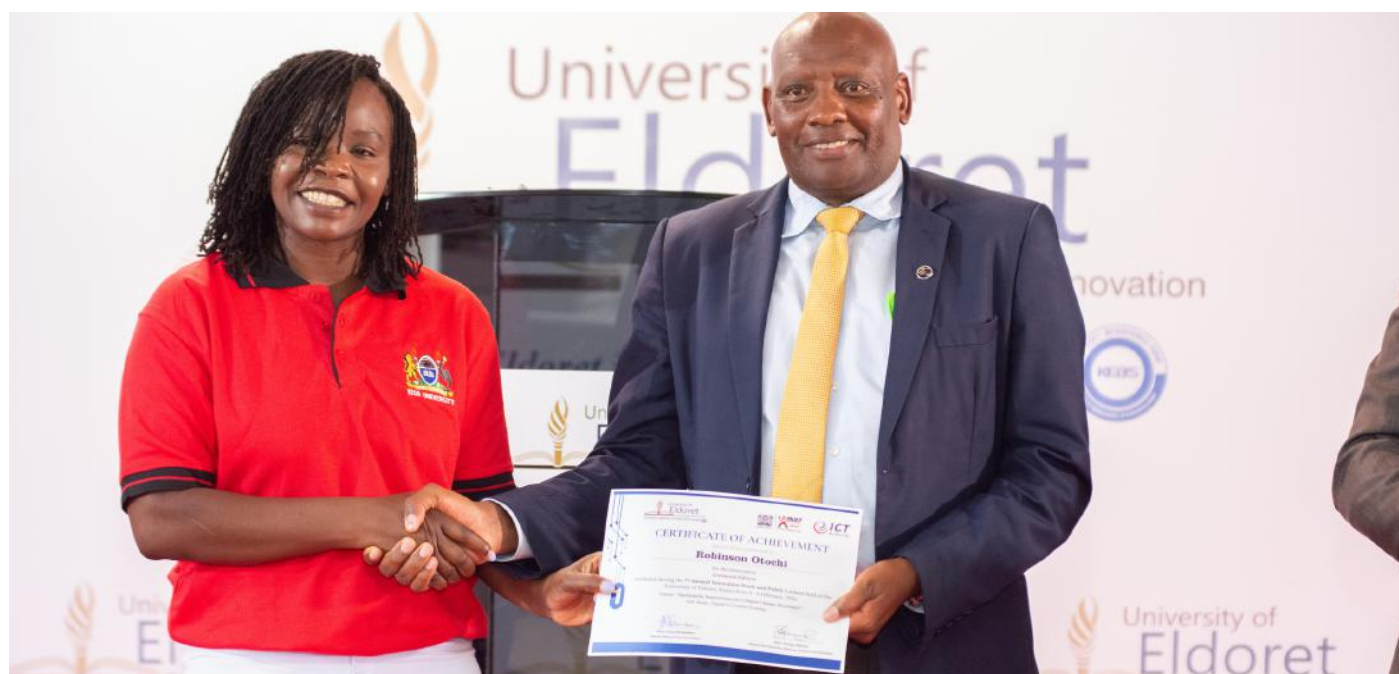
The University of Eldoret Innovation Club was officially launched on 6 February 2026 during the closing ceremony of the 7th Annual Innovation Week, marking an important milestone in strengthening the University's innovation ecosystem. The launch was officiated by the Ag VC, Nicholas Makau, who highlighted the Club's role as a platform for nurturing student-led innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship through mentorship, collaboration, and capacity building. Also present was the DVC Philip Raburu, alongside students, staff, and partners. The Club now has 59 students, 24 staff, and 3 alumni as fully registered members.



It is envisioned that the Club will provide a structured avenue for students to engage in innovation activities while enabling staff and alumni to participate as associate members in supporting the development of impactful solutions.

f) Awards

During the Closing Ceremony on 6th February 2026, the best innovations and innovators were formally recognized and awarded across several strategically selected categories: Agriculture, Food Security, & Nutrition; Digital & Creative Economy; Environment & Natural Resource Management; and Health. These categories reflected the breadth of innovative thinking showcased throughout the week and aligned with national development priorities and global sustainable development goals.



