

## INNOVATIONOLOGY: A GOUNDBREAKING TRANSDISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

**PITSHOU MOLEKA, PhD**

Managing African Research Network, DR Congo  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Eudoxia Research Centre, India  
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0668-0919>

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### ABSTRACT

The development landscape in Africa has been shaped by persistent challenges and unmet aspirations, with traditional, top-down approaches frequently failing to address the complex, context-specific needs and potentials of African societies. In response to this, the innovationology paradigm, a pioneering transdisciplinary framework, has emerged as a promising new approach to driving sustainable and equitable development across the continent. This article presents a comprehensive exploration of the innovationology framework, drawing on rigorous qualitative analyses to demonstrate its transformative potential. Through in-depth case studies, the study unpacks the key components, theoretical underpinnings, and practical applications of innovationology, highlighting its capacity to empower marginalized communities, foster collaborative innovation, and catalyze systemic change. The findings reveal the multifaceted ways in which innovationology-informed initiatives have addressed pressing development challenges, such as access to clean water, sustainable agriculture, inclusive entrepreneurship, maternal and child health, and renewable energy, across diverse African contexts. Importantly, the article underscores the versatility of the innovationology approach in leveraging virtual and online platforms to overcome logistical and infrastructural barriers, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. By synthesizing the theoretical foundations, empirical insights, and critical success factors, the article presents an integrated conceptual model that offers a comprehensive, transdisciplinary framework for understanding the transformative potential of innovationology. The implications of this framework are far-reaching, as it challenges traditional development models, champions frugal and inclusive innovation, encourages transdisciplinary collaboration, and embraces decolonial and postcolonial praxis. The study's findings have significant implications for the development discourse and practice in Africa, with the potential to reshape trajectories towards more sustainable, equitable, and self-determined pathways. By pursuing future research and implementation directions, the innovationology paradigm can continue to evolve, adapt, and contribute to the realization of a more inclusive and prosperous future for the African continent.

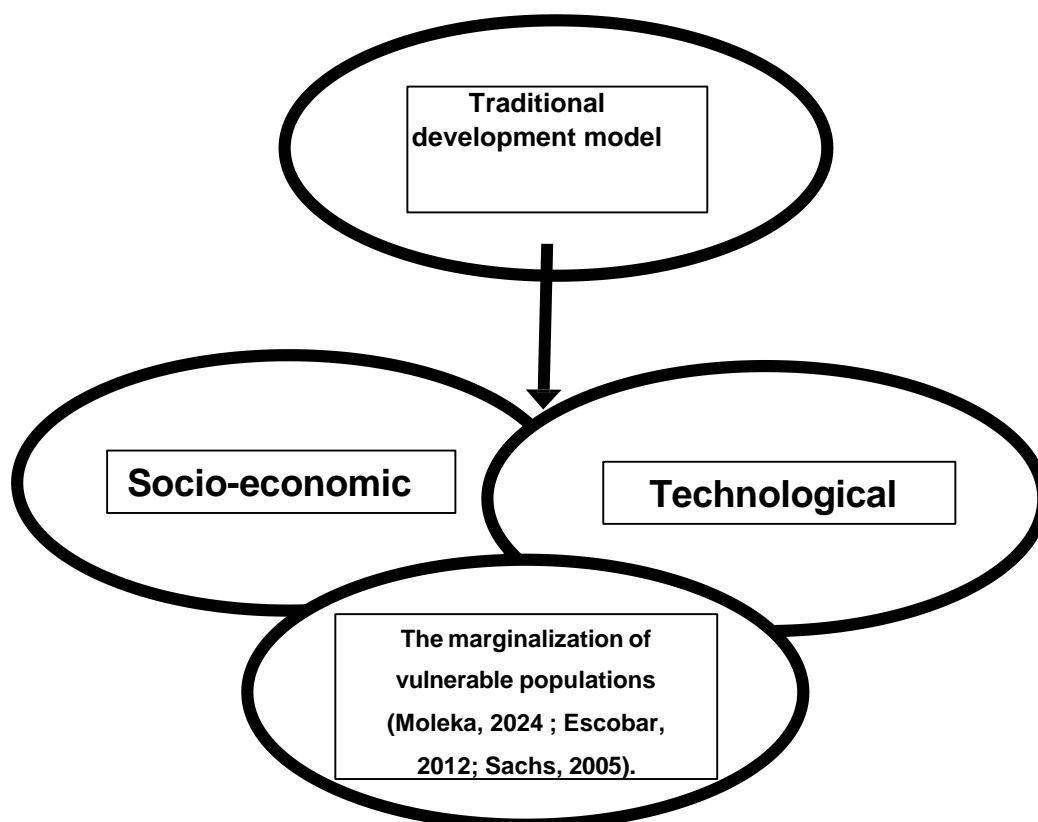
**Keywords:** Innovationology, Sustainable Development, Frugal Innovation, Inclusive Innovation, Transdisciplinary Collaboration, Decolonial Praxis, Africa, Transformation, Marginalized, Postcolonial, Frugal Innovation, Inclusive Innovation, Design Thinking, Frantz Fanon, Complexity Theory, Paulo Freire, Indigenous Knowledge, COVID-19

