

2026 National Scholarship: ESURSI Defines Strategic Fields of Study for the Excellentia-DRC Program

UNIKIN

honors Prime Minister
Judith SUMINWA
TULUKA

NSC

drives interministerial
dynamics for the
international day of
clean air and skies



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Edito

Structuring Knowledge to Unlock Innovation



Professor
Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President

Structuring knowledge is an essential prerequisite for any sustainable innovation process. Indeed, when knowledge remains raw, scattered, or tacit, it resembles an inert mass a vast body of information that is difficult to harness and often leads to confusion and redundancy.

By lightening the mental load on teams, the formalization of knowledge prevents us from having to start from scratch with every new initiative. It thus allows us to build methodically on proven foundations, transforming a passive accumulation of information into truly active and useful intellectual capital. By presenting the activities that lay the groundwork for rigorous governance to unleash our nation's creative potential, this 62nd edition of the Bulletin of Science and Technological Innovations is at the heart of this paradigm. First and foremost, the structuring of knowledge requires exemplary governance and a rigorous overhaul of our academic and scientific system. This dynamic is embodied by the actions of the Minister of Higher Education and University Affairs, Her Excellency Marie-Thérèse Sombo, who sets a clear course by emphasizing that regulatory rigor and institutional integrity form the bedrock of excellence in higher education.

This restructuring is also reflected in the celebration of the values of merit and public leadership, affirming the driving role of elites and women at the highest levels of government. This is illustrated by the University of Kinshasa's conferral of an honorary doctorate upon the Prime Minister, Her Excellency Judith Suminwa Tuluka an act that recognizes the driving role of elites and gender equity at the highest levels of government.

Second, the structuring of knowledge requires clear mapping that highlights, by contrast, areas of uncertainty, gaps, and unresolved questions. Similarly, a rigorously organized science provides the strategic clarity essential for addressing the demands of national security or health and environmental regulation all fertile ground where the search for new solutions takes root. Through this strict regulation, the government asserts its authority and strengthens its oversight capabilities. On-site inspections in strategic areas also demonstrate that

well-structured knowledge directly protects populations and the environment.

At the same time, in the face of air pollution challenges during the dry season, the interministerial collaboration initiated around air quality monitoring proves that structured scientific data is an essential prerequisite for any informed public decision regarding the health of future generations. It is precisely thanks to this solid institutional foundation outlined in this issue that, thirdly, we will be able to mobilize expertise and unleash endogenous innovation to enable the population to enjoy clean air and blue skies.

Ultimately, when the framework is well-structured, sound, and secure, Congolese ingenuity finds a conducive environment in which to express its full vitality. It is within such a framework that the sustainable development of natural and forest resources, the creation of eco-friendly energy solutions tailored to our realities, and international recognition of our young impact entrepreneurs can emerge.

In short, this 62nd edition powerfully demonstrates that institutional order and creative freedom are not at odds with one another but rather reinforce each other. For our country to transform its challenges into opportunities and its resources into sustainable prosperity, it is essential to structure knowledge in order to unleash innovation and thus build the resilient and sovereign Congo of tomorrow.

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

ESURSI : closing of the 2025-2026 academic year and opening of registrations for 2026-2027



As part of the implementation of the national academic calendar, the Ministry of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) has published a Circular Note defining the provisions relating to the closing of the 2025-2026 academic year as well as the organization of registrations for the 2026-2027 academic year.

In accordance with this circular, the closing date for the 2025-2026 academic year is set for July 31, 2026, throughout the entire national territory. Institutions are urged to strictly adhere to this deadline to ensure a smooth transition to the new academic year. Institutions affected by disputes regarding deliberations or overlapping academic years are required to resolve these issues before this date. Furthermore, institutions must ensure the availability of diplomas for graduating students, which should have already been ordered in accordance with current academic guidelines.

Regarding deliberations, rankings, and end-of-year reports, the Ministry recommends using digital platforms to facilitate their preparation and transmission. Rankings and end-of-year reports must be submitted no later than September 15, 2026, via the official platform dedicated to this purpose.

The Circular also specifies the registration procedures for the 2026-2027 academic year. In this regard, admissions committees are tasked with providing a warm welcome to new students, processing and archiving applications, distributing required documents, and organizing preparatory work. Registrations must take into account the capacity of the institutions and the authorized course offerings. Registration reports and lists of enrolled students must be submitted before the start of the 2026-2027 academic year.

Through this circular, the Ministry reaffirms its commitment to ensuring rigorous management of the academic calendar, improving the quality of the administrative organization of higher education institutions, and ensuring optimal preparation for the upcoming academic year. It calls upon all institutional leaders to ensure strict adherence to the provisions outlined herein.