The awards were presented by the Ag. Vice Chancellor Prof. Nicholas Makau and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning, Research & Extension), Prof. Phillip Raburu, whose presence underscored the University leadership's dedication to fostering excellence in research and innovation. The ceremony celebrated not only individual and team achievements but also the collaborative spirit that defined the entire Innovation Week, inspiring recipients and attendees alike to continue pursuing transformative solutions to pressing societal challenges.

g) The Brains behind the Digital Platform that redefined the 7th Annual Innovation Week Experience for everyone

The 7th Annual Innovation Week at the University of Eldoret marked a significant milestone with the introduction of a fully integrated digital innovation platform that transformed the overall event experience. The platform was developed by Emmanuel Shikuku, a former student of the University, whose innovation and technical expertise brought a new level of efficiency and organization to the event. It provided a one-stop shop for participant registration, innovation submissions, exhibition management, judging and evaluation processes, event schedules, and real-time updates. This digital shift enhanced coordination and user engagement, enabling students, staff, judges, and external participants to interact seamlessly with the event.



This home-grown digital solution not only streamlined the management of Innovation Week but also showcased the impact of its alumni in driving innovation and institutional transformation. The platform has since set a new benchmark for future events in the University, demonstrating the role of technology in strengthening innovation ecosystems and enhancing the visibility of university-led initiatives.

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH COMMERCIALIZATION AT UOE

From strategy to execution—this section highlights how UoE is strengthening research commercialization through partnerships, planning, and systems that turn ideas into impact.



a) Institutional Working Group Masterplan Development Workshop

As part of KeNIA's Institutional Commercialization Support Program Cohort 3, the University of Eldoret's IWG participated in a Masterplan Development Workshop from 14–15 January 2026 in Naivasha. The workshop convened IWGs from all participating universities to review progress on developing institutional Commercialization and Entrepreneurial Masterplans. Institutions shared experiences with the EIMF self-assessment process and presented situational analyses highlighting strategic issues affecting innovation and commercialization.



Key discussions addressed challenges including role duplication, limited researcher incentives, weak industry linkages, inadequate documentation of commercialization outputs, and insufficient proof-of-concept funding. Participants emphasized strengthening entrepreneurship education, improving IP awareness and policy implementation, enhancing industry collaboration, and establishing institutional innovation funds. Facilitators guided development of actionable plans encompassing strategic objectives, timelines, responsible offices, resources, and performance indicators.

b) UOE participates in a Science for Impact Partnerships Workshop



Through the Institutional Commercialization Support Program by KENIA, the University of Eldoret participated in the Science for Impact Partnerships Workshop by the British Council through the International Science Partnerships Fund (ISPF), on 26th March 2026. The workshop brought together researchers, university representatives, and innovation stakeholders to strengthen research collaboration, enhance science communication, and promote translation of research into practical impact.



The workshop highlighted the complementary role of the National Entrepreneurial Institutions Framework (NEIF) in strengthening universities' capacity for innovation, commercialization, and entrepreneurship. Key sessions focused on research-to-impact pathways, Intellectual Property (IP) management, science communication and research translation, and collaborative partnerships for increased access to global research infrastructure, and scaling of innovations. The workshop also provided valuable networking opportunities with researchers and institutions and various stakeholders, opening avenues for potential collaborations.

BUILDING INNOVATION SKILLS THROUGH TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

From learning to doing—this section highlights hands-on trainings and workshops equipping students and staff with the skills to turn ideas into scalable, real-world solutions.



a) ICT Authority Training on Innovation and Entrepreneurship



The Whitebox County Innovation Training was successfully held at the University of Eldoret on 12 February 2026, immediately following the 7th Annual Innovation Week, and fully sponsored by the ICT Authority. The one-day training aimed to equip students with practical skills in entrepreneurship, startup development, business modeling, product prototyping, and pitching, while enhancing their capacity to transform ideas into viable market solutions.



