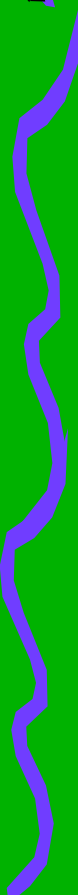
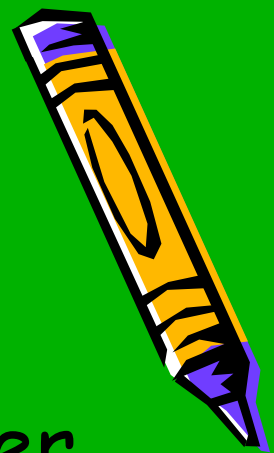
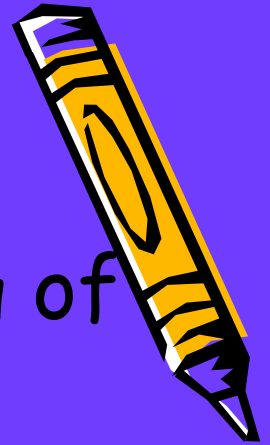


What Kind of Networks

- Initiatives that involve cross border and inter-institutional collaboration, in research and post-graduate education and training



Purposes for Study



- Explore the status and functioning of networks that:
 1. Focus on a recognized (sub) discipline or field of practice
 2. Engage in research and / or post-graduate education
 3. Have functioning collaborative links across national borders and institutions



Why PHEA: Benefits of Networks



1. Production of new knowledge
2. Promotion of new modes of instruction and learning
3. Enrichment of curricula
4. Innovations in institutional organization and staff deployment
5. Innovations in financing research and postgraduate education
6. Collaboration integrates leading institutions into systems for science, technology and innovation
7. Tackle barriers to access to donor funds



Trends in Networks Formation

- 1st Wave of Networks established - 1960-1970 - External
- 2nd Wave of Networks established - 1980 - 1990 - Frustration
- 3rd Wave of Networks established - Early 1990s - South Africa
- 4th Wave of Network establishment and consolidation - Mid 1990s to present - Collaboration



Collaborative Initiatives / Partnerships

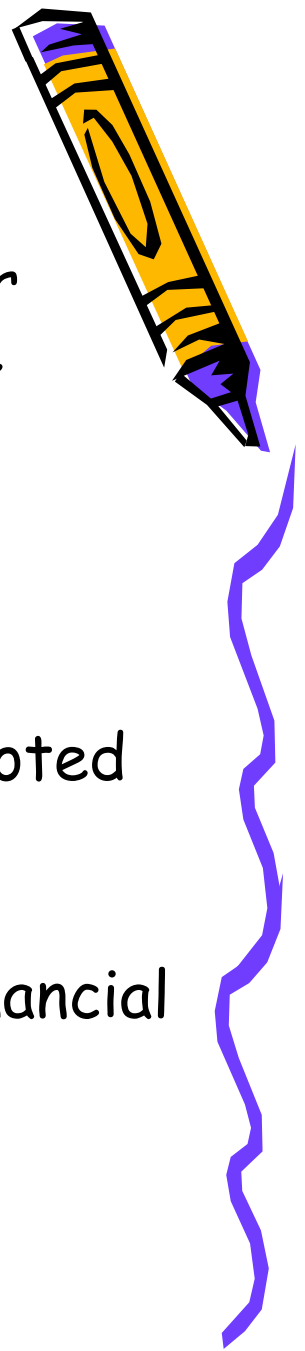


- University autonomy - Expand opportunities to take advantage of scale economies - subject specialists, equipment and facilities
- New generation of U leaders - Cheaper and higher quality bandwidth; The explosion of knowledge - new sub disciplines; Catching up
- New generation of challenges - HIV/AIDS, NEPAD, Regional Groupings, MDGs, PEAPs, and economic development
Investment in Post-graduate education

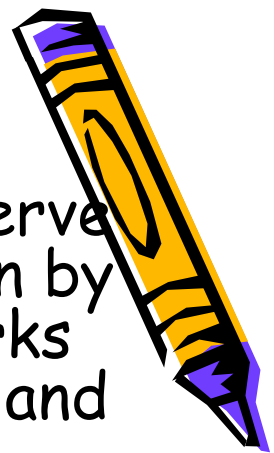


Characteristics of Successful Networks

- An intellectual base that is discipline focused or draws on a core body of knowledge and practice
- Holistic orientation to professional learning and career development
- Emphasis on management and business plan
- Adaptability to circumstance
- Specialized, practice-based, organizationally rooted entrepreneurial leadership
- Local ownership and audience
- Internal cushions for absorbing political and financial shocks; management efficiency
- National and regional markets for skills



The 25 Providing Significant Benefits (1)