Communications Unit of the Minister of ESURSI



ESURSI: Four members of management committees suspended by the Minister in two higher education institutions

As part of measures to strengthen good governance within higher education institutions, the Minister of Higher, University, Scientific Research and Innovation Education (ESURSI), Prof. Dr Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, signed four ministerial decrees on August 7, 2026 in Kinshasa suspending members of the Management Committees of the Higher Institute of Medical Techniques of Kinshasa (ISTM/Kinshasa) and the National Pedagogical University (UPN).

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

These decisions are motivated by the existence of serious indications of administrative, financial, or professional misconduct requiring precautionary measures. The suspended officials are: CT. KANGA KUZASA Carine, Budget Administrator at ISTM/Kinshasa; Prof. BASILA ILENGI MBULA Jean-Pierre, Academic Secretary General at ISTM/Kinshasa; Dir.-C.S. ILUNGA NGOY Sympho, Budget Administrator at UPN;

and Prof. PHONGI KINGIELA Albert, Secretary General for Research at UPN.

These ministerial decrees specify that the suspensions take effect upon signature and constitute precautionary measures intended to preserve the proper functioning of the institutions concerned, pending further administrative procedures as stipulated by applicable regulations.

Communications Unit of the Minister of
'ESURSI

Nuclear safety: Marie-Thérèse SOMBO calls for rigor in establishing the facts

The Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, called for a rigorous, scientific and institutional approach to information indicating the possible presence of uranium in certain products from the Congolese polymetallic chain.

Speaking at the National Nuclear Safety Council meeting, the Minister emphasized the need to strengthen national nuclear safety mechanisms and the protection of the environment and the population, in strict compliance with the Democratic Republic of Congo's national and international obligations.

The Council meeting comes amid reports in the international press suggesting the possible presence of uranium in certain products of the Congolese polymetallic supply chain, as well as the possibility that significant quantities of this strategic resource have been exported from the country in recent decades.

In response to these allegations, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo advocated for caution and scientific verification of the facts. "We are not gathered here today to confirm what has been published in the press, nor to refute it on principle," she stated, calling for "understanding, verifying, and comparing the various pieces of



information available." For the head of ESURSI, only verifiable data, scientific expertise, and a thorough institutional analysis can objectively establish the facts.

The Council's work must therefore contribute to evaluating the national monitoring system, identifying any shortcomings, and, where necessary, formulating measures to strengthen its effectiveness. Particular attention must be paid to the control, movement, and management of nuclear materials, as well as issues related to national security, she emphasized.

This approach also aims to assess the potential implications of the situation for national sovereignty, public safety, environmental protection, and safeguarding the strategic interests of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Communications Unit of the Minister of
ESURSI

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

UNIKIN honors Prime Minister Judith SUMINWA TULUKA



Prime Minister Judith SUMINWA TULUKA was awarded an honorary doctorate in International Relations by the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), in recognition of her career, leadership, and commitment to governance, peace, and development in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This prestigious distinction makes Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka the first female politician to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Kinshasa, thus recognizing her career and work at the head of the government.

Through this academic recognition, several dimensions of her leadership are highlighted:

Recognition of her leadership at the head of the government

- An award dedicated to the Congolese people, with a special thought for women, to whom it aims to offer a model of commitment and responsibility;

- A tribute to the President of the Republic, His Excellency Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, Champion of Positive Masculinity, for the trust placed in her;
- A mark of appreciation for the collective commitment of the members of the Government, mobilized around the implementation of the Head of State's vision;
- A renewed commitment to serving the Republic, in a spirit of integrity, patriotism, and responsibility.

Upon receiving this distinction, the Prime Minister emphasized the particular significance of this honor: "By accepting this honorary diploma, I receive far more than an honor; I receive a noble mission: to continue serving the Democratic Republic of Congo with dedication."

Beyond the Prime Minister herself, this distinction also recognizes the efforts undertaken to strengthen the higher education sector and contribute to the

consolidation of a high-performing, inclusive, and equitable education system.

Under the leadership of Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, the SUMINWA Government's policies are being progressively translated into concrete actions within the sub-sector. This momentum is reflected in a more peaceful social climate, the continuation of reforms, and the significant progress made since the SUMINWA Government took office.

The distinction awarded to the Prime Minister thus recognizes, within the institution of higher learning, a career of leadership and public service, while also highlighting the growing role of women in public affairs in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Communications Unit of the Minister of
ESURSI

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

ESURSI : An authorized supplementary seminar to enhance training in intern public law



The Ministry of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) has published Circular Note No. 028/MINESURSI/CAB.MIN/SASM/MMK/2026 relating to the supplement of the credit deficit observed in the codified and operational models of the second semester of Master 1, Specialization in Intern Public Law.

This measure aims to enable Master 2 students specializing in Domestic Public Law to regularly complete their Master's degree by fulfilling the necessary course units to reach the required number of credits. The directive is based on the provisions of Academic Instruction No. 027 of October 22, 2025, which sets out the guidelines for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Within this framework, the Ministry has authorized the organization of a supplementary seminar dedicated to special issues in Public Law. This course unit covers, in particular, special issues in Constitutional Law, Public Contract Law, Congolese Customary Public Law, and Electoral Law.