Delivered through interactive presentations, group work, and mini-pitching sessions, the program fostered collaboration, creativity, and confidence among student innovators. The training strengthened students' understanding of market-driven innovation, provided hands-on experience in commercialization processes, and reinforced the University's commitment to nurturing a pipeline of youth innovators. This initiative also highlighted the value of strategic partnerships in building the University's innovation ecosystem and preparing students to contribute effectively to national and global innovation agendas.

b) IP, Commercialisation, and Knowledge Exchange at Makerere University



Twelve staff members from the University of Eldoret participated in the Research Management Capacity Strengthening Grant Project Workshop held at Makerere University, Uganda, from 9-12 March 2026. The workshop brought together partner institutions, including Royal Holloway University of London, University of Reading, Makerere University, University of Eldoret, and Kibabii University. A key component focused on intellectual property management, innovation, and commercialization of research outputs.



Participating institutions shared experiences on IP policies, technology transfer structures, and challenges in translating research into commercial products. Sessions highlighted protecting research outputs through appropriate IP mechanisms and strengthening institutional support systems for commercialization. Participants also explored strategies for engaging industry to support research translation. As part of the activities, participants visited the Makerere University Innovation Hub, which provides incubation support including makerspaces with 3D printers and business development assistance to help innovators translate research into market-ready products. Participation provided insights into practical models for supporting innovation ecosystems within universities.

c) Entrepreneurship Leadership Training Program – Educator Edition

The Entrepreneurship Leadership Training Program (ELTP) – Educator Edition was held in Naivasha from 25–27 March 2026. The training was attended by Josam Musambayi and Dr. Mary Mwaniki, who are actively involved in entrepreneurship education at the University. The program, organized by the Kenya National Innovation Agency (KeNIA) in collaboration with Innovation Academy and NEIL, is designed to equip faculty with frameworks to drive enterprise development and bridge the gap between academia, industry, and government.



The training focused on strengthening institutional capacity in entrepreneurship education, innovation ecosystems, and strategies for translating ideas into viable enterprises. This participation forms part of the University's ongoing efforts to strengthen entrepreneurship training and build capacity for innovation and enterprise development. The training enhanced understanding of embedding entrepreneurship within academic programs, fostering university-industry linkages, and supporting innovators. The knowledge gained will inform ongoing initiatives, improve coordination of entrepreneurship programs, and contribute to advancing research commercialization and enterprise development.

d) Google Developer Group holds a Build with AI: Buildathon and Career Masterclass



The Google Developer Group (GDG) on Campus "Build with AI: Edition 3" Buildathon and Career Masterclass took place on 28th March 2026 at the University of Eldoret, bringing together approximately 60 students to enhance their technical capacity in AI while promoting innovation and industry engagement. Key activities included a hands-on masterclass led by Rodgers Ndocha, a Google Developer Expert, who guided participants in rapid prototyping using Google Antigravity no-code tools, alongside



an interactive career workshop facilitated by Victoria Mutai focusing on elevator pitches, LinkedIn optimization, and job readiness. Participants received Google cloud credits and event support funding, enabling project deployment and resource provision. The event significantly built student skills in AI application, rapid prototyping, and problem-solving while strengthening University-industry linkages. It provided a platform for developing innovative solutions across agriculture, education, and business with potential for further development and commercialization. The initiative aligns with the IPMO's mandate to support innovation capacity building and contributes to fostering a vibrant innovation ecosystem, advancing the University's vision of becoming an entrepreneurial institution.

e) IYBA-SEED Inclusive Entrepreneurship Curriculum Co-Creation Workshop



A two-day IYBA-SEED Inclusive Entrepreneurship Curriculum Co-Creation Workshop was held in Eldoret on 26-27 March 2026. The workshop brought together five selected organizations from Uasin Gishu County—Sustainable ICON, Tumaini Innovation Center, Active Hub, MSEA, and the University of Eldoret—to collaboratively design a locally grounded, inclusive entrepreneurship curriculum and a Training of Trainers (ToT) toolkit. Participants from University of Eldoret included Dr. Emoit Muse and Dr. Mercy Murray.