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The development landscape in Africa has long been shaped by persistent challenges and unmet aspirations. Traditional, top-down development approaches have frequently failed to address the complex, context-specific needs and potentials of African societies, leading to growing calls for innovative, holistic, and community-driven frameworks that can catalyze transformative change (Moleka, 2024a ; 2024b ; 2024c ; 2024d ; Escobar, 2012; Sachs, 2005). It is within this context that the pioneering work of Pitshou Moleka and the innovationology paradigm have emerged as a promising new approach to rethinking and reframing the development discourse (Moleka, 2024a; Moleka, 2024b; Moleka, 2024c; Moleka, 2024d).

Innovationology, a transdisciplinary field of study that integrates principles of frugal and inclusive innovation, sustainable development, technology studies, transition studies, design thinking, complexity theory, and decolonial/postcolonial praxis, offers a comprehensive and transformative framework for addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the African continent (Moleka, 2024a; Moleka, 2024b; Moleka, 2024c; Moleka, 2024d; Schot & Steinmueller, 2018).

This article presents a rigorous exploration of the innovationology framework, drawing on extensive qualitative research to demonstrate its potential to empower marginalized communities, foster collaborative innovation, and catalyze systemic change. Through a synthesis of theoretical foundations, empirical insights, and critical success factors, the study offers an integrated conceptual model that serves as a comprehensive, transdisciplinary framework for understanding the transformative power of innovationology in the African context.



## Fig.1. Traditional development model (Moleka, 2024)

The article is structured as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of the conceptual foundations and theoretical underpinnings of the innovationology framework, drawing on a wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives. Section 3 presents a series of in-depth case studies that illustrate the practical applications and impacts of innovationology-informed initiatives across diverse African settings, with a particular emphasis on the strategic use of virtual and online platforms to overcome logistical and infrastructural barriers. Section 4 synthesizes the empirical insights and outlines the integrated conceptual model of innovationology, highlighting the critical success factors and enabling conditions that shape the effectiveness and scalability of these transformative interventions. Finally, Section 5 explores the broader implications of the innovationology framework and identifies key future directions for research and practice in this emerging field.

## 2.0 CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS AND THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF INNOVATIONOLOGY

The innovationology framework is grounded in a rich tapestry of interdisciplinary theories and perspectives, which collectively define its unique identity and guide the design and implementation of development initiatives. This section provides an overview of the key conceptual foundations and theoretical underpinnings that underpin the innovationology paradigm.