The circular also presents an updated operational framework incorporating several core courses, including Public Service Law, State-Owned Enterprise Administration, Education Law, Public Procurement Law, the drafting and analysis of court decisions, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for administrative disputes.

Given the urgency of the academic situation, the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Sombo Ayanne Safi Mukuna Marie-Thérèse, has asked the institutions concerned to organize this supplementary seminar as a validation session for Master 2 students and as a make-up session for Master 1 students. This initiative reflects the Government's commitment to guaranteeing the quality of university education and ensuring the harmonized application of curriculum structures in legal studies programs across the country.

Communications Unit of the Minister of
ESURSI

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

National Scholarship 2026: ESURSI sets the strategic sectors of the Excellentia-DRC Program



The Ministry of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) has published a circular note determining the priority fields of study selected for the National Scholarship “Excellentia-DRC Program” for the 2026 edition. This decision is in line with the Government of the Republic’s desire to strengthen the training of a national elite capable of supporting the socio-economic development of the country.

Signed by the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Sombo Ayanne Safi Mukuna Marie-Thérèse, Circular Note No. 031/MINESURSI/CAB.MIN/SASM/MMK/2026 specifies that the selected fields of study align with the Government’s current priorities and the strategic needs of the public and private sectors. This approach aims to ensure a better match between the training of scholarship recipients and the demands of the job market, as well as the development ambitions of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Among the priority fields are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and digital technologies, mining, renewable energy and energy development, agriculture and agribusiness, infrastructure and transportation, economics and management, medicine, and fashion design. These sectors have been identified as



essential drivers for supporting the country’s economic and industrial transformation.

The Ministry emphasizes that all scholarship recipients must commit to pursuing their studies in one of the selected fields. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the cancellation of the scholarship, in accordance with the program’s provisions. This measure aims to ensure that government investments directly benefit the nation’s strategic sectors.

Through this initiative, ESURSI reaffirms its commitment to academic excellence and the development of Congolese human capital. The Excellentia-DRC Program thus remains a key instrument for training high-level professionals destined to contribute to the scientific, technological, and economic advancement of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Communications Unit of the Minister of ESURSI

NSC Activities

Particulate pollution in the DRC: the NSC is driving an inter-ministerial dynamic for the 2026 International Day of Clean Air and Blue Skies

In response to the resurgence of urban particulate pollution and the underlying health risks, the National Scientific Council (NSC) has officially established a restricted technical committee. Chaired by Professor François TONDOZI KETO and reported by Dr. Jean-Luc BALOGIJE SELENGE, this task force is mandated to organize the high-level Interministerial Workshop scheduled for September 7, 2026, on the occasion of the International Day for Clean Air and Blue Skies; with the objective of translating environmental modeling data into vectors for public and regulatory action.

An alarming diagnosis

The evidence gathered by research institutions reveals a kinetic degradation of tropospheric air quality in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in major urban centers like Kinshasa and areas of intense mining activity. This anthropogenic phenomenon is exacerbated by an unplanned demographic transition, an aging vehicle fleet, the widespread use of solid biomass fuels for cooking, and industrial particulate emissions. Atmospheric levels of fine particulate matter, especially aerodynamic fractions PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, regularly exceed WHO guidelines. These micropollutants induce systemic oxidative stress and an increased incidence of cardiorespiratory diseases in the population. The dynamics of the human-animal-environment interface now require a cross-cutting approach within the "One Health" paradigm.

The Institutional Imperative

Considering the resolutions of the 60th Ordinary Session of the National Scientific Council (NSC) and the guidelines of the 61st Plenary Session of June 24, 2026, the Council reaffirmed its prerogatives as the research oversight body. Noting the absence of a standardized remote monitoring network and a harmonized regulatory framework, the Chair of the Council, Professor Pius Mpiana Tshimankinda, signed the decision establishing a specialized commission on July 20, 2026.

This scientific commission's mission is to break down academic silos by translating empirical



evidence into tools to support government decision-making.

COMPOSITION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

It is composed of: President: Prof. TONDOZI KETO François, Vice-President: Prof. BONDO MUTEBA Patrice, Rapporteur: Dr. BALOGIJE SELENGE Jean-Luc, and Members: Prof. MFUAMBA MULUMBA Jean-Pierre, Prof. Umba Lunda Ferdinand

Intersectoral Synergy

Air pollution is a multidimensional problem, and public action requires interministerial collaboration. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), the commission is mobilizing key government portfolios.

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) will intervene through its technical departments (DAS, DEH-PE) to set emission thresholds. The Ministry of Public Health will focus on the epidemiological impact, while the Ministry of Mines (DPEM, CTCPM) will address the externalities of the extractive industry.

The Ministry of National Education will also be involved in structuring the pilot program "Clean Air in Schools," which aims to protect learning environments from particulate pollution peaks.