The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of local organizations in promoting entrepreneurship education that is accessible, practical, and relevant to diverse communities. During the workshop, participants engaged in interactive sessions, group discussions, and co-design activities to map out curriculum modules and ToT approaches. Key outcomes included a draft framework for the inclusive entrepreneurship curriculum, preliminary ToT materials, and a set of actionable recommendations for implementation and scaling. The collaborative process fostered knowledge exchange among participants and reinforced the importance of inclusive, community-driven approaches to entrepreneurship education in Uasin Gishu County.

UOE STUDENTS SHINE IN NATIONAL AND GLOBAL HACKATHONS

From local stages to global arenas—this section celebrates UoE students showcasing bold ideas, technical excellence, and winning solutions in competitive hackathons.



a) Students Excel at KTB-Konza Technopolis Hackathon

Students from the University of Eldoret participated in the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) and Konza Technopolis Hackathon 2026, held in Nandi County on 15–16 January 2026. The hackathon convened students from various institutions to collaborate in multidisciplinary teams and develop innovative digital solutions for Kenya's tourism sector. University of Eldoret students contributed to three award-winning projects: Nandi Verse (1st Place, KES 50,000), Nandi Trailers (2nd Place), and Nandi Adventures (3rd Place). Participants engaged with Rebecca Miano, who shared industry insights and presented awards. The students, from the School of Science's Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, demonstrated strong innovation and collaboration skills while contributing to impactful tourism solutions. Participant details appear in Table 3 (see Page 14).



The hackathon focused on innovating tourism through adventure, cultural heritage, and sports, aligning with Kenya's broader tourism development goals. Our students demonstrated exceptional creativity, technical skill, and teamwork throughout the intensive two-day event. This achievement reflects the growing capacity of our students to contribute meaningfully to national development through innovation and collaboration.

b) The Second Hult Prize On-Campus Programme at University of Eldoret



The Second Hult Prize On-Campus Programme at the University of Eldoret was successfully held on 25 February 2026, organized by the Department of Intellectual Property Management (IPMO) with support from the University of Eldoret Innovation Club. The programme provided a platform for students to pitch innovative, scalable business ideas aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while strengthening their entrepreneurial and business development skills. Twelve student teams participated, presenting innovations across



agriculture, climate-smart technologies, digital solutions, housing, and artificial intelligence. Keynote presentations from Erick Otieno of the TagDev 2.0 Programme and Albert Kipchirchir of Eldohub highlighted incubation and commercialization support opportunities. The top-performing teams—Sci-Yetu, LearnAble, and Sunflare—were selected to advance to the next Hult Prize competition stage. The programme strengthened the University's innovation ecosystem by enhancing student capacity in entrepreneurship, business modeling, and pitching, while increasing visibility for student-led startups with commercialization potential.

c) Students Excel at Eldohub's AI and Tech Hackathon

Several students from the University of Eldoret participated in the AI & Tech Hackathon Kenya, organized by EldoHub, where they showcased innovative projects in artificial intelligence and technology. Following the competition, four students from the School of Science—James Ngandu, Evans Lang'at, Hidaya Vanessa, and David Shivulu—were selected to advance to the next stage, which involves presenting their projects to representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. This opportunity allowed the students to access mentorship, partnerships, and potential pathways for further development and commercialization of their ideas. The achievement highlights the creativity and talent of University of Eldoret students and underscores the institution's ongoing commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and real-world problem-solving among its student body.



d) Build Bout Valentine Hackathon at University of Eldoret

The IEEE University of Eldoret Chapter Fintech Innovation Event was successfully held on 14th February 2026, featuring the Build Bout Valentine Hackathon in partnership with PayHero Kenya and Vercel. The event brought together over 50 student developers from the University of Eldoret and Moi University to design, build, and deploy fintech applications integrating real-world tools such as the PayHero API. Participants gained hands-on experience in payments, AI, SaaS, Web3, GIS, and IoT solutions, culminating in demos, pitching, and cash prizes.



