

Kenya and Rwanda ranked as global innovation achievers, outperforming their peers

Since 2012, sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has had more countries among the group of innovation achievers than any other region according to Global Innovation Index ranking. Innovation achievers are economies that perform at least 10% higher than their peers for their level of GDP. In the 2016 ranking, innovation achievers in SSA were Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Mozambique and Uganda. Overall there were 9 SSA economies ranked in the top 100 economies led by Mauritius and South Africa.

The drivers of growth in SSA have mainly been improved institutions, a better business environment and improved science and innovation policy. In the 2016 ranking, SSA outperformed Northern Africa and West Asia as well as Central and Southern Asia in Business Sophistication. Indicators underpinning the GII ranking include: institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication, knowledge and technology outputs, and creative outputs.