Towards an Integrated Network

One of the key themes of the workshop on September 7, 2026, is the conceptualization of a National Integrated Air Quality Monitoring

Network. This system will rely on an innovative technological coupling:

On the one hand, the deployment of ground-connected sensor networks will provide real-time exposure kinetics. On the other hand, these measurements will be combined with geophysical data and satellite remote sensing observations provided by METTELSAT and the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC).

This technological network will enable the precise mapping of pollution plumes and the modeling of regional microclimatic risks.

Forum Objectives

Placed under the global theme "Clean Air, Healthy Choices: Acting Together for People and Planet" and the national theme "Clean Air for All: Mobilizing Skills for Blue Skies in the DRC", this day will aim to formalize a permanent collaboration framework, validate key emissions indicators and design future advocacy tools for the national executive.

Date & Title:

September 7, 2026 Interministerial Workshop on Air Quality in the DRC.

Coordination:

Permanent Secretariat of the CSN & Commission Bureau.

Stakeholders:

ESURSI, MEDD, Mines, Health, OCC, ACE, ESP-UNIKIN, CoE-CBRN, CRGM, CGEA, WHO, UNEP.

Dr Jean-Luc BALOGIJE SELENGE/CRMD/Bunia

Echos des Institutions de Recherche

The CNPRI will soon open a representative office in Likasi.

The Vice-President of the CNPRI, Professor KABENA NGANDU Odette, is conducting an investigative mission.



Photo of the family members of the CNPRI delegation in front of the LIKASI Town Hall

The National Committee for Protection against Ionizing Radiation (NCPIR), the regulatory authority for the nuclear/radiological sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo, has established branches in several provinces, notably Haut-Katanga. The headquarters of the NCPIR/Haut-Katanga provincial branch is located in the city of Lubumbashi, and its activities extend to several other cities and territories.

A local office to strengthen radiological control

By Ministerial Order No. 212/MINESURSI/CAB. MIN/SASM/MMK/2026 of July 20, 2026, Her Excellency the Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) authorized the opening of a CNPRI Liaison Office in Likasi. A joint NCPIR team and representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Innovation conducted a mission from July 29 to August 2, 2026, to investigate and prepare for the effective establishment of this office.

The future NCPIR Liaison Office is expected to bring the regulatory authority closer to mining operators and users of radioactive materials or sources, while strengthening the protection of the population and the environment against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.

This mission was led by Professor Odette KABENA NGANDU, Vice-President of the NCPIR and Head of Mission, accompanied by Sylvain TSHIPAMBA TSHIPAMBA, Director of Regulations at the NCPIR, and Christian DIWAVANGA MALOKA, Legal Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI). The delegation from

Kinshasa also received support from Jackson MASASI MPARANYI, Head of the CNPRI/Haut-Katanga Office, as well as inspectors Mireille WAKUGONDELA TSHOLA and Julio ILUNGA MWAMBA.

The authorities in Likasi are in favor of the project

During the mission, the delegation met with several political, administrative, and judicial authorities, including the Mayor of Likasi, Henry Mungomba Tamba; the Administrator of the Kambove Territory, Francis Kalongo Kayembe; the President of the Likasi High Court, Claude Mulumba Kalala; and the Public Prosecutor, Head of the Prosecutor's Office at the Likasi High Court, Fodat-Damien Kasunzu Mbonigaba.

During these various working sessions, the Vice-President of the NCPIR presented the objectives of her institution, notably the protection of people in general, workers in particular, and the environment against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. She then outlined its operational procedures and the planned establishment of a Liaison Office in this jurisdiction. The Legal Advisor to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) emphasized the Ministry's commitment to bringing its specialized service closer to mining areas and strengthening respect for state authority.

The authorities met welcomed this initiative and expressed their willingness to support the National Center for Radiation Protection (NCPIR) in carrying out its mission.

They particularly stressed the need to

disseminate the regulations governing mining and radiological activities, to raise awareness among artisanal miners about radiation protection measures, and to strengthen collaboration between the CNPRI, the judicial authorities, and other services involved in the mining sector.

The delegation visited the residence rented by the CNPRI to house inspectors living in Lubumbashi who are assigned to work in Likasi and the surrounding area, in order to examine the possibility of reconsidering its use.

Towards a permanent CNPRI presence in Likasi

Having received a favorable opinion from various local authorities and taking into account the improved access offered by the inspectors' residence, this space will be adapted to house the NCPIR Liaison Office in Likasi. This new office should contribute to strengthening regulatory oversight, radiological risk prevention, and collaboration between public services, mining operators, and communities.

For the NCPIR and its supervisory body, the challenge now is to translate the recommendations from this mission into concrete actions to ensure better protection of people and the environment against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation in this important mining area of Haut-Katanga.