The event also incorporated an intellectual property awareness session led by the Anti-Counterfeit Authority. The hackathon strengthened students' practical skills, industry collaboration, and innovation confidence, while leveraging alumni expertise and promoting responsible IP management. The initiative highlights the University's commitment to experiential learning, applied digital innovation, and the development of a robust, industry-linked student innovation ecosystem.

e) Students Excel at Red White & Build US–Kenya Hackathon Finals

Students from the University of Eldoret participated in the Red White & Build US–Kenya Hackathon national finals held at the U.S. Embassy on 18th February 2026. Represented by two teams in the Health Innovation category, Team EldoCare—comprising James Ngandu and Hidaya Vanessa—secured First Runners-Up nationally and a cash prize of \$700, while Team VisionCare—comprising Evans Lang’at and David Shivulu—finished among the Top 10 teams. The competition challenged students to develop technology-driven solutions for real-world health challenges, providing a platform for national recognition, applied problem-solving, and international collaboration. This achievement underscores the University’s growing excellence in STEM innovation, digital solutions, and competitiveness, while highlighting the value of partnerships in fostering youth innovation.



f) Students Excel at InterUni HackFest 1.0

University of Eldoret students achieved outstanding results at InterUni HackFest 1.0, held on 21st February 2026 at Kabarak University, Nakuru. A delegation of 12 students, studying Computer Science, Information Technology, and Mechanical Engineering, represented the University at the hackathon and demonstrated exceptional skills, creativity, and teamwork. Their efforts earned first place for an all-University of Eldoret team and third place for a collaborative team with Moi University students, highlighting both leadership and cross-institutional collaboration. The event showcased the University's growing strength in technology-driven innovation and reinforced the value of hands-on, competitive learning experiences in preparing students for real-world problem-solving.



KEEPING THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM ALIVE

From ideas to community—this section showcases the activities, platforms, and initiatives keeping UoE's innovation ecosystem vibrant, connected, and continuously growing.



a) 2026 World Engineering Day Celebrations

The University of Eldoret successfully celebrated World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development on 4th March 2026, organized by the School of Engineering in collaboration with the Engineering Students' Association (ESA) and the Institution of Engineers of Kenya (IEK) North Rift Branch under the theme "Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future through Innovation and Digitalization." The event brought together university management, faculty, engineering professionals, and students to recognize engineering contributions to sustainable development, promote innovation, and strengthen industry-academia collaboration. Highlights included keynote addresses by the Ag. DVC, Prof. Samuel Luta, presentations by senior engineers, and an Engineering Innovation Exhibition showcasing student projects such as the Sunflare Project, ESA website development, and other sustainable engineering solutions.



The celebration also featured the official launch of the IEK-ESA North Rift Branch Office, enhancing mentorship and professional engagement for students, and a tree planting activity to reinforce environmental sustainability.

b) AIM Hub; Transforming Youth Innovation and Agri-Food Entrepreneurship at UoE



At the University of Eldoret, a transformative movement is reshaping how young people engage with agriculture, innovation, and entrepreneurship. At its center is the Agri-Food Incubation and Mentorship Hub (AIM Hub), a flagship initiative under the TAGDev 2.0 Programme that nurtures ideas, mentors innovators, and turns agricultural challenges into opportunities.

<https://aimhub.uoeld.ac.ke>



For many youth, agriculture has been viewed as a last resort rather than a career of choice. AIM Hub is changing this narrative by demonstrating that agriculture, combined with technology and entrepreneurship, can become a space for innovation and job creation. Designed as a virtual-first ecosystem, the Hub equips young people—especially youth and women—with skills, mentorship, and resources to develop and scale agri-food enterprises. Through training, incubation, and partnerships with academia, industry, and government, AIM Hub supports the journey from idea generation to investment readiness while promoting climate-smart solutions. By 2029, the Hub aims to impact thousands of young people and farmers, supporting startups and job creation while reshaping agriculture into a dynamic, innovation-driven sector.

c) University of Eldoret Innovation Club makes Strides



Following the successful launch of the University of Eldoret Innovation Club on 6th February 2026 during the 7th Annual Innovation Week and Public Lecture, the Club has continued to gain momentum, with membership growing to 60 students, 24 staff, and 3 alumni. During the meeting, members were formally introduced, and the Club's vision, mission, and objectives were outlined by the leadership.