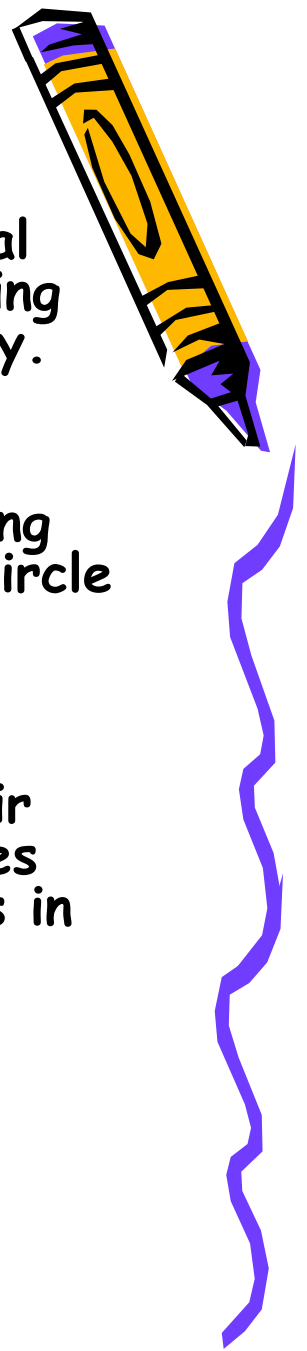


- South African universities are starting to serve as key intellectual contributors to the region by bringing into cross-national scholarly networks their infrastructure, connectivity, staffing, and financial support.
- Despite gaps in information, administrators of universities are generally cognisant of the contribution that network participation could make toward strengthening institutional capacities.
- ICT advances are greatly expanding opportunities for staff to participate meaningfully in networks focused on research and post-graduate education.

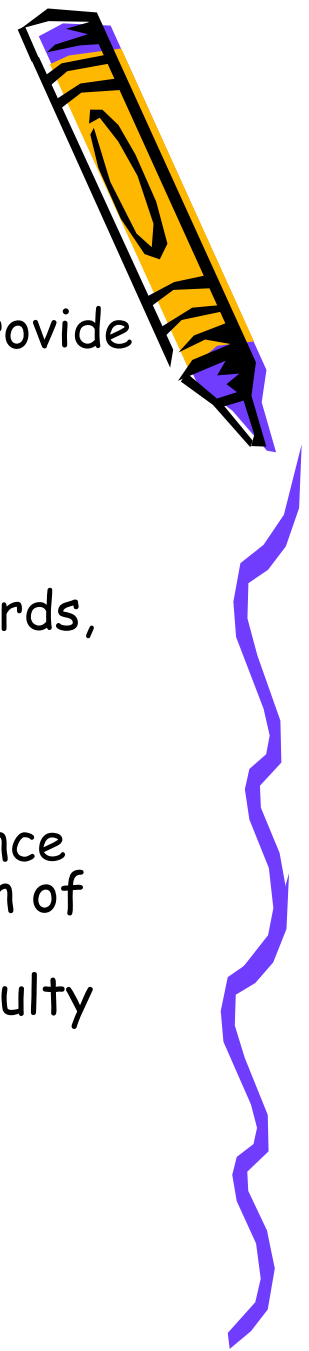


The 25 Providing Significant Benefits (2)

- Significant financial leveraging is possible for regional networks provided there is a sound mechanism ensuring oversight, quality control, and financial accountability.
- Targeted funding can play a major catalytic role by identifying and nurturing promising initiatives; ensuring that they are locally owned and benefit a widening circle of institutions and scholars throughout Africa; and helping them disseminate and apply research results.
- Strengthening of university networks, as well as their outcomes will inform NEPAD and other regional bodies that are actively looking for sound, regional projects in higher education that can be financed by the international donor community.



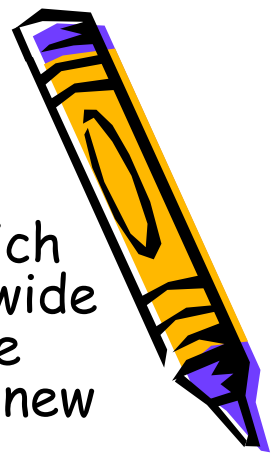
Examples of potential initiatives (1)



- Combining population departments in West African universities with the INDEPTH research network to provide students with a solid field research experience
- Building a coalition among multiple public universities in multiple countries to strengthen their departments of agricultural economics through common training standards, joint research, and analysis of specific issues for government and industry
- Strengthening university departments of political science and governance by building into the African Association of Political Science a new focus on curriculum reforms, upgrading faculty, joint electives for students, and faculty retraining in research methods and application



Examples of potential initiatives (2)



- Improving the institutional capacity of business and management schools through an African consortium which assembles teams of mentors drawn from schools worldwide and tailored to helping individual African schools realize their goals through including entrepreneurship models, new courses, and practical internships
- Kick starting the expansion of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, based in South Africa to 15 institutes across the continent, hosted by universities, to strengthening the application of mathematics to practical problem-solving
- Establishment of a string of business incubators in East and Southern Africa that link universities and local industry in the creation and marketing of affordable new technologies.



Major Challenges



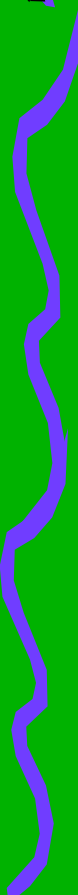
- Successful models are not being replicated
- Operation on a sub-optimal scale in terms of: serious research; masters and doctoral education, financing, governance, work implementation
- SA presence / Inactive Partners in project design, governance and implementation
- Lack of vetted information for potential financiers, international research networks, and home institutions



Critical Problems



- Not lack of funds per se. But lack of steady stream of high quality projects to attract financiers
- Failure to secure genuine local buy-in and isolation of 'network projects / work' from mainstream of partner institutional profile, self-presentation, financing and promotion
- High transaction costs in collaboration and perceived as high risks for potential financiers



RF's Support to Networks 2002-2007



| | Areas of Network | # NTWs |
|---|------------------|--------|
| 1 | Agriculture | 12 |
| 2 | Capacity B. | 7 |
| 3 | Gender | 3 |
| 4 | Health | 7 |
| 5 | ICT | 3 |
| 6 | Population | 5 |
| | Science & T. | 5 |
| | Social Science | 2 |

Total # of Networks: 44

Total # of Grants: 113

Total Grant Amount: \$36 Million