Christian MAZONO/NSC

Echoes of Research Institutions

Securing the future: DRC-South Africa cooperation to manage CBRN risks



The Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Africa intend to strengthen their scientific cooperation in the field of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk management. This initiative is part of a Memorandum of Understanding already signed between the two countries, aimed at promoting applied research, technological innovation and the strengthening of institutional capacities.

Through this partnership, several initiatives are planned, particularly in the areas of scientific training, the development of analytical infrastructure, environmental monitoring, pollution forensics, and integrated CBRN risk management.

The objective is to enable the DRC to have enhanced capacities to anticipate, detect, assess, and control CBRN threats, whether natural, accidental, or intentional.

The CBRN Centre of Excellence at the Heart of the Cooperation

The DRC's CBRN Centre of Excellence (CoE-CBRN) plays a central role in structuring this cooperation. It is working, in particular, on preparing specific Memoranda of Understanding with several specialized South African institutions.

This approach benefits from the support of AUDA-NEPAD and DSTI, which contribute to structuring exchanges and developing scientific partnerships between institutions in both countries.

A Congolese delegation traveled to South Africa as part of these efforts, engaging with institutions and partners who could contribute to strengthening national capacities in the CBRN field.

This cooperation also aligns with a continental perspective aimed at developing autonomous African capacities to address the risks associated with hazardous substances and materials and to combat the illicit trafficking of sensitive materials.

Mintek, CSIR and NECSA: complementary expertise

The realization of the planned partnerships with Mintek, CSIR, and NECSA could allow the DRC to benefit from a complementary chain of expertise covering several strategic areas.

Mintek could contribute its expertise in extractive metallurgy, hydrometallurgy, and the management of chemical risks associated with the processing of complex ores.

CSIR, thanks to its analytical capabilities, could provide expertise in the mineralogical and geochemical characterization of materials, particularly through techniques such as X-ray diffraction, X-ray fluorescence, and ICP-MS.

For its part, NECSA could contribute to the radiological and isotopic evaluation of materials, notably through gamma spectrometry, in order to better identify and characterize the radionuclides associated with certain uranium-containing ores.

Towards an integrated analytical chain

The effective implementation of these partnerships would enable the DRC to develop an integrated analytical chain covering mineralogy, geochemistry, hydrometallurgy, isotopic analysis, and radiation protection.

Such an approach would contribute to improving the country's capacity to identify and control chemical and radiological risks related to mining and industrial activities.

It would also promote better traceability of sensitive materials and more secure management of waste from mining and industrial activities.

Beyond the technical aspects, this cooperation represents a strategic imperative for the DRC, particularly in a context where the exploitation and processing of mineral resources require control and safety mechanisms adapted to the potential risks.

The involvement of the Ministry of ESURSI is expected.

In this context, the Ministry of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research, and Innovation is called upon to play a decisive role.

The support of the supervisory ministry could facilitate institutional negotiations,

Echoes of Research Institutions



strengthen diplomatic backing, and encourage the mobilization of national universities and research institutes around these initiatives.

It would also ensure the coherence of the various partnerships with the DRC's strategic priorities, while promoting the sustainable development of national scientific and analytical infrastructure.

For the CBRN Center of Excellence, the

challenge now lies in transforming the general framework of cooperation between Kinshasa and Pretoria into operational and sustainable partnerships capable of producing concrete results on the ground.

Strengthening Scientific Security and Sovereignty

DRC-South Africa cooperation in the CBRN field thus appears as an opportunity to strengthen the DRC's scientific and technological sovereignty..

Through expert training, knowledge sharing, access to advanced analytical capabilities, and the development of national infrastructure, the country could better anticipate the risks associated with hazardous substances and materials.

This dynamic would also contribute to more responsible management of strategic resources, environmental protection, and public safety.

For the CoE-CBRN, the objective is clear: to make scientific cooperation between the DRC and South Africa a true lever for risk prevention, public protection, and the sustainable strengthening of national capacities in the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear fields.

CoE-CBRN Communication Cell

The CRSAT is organizing a scientific morning on non-timber forest products of plant origin.

As part of its scientific activities, the Centre for Research in Applied Sciences and Technologies (ATSRC) organised a scientific morning on August 5, 2026, with the theme "Non-timber forest products of plant origin: resources to accelerate the local processing of raw materials".

The aim of this day was to promote and enhance the value of plant-based Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) to accelerate the local processing of raw materials, drawing on scientific and technological discoveries.

The scientific morning session featured eight presentations by experts in the field of chemistry, including: Professor Jean-Noël MPUTU KANYINDA, Professor MUDOGO VIRIMA, Professor Mvingu Kamalandua Bienvenue, Mr. MWAMBA IZARA, Research Fellow EFOLOKO BOKUNGU JP, Research Assistant ANKUTU NKEMBISA Lumière, and Research Assistant IMBOLE IKEMBE Félicien.