Click to register: <https://tally.so/r/ODaWd7>



Reports were presented on the formation, membership status, and financial position of the Club, alongside a proposed programme of activities and key dates for the year. The session also provided a platform for engagement through a plenary discussion, where members shared ideas, suggestions, and expectations for the Club. The meeting further highlighted the importance of active participation, leadership development, and innovation-driven collaboration in advancing the Club's mandate. Overall, the Innovation Club continues to position itself as a dynamic platform for nurturing creativity, strengthening innovation capacity, and fostering collaboration among students, staff, and alumni at the UoE. Membership remains open, and the first 100 members will be recognized as the founding members of the Club.

U P C O M I N G

Looking ahead—this section highlights upcoming events, trainings, and opportunities designed to inspire innovation, build capacity, and connect UoE innovators to impactful platforms.



WIPO Free Online Courses

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Academy is offering the DL-101 General Course on Intellectual Property, a free online program designed to provide a solid foundation in IP law and practice. The course covers key topics such as copyright, trademarks, patents, industrial designs, geographical indications, plant varieties, and the role of IP in development.



Venue: Online

Duration: 55 hours (self-paced)

Cost: Free of charge

Certificate: Awarded upon successful completion.

Current Session (DL101E26S2):

Registration: 1 Mar – 25 Apr 2026

Course: 18 Apr – 2 Jun 2026

Exam: 1–2 Jun 2026

Next Session (DL101E26S3):

Registration: 2 May – 4 Jul 2026

Course: 5 Jul – 18 Aug 2026

Exam: 17–18 Aug 2026

This course is open to all students and staff interested in understanding how to protect and manage intellectual property. Note: These are repeated courses offered at different times. The IPMO strongly encourages students and staff to take advantage of this opportunity. Register directly through the WIPO Academy portal, or contact hodipm@uoeld.ac.ke.