Family photo of the CEO of CRSAT and his staff

The scientific morning session was opened by a presentation from the Director General of ATSRC, Professor Jean-Noël MPUTU KANYINDA. His presentation focused on the theme "Metabolic Reprogramming of Plants Growing in Soils Contaminated by Metals." He focused his presentation on the analysis of soils contaminated by

potentially toxic elements (PTEs) such as cadmium, lead, copper, zinc, chromium, and manganese. These metals cause stress that alters the chemistry and physiology of exposed plants, he argued. To illustrate this point, he chose the onion (*Allium cepa*), a widely cultivated food crop whose metabolome is rich in sulfur compounds that react to stress. Using

Echoes of Research Institutions

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) dereplication techniques, an analytical method used in chemistry to study the structure of molecules, the Professor highlighted the role of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which encompass all plant resources other than timber and can be processed locally..

He concluded by specifying that metal stress reprograms the onion metabolome without depleting it, resulting in a 13% increase in sulfur compounds and a doubling of antioxidant activity in contaminated soil.

These studies confirm a genuine chemical adaptation linking the environment, chemistry, and the application of scientific results.

Along the same lines, researcher NKUTU KEMBISA Lumière from the Department of Biotechnology, Environment, and Natural Substances at ATSRC addressed the topic of "the valorization of two *Xanthosoma* species (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium* and *Xanthosoma violaceum*) as sources of



Lumière NKUTU, researcher at ATSRC

functional ingredients: an integrated nutritional, metabolomic, and antioxidant approach."

Her presentation aimed to highlight the potential of these two *Xanthosoma* species as local plant resources that can contribute to the production of high-value functional ingredients. The work focused on evaluating their nutritional and mineral composition, their antioxidant activity, and



Prof. Jean-Noël MPUTU KANYINDA, CEO of ATSRC

on characterizing their metabolomic profile by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR).

The results obtained show that both species are valuable sources of essential nutrients and bioactive compounds, with notable differences between them in terms of nutritional composition and metabolic profile. These characteristics offer potential applications in the industrial sector (food, nutraceuticals). The identified bioactive metabolites are also of interest for research and development of plant-based biopharmaceuticals.

The researcher emphasized the importance of the scientific valorization of local plant resources to promote their transformation into innovative, high-value-added products, thereby contributing to the development of the bioeconomy, food security, the growth of biopharmaceuticals derived from natural resources, and the promotion of non-timber forest products in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

All the participating researchers converged on a common objective: the search for a bioactive molecule and the development of concrete chemical applications for non-timber forest products (NTFPs), aiming for technological advancement through the creation of SMEs/SMIs. Among the approaches and examples presented, it is worth noting: the use of plant saponins, the production of soy-based milk, the

identification of different varieties of wild mango trees, and the development of therapeutic teas for sickle cell patients.

Through particularly rich scientific discussions, this morning demonstrated that the valorization of our environmental and chemical resources leads to technological and economic development, while highlighting Congolese biodiversity and innovations accessible to industry.

This event testified to the high scientific quality of the ATSRC researchers, their capacity for innovation, and their commitment to making a significant



contribution to the industrial progress of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

ATITUNGU SANGOL Dieudonné/ATSR

At the time of Innovation

Tisya Mukuna: First Congolese woman to win a Go-Gettaz Impact Award

Tisya Mukuna, founder and CEO of Boite Tisya Mukuna, known as "la Kinoisé," has just propelled Congolese women's entrepreneurship into the international spotlight by winning an Impact Award at a competition celebrating the innovation and commitment of young African entrepreneurs. This victory recognizes not only her talent but also her dedication to Africa.

Born in Kinshasa, Tisya Mukuna grew up in France, developing a passion for entrepreneurship inspired by her parents who instilled in her values of courage, equality, and innovation. The head of La Kinoisé – a company dedicated to revitalizing coffee plantations in the Democratic Republic of Congo – has made it her mission to breathe new life into a once-flourishing sector, now neglected due to conflicts in the east of the country and economic crises.

Her success is not the result of chance, but rather of a bold vision and a fierce commitment to a sustainable future in Africa. In 2018, she founded La Kinoisé, named after the fact that her coffee is grown in Kinshasa, in Mont-Ngafula, a district in the south of the Congolese capital. The company focuses on the production and processing of high-quality Congolese coffee. But the choice of the young lady (then 26 years old), freshly holding a master's degree in marketing from the Institute of Scientific Economics and Management in Paris, and an MBA from Shanghai International Studies University in China in addition to a degree in agronomy, is justified.

A pioneer of sustainable development

Her goal is not only to rehabilitate the image of Congolese coffee on the global market, but also to empower Kinshasa residents by integrating them into a fair and ecological production model in their city, where the three 100% organic varieties she cultivates cover 20 hectares.

Her company, which works with rural cooperatives, strives to create economic



opportunities for small-scale coffee producers while promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Through La Kinoisé, Mukuna has already reached hundreds of rural communities, offering them training in agroecology and market access through the export of specialty coffee. This model impressed the judges at the sixth edition of GoGettaz (or Africa's Business Heroes), which took place this September in Kigali, the Rwandan capital. By expanding its scope this year, the 2024 edition focused on underrepresented Francophone regions and encouraged innovations that address climate challenges and solutions. Thus, the jury (comprised of GoGettaz partners and African experts) recognized Mukuna's work as a significant contribution to Africa's economic and social development.

Continental recognition

In fact, Africa's Business Heroes, one of Africa's largest annual entrepreneurship competitions, has also been one of the most anticipated events for young agripreneurs across the continent since its inception in 2019. It attracts thousands of participants from across Africa each year, all with innovative projects and solutions to major challenges facing the continent, such as food security, climate change, and youth unemployment.

In addition to two major Impact Awards (awarded to a Moroccan woman and a Ghanaian man, each receiving \$50,000), four other young entrepreneurs each received an Impact Award of \$15,000. These included Tisya Mukuna, who received the Impact Award for Job Creation

and Improved Rural Livelihoods; a Kenyan man, who received the Impact Award for Technology; and an Ivorian woman, who received the Impact Award for Resource Use and Climate Impact. And a Malagasy woman: winner of the Impact Award for job creation, nutrition, and gender impact.

Indeed, the Impact Award recognizes projects that generate profound social and economic change within a community, with a particular emphasis on sustainability and inclusivity. For Mukuna, this historic triumph not only recognizes her entrepreneurial qualities but also sets a very high bar for young Congolese entrepreneurs. Through her journey, she embodies the power of the dream: that of a Congo where young people, and women in particular, can build thriving businesses while solving complex social problems.

She added that the key to her success lies in her ability to reconcile entrepreneurial ambition with social responsibility. She has never hidden her commitment to the idea that Africa's development must be driven by sustainable economic models rooted in local realities. She thus encourages other young people to pursue business ideas that not only generate profits but also improve the lives of communities.

All grands lacs

PUBLIC-SECTOR RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES IN THE D.R. CONGO

RIHS (Research Institute in Health Science)

Objective: To improve the state of health of the population through research in the following fields: pharmaceutical, medical, anthropological, psychological or socio-cultural.

Address: 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211

ATSRC (Applied and Technologic Sciences Research Center)

Objectif: Mettre au point des matériaux, des appareils, des méthodes ou procédés
Objective: To develop materials, equipment, methods or processes with a view to finding solutions to the population's urgent problems in various fields: housing, rural development and the modernization of the society.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Jeannoel.mputu@gmail.com; Tel: 0821138261

RGHS (Research Center in Human Sciences)

Objective: To ensure the human development of the Congolese people through the study of its social, economic and political dimensions with a view to identifying the factors that have a positive or negative influence on its development.

Address: 33, Av. comité urbain C/Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821

RCMT (Research Center in Mathematics Teaching)

Objective: To carry out research in the field of mathematics teaching with a view to improving quality.

Address: 84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe; E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail.com; Tel: 0815031877

GRC (Geophysical Research Center)

Objective: To provide the country with a national geophysical observation network, for the global study of the internal behavior of the earth in the DRC.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe (within GMRC); E-mail: tondozi@gmail.com; Tel: 0854426228

AIPS (African Institute of Prospective Studies)

Objective: To carry out forward-looking studies in order to propose solutions to crises and problems linked to the evolution of African societies.

Address: Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtaricibangu@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0996658741

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Matadi)

Objective: To carry out operational research in central Congo in the field of applied linguistics of African cultures and applied sciences

Address: Hôtel de la porte Matadi; E-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel: 0815037949

NCPIR (National Committee for the Protection of Ionizing Radiation)

Objective: - Regulatory authority for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation in the DRC management of radioactive sources of radioactive materials such as uranium.

Address: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665

AEC (French Atomic Energy Commission)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate scientific and technical research in various fields of science and industry, concerning the use of atomic energy and space research.

Address: UNIKIN building; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel: 0808643248

CGI (Congo Geographic Institute)

Objective: Production of the base map of the DRC at a scale of 1/50,000 and its derivatives.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240

GMRC (Geologic and Mining Research Center)

Objective: To carry out studies and analyses to improve knowledge of the soil and subsoil of the national territory.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe; E-mail: rolandkakule@gmail.com; Tel: 0851506161

NIASR (National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research)

Objective: To promote the development of agriculture in the Congo. To maintain varieties, multi-local trials, and its farmers, management and conservation of germplasm.

Set up a program to monitor and evaluate research activities.
To disseminate new varieties. Give the emerging technical department its reason for being, with a view to producing basic and pre-basic seed.
Resume publication of the agricultural magazine to disseminate research results.
Address: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP :2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikan-konde@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620

RCALC (Research Center into African Language and Culture)

Objective: To coordinate and carry out all research projects concerning African languages and cultures.