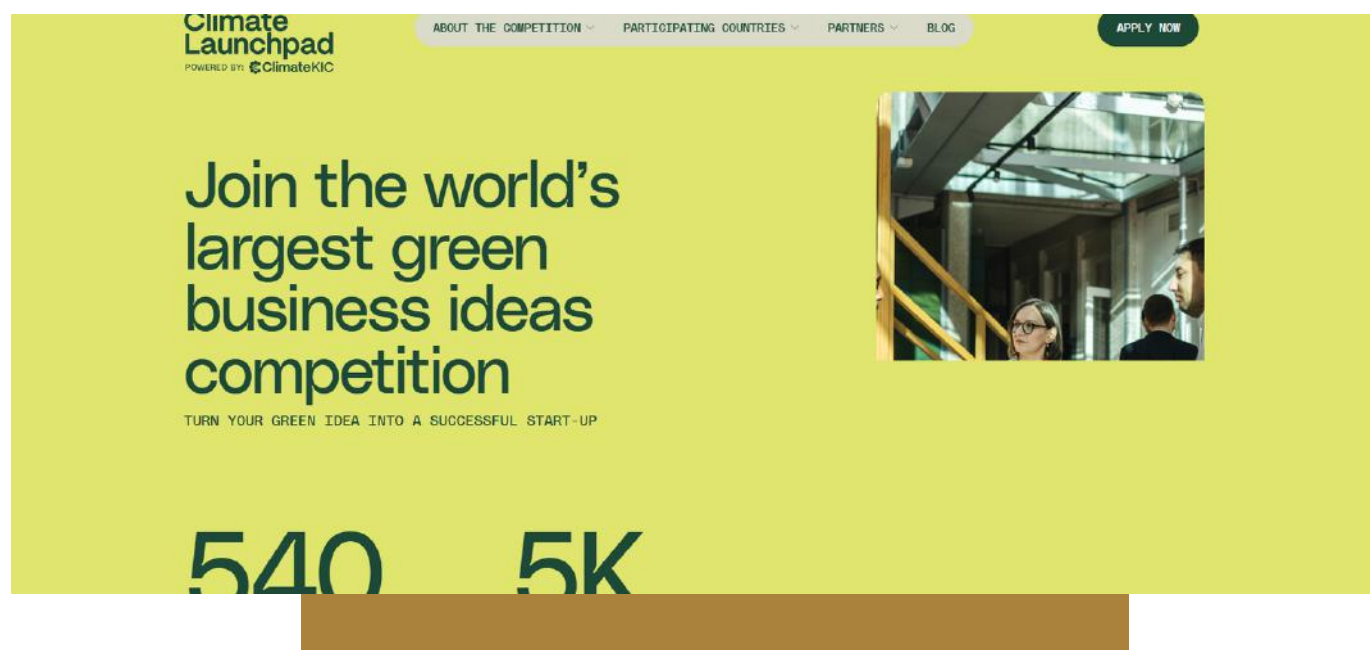
The ClimateLaunchpad 2026 programme

The ClimateLaunchpad 2026 programme, implemented in Kenya by GrowthAfrica, offers a valuable opportunity for early-stage innovators developing solutions to climate change. As part of the global initiative led by Climate KIC, the competition supports individuals and startups working in areas such as clean energy, sustainable agriculture, circular economy, climate resilience, and urban solutions. The programme is open to students, researchers, and entrepreneurs with innovative ideas that are still in early development stages, particularly those with limited funding and minimal market traction.

Apply now: <https://bit.ly/3EJgPMU>

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/46zacrB>

Deadline: **Sunday, 26th April 2026**



Selected participants will benefit from expert coaching, structured training, and mentorship to refine and validate their business models, as well as access to a global network of investors and climate leaders. The programme includes an intensive boot camp in June and follow-up coaching sessions in July, culminating in national, regional, and global pitching opportunities. Top innovators will have the chance to represent Kenya at the Global Grand Final in Singapore. Applications are open until 26th April 2026, making this a timely opportunity for university innovators to scale climate-focused solutions and contribute to sustainable development.

Call for Agritech Startups across Africa

The United Nations Development Programme has opened applications for the timbuktoo Pan-African Incubation Programme; a serious opportunity for founders building in agriculture and food systems. Timbuktoo is a continent-wide incubation platform designed to move AgriTech startups from MVP → investment readiness → scale. This programme is backing startups solving exactly these problems at scale.



The poster features the logos of the United Nations Development Programme, timbuktoo, and foodsystems. It includes a central image of a smiling farmer in a green apron holding a corn cob. The text 'CALL FOR AGRITECH STARTUPS ACROSS AFRICA' is prominently displayed. Below this, it says 'Join the Timbuktoo Pan-African Incubation Programme' and 'Build tech solutions to transform agriculture & food systems!'. A green box lists 'Selected startups get:' followed by a list of benefits: Structured incubation via leading African hubs, Access to seasoned mentors & investors, Pan-African founder network, Pitch support + demo days, and Early-stage funding pathways. A section titled 'WHO SHOULD APPLY' lists criteria: African AgriTech startup with MVP or prototype, Strong founding team, Solving critical ag/food system problems, and High potential for growth & scale. A red calendar icon indicates the deadline: 'Apply by APRIL 27, 2026' and 'Start in May 2026'. A location tag shows 'Ghana • Pan-African Scope'. A green 'APPLY NOW' button is at the bottom. The background is a lush green cornfield.

Key details

Deadline: 27 April 2026

Start date: May 2026 (rolling quarterly cohorts)

Apply: <https://lnkd.in/dB69TJZ4>



+254723305606



**Directorate of Research and
Innovation, Opposite Dean
School of Science**



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Let's Innovate for a Better Future!



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