Address: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/ Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320

AFRC (Agro-Food Research Centre/Lubumbashi)

Objective: To identify processes for processing and preserving basic local agricultural products.

To improve the quality of imported or locally produced foodstuffs by applying approved standards and quality control.

Help the technological development of the existing agro-industry by providing them with technical assistance wherever possible.

Address: 1, Av. Président LÉO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002

SSRC (Social Science Research Center / Bandunduville)

Objective: to carry out practical-scientific-research into major socio-economic and cultural issues.

To promote sustainable aquatic development.

Address: 29, Av. de la mission, Q/Salongo, C/Basoko. BANDUNDUVILLE, BP. 223; E-mail: akuzituka@gmail.com; Tel: 0815898971

FERC (Forest Ecology Research Center /Mabali)

Objective: Scientific research on plants, aquatic species and animal species.

Address: D.S/MBANDAKA D.S/MBANDAKA/PROVINCE OF ECUADOR; E-mail: bosomboependi2@gmail.com; Tel: 0825241704

NDRC (Nutritional Diseases Research Center/Gemena)

Objective: Research into diseases linked to malnutrition, such as related diseases by isolating certain molecules, such as SYZYGIUM GUINENSE to combat amoebic yeasts and diarrhea in South Ubangi.

Address: Mobutu n° 220/A. GEMENA/ SOUTH UBANGI PROVINCE; E-mail: cherusan-gi@yahoo.fr; 0992416091

NSRC (Natural Sciences Research Center /Lwiro)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate research in the fields of science, technology and industry throughout the DRC.

Address: LWIRO LWIRO, TERRITORY OF KABARE/SUD KIVU; E-mail: robert.kasisi@umontreal.com; Tel: 0996806699.

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Bunia)

Objective: To carry out operational research in the north-east of the DRC in the fields of applied linguistics, African cultures and applied sciences.
Study of nature, fauna, flora and protection of endangered species.

Address: BUNIA/ITURI; E-mail: Kermwathomas@gmail.com; Tel: 0997717070

HRC (Hydrobiology Research Center in Uvira)

Objective: To program, coordinate and monitor research activities in hydrobiology, limnology and hydrology.
hydrobiology, limnology and fisheries in all ecosystems.

Address: 115, AV. du Congo, Q/Kimanga, C/Kalundu, UVIRA / SUD KIVU; E-mail: bida-kamuhoza@gmail.com; Tel: 0997716307.

CBRNEC (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Excellence Center)

Objective: To contribute to the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: coe.cbrn.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0817742543.

GVO (Goma Volcanological Observatory)

Objective: Prevention of volcanic risks by monitoring volcanoes and Lake Kivu.
Kivu; Management of natural risks; scientific research.

Address: 142, Avenue Du Rond Point ; Quartier Les Volcans ; Commune de Goma ; Ville Goma; North-Kivu; E-mail: mavotulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0998584734

WERC (Water and Environment Research Center)

Objective: To serve as a training and research center focusing on water and environmental management.

To propose solutions to problems that could arise around water. Create a national network of Congolese scientists and researchers to analyze and disseminate information on the impact of climate change in the DRC. Promote education and the right to the environment.

Address: 44, Comité Urbain C/ GOMBE; E-mail: ngelipatience@gmail.com; Tel: 0818105625.

RCSARP (Research Center for the Selection and Adaptation of Ruminants and Pigs)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of ruminant and pig breeding

Address: 45, Av. Lumumba, Q/de la gare, LUPUTA/ KASAI-ORIENTAL; E-mail: tshamal-agabriel@gmail.com; Tel: 0851817370

NCRS (National Center for Remote Sensing)

Objective: Research in remote sensing.

Address: PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE KASAI; E-mail: davidng-indub@gmail.com; Tel: 0815103502.

NCROS (National Center for Research in Oral Science)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of oral health.

Address: 13, 10ème Rue, Industriel Quarter, C/Limete; E-mail: Cnrsbd.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0822244152; 0811835159; 0840922982

CAS (Congolese Academy of Sciences)

Objective: Promotion and dissemination of science, technology, arts and letters.
Support for inventive initiatives.

Address: Sciences Faculty/ UNIKIN local 28; E-mail: jjmuyembet@gmail.com; Tel: 0813330242

MIPRC (Matadi Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Research Center)

Objective: -Information science.

Address: The buildings of the Matadi Higher Pedagogical Institute; Tel: 0896501462

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1. to deliberate on the guidelines and priorities of the scientific and technological research plans and programs to be carried out in the country ;
2. to deliberate on the allocation of resources from the State budget to scientific and technological activities;
3. supervising the financial management of research centers and institutes
4. approving the budgets of the Research Institutes and Centers and submitting them to the Minister for Scientific Research for approval
5. approving the organic regulations of the Research Institutes and Centers;
6. proposing to the Minister for Scientific Research the appointment and promotion of scientific and administrative personnel.

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