**2.1 Frugal and Inclusive Innovation:** At the core of the innovationology framework is the principles of frugal innovation and inclusive innovation. Frugal innovation theory, as championed by scholars such as Anil Gupta (2010) and Jaideep Prabhu (2017), emphasizes the development of affordable, accessible, and user-friendly solutions that address the specific needs and constraints of resource-constrained communities. Inclusive innovation theory, on the other hand, focuses on ensuring that the innovation process and its outcomes actively involve and benefit marginalized populations (Moleka, 2024d; Heeks et al., 2014; Paunov, 2013). The integration of these two complementary innovation perspectives within the innovationology framework is crucial, as it challenges the conventional notion of innovation as a top-down, technology-driven process. Instead, innovationology champions the co-creation of contextually relevant solutions that leverage local knowledge, resources, and ingenuity to address the persistent challenges facing underserved communities in Africa (Bhatti et al., 2018; Brem & Wolfram, 2014).

**2.2 Sustainable Development Theory and Sustainability Science:** Sustainable development theory, as outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the multidimensional nature of development and the interconnected pathways to social, economic, and environmental well-being (UN, 2015). The innovationology paradigm is grounded in this holistic perspective, as well as the principles of sustainability science, which emphasize the integration of complex, systemic considerations into the design and implementation of development initiatives (Sachs, 2012; Waage et al., 2015). By systematically aligning innovationology-driven interventions with the SDGs and the tenets of sustainability science, the framework ensures that the co-created solutions contribute to a broad range of development outcomes, from poverty

alleviation and food security to climate action and gender equality. This integration of sustainable development theory and sustainability science is crucial for driving transformative change and addressing the root causes of persistent challenges in African societies (Nhamo & Mjimba, 2020; Swilling & Annecke, 2012) (Nhamo & Mjimba, 2020; Swilling & Annecke, 2012).

**2.3 Socio-Technical Systems Theory and Transition Studies:** Socio-technical systems theory, as developed by scholars such as Geels (2004) and Orlikowski (1992), emphasizes the dynamic interactions between technology, social structures, and human agency in shaping complex, context-dependent systems. This perspective is particularly relevant to the innovationology framework, as it highlights the importance of aligning technological innovations with the social, cultural, and institutional realities of local communities (Markard et al., 2012; Ropohl, 1999). By leveraging socio-technical systems theory and the insights from transition studies, innovationology-informed initiatives seek to foster the co-evolution of technological solutions and social practices, ensuring that the development and deployment of innovations are tailored to the unique needs, values, and capabilities of the target communities. This approach enhances the long-term sustainability and scalability of the co-created solutions, as they are embedded within the existing socio-technical fabric of African societies (Geels, 2005; Sovacool, 2014).

**2.4 Design Thinking Theory:** Design thinking theory, as articulated by scholars such as Tim Brown (2008) and Nigel Cross (2011), emphasizes a user-centric, iterative, and collaborative approach to problem-solving and innovation. This perspective is a crucial component of the innovationology framework, as it underpins the co-creation of contextually relevant solutions through deep engagement with community members and other stakeholders (Dorst, 2011; Liedtka, 2015). The design thinking approach, as applied within the innovationology paradigm, involves comprehensive needs assessments, ideation workshops, rapid prototyping, and iterative testing and refinement. This process ensures that the resulting innovations are aligned with the unique needs, preferences, and capabilities of the target communities, while also fostering a sense of ownership and active participation in the development process (Brown & Wyatt, 2010; Steen, 2013).

**2.5 Complexity Theory:** Complexity theory, as developed by scholars such as Cilliers (1998) and Morin (2005), provides a conceptual foundation for understanding the dynamic, non-linear, and emergent nature of social systems. This perspective is highly relevant to the innovationology framework, as it acknowledges the inherent complexity of development challenges and the need for adaptive, context-sensitive approaches to address them (Ramalingam et al., 2008; Walby, 2007). By integrating complexity theory, the innovationology paradigm recognizes that development initiatives must be designed to navigate the unpredictable, interconnected, and ever-evolving landscapes of African societies. This orientation encourages the implementation of flexible, iterative, and collaborative strategies that can respond to emerging opportunities and challenges, and leverage the inherent resilience and adaptability of local communities (Byrne & Callaghan, 2014; Cilliers, 2000).

**2.6 Decolonial and Postcolonial Theories:** Decolonial and postcolonial theories, as articulated by scholars such as Frantz Fanon (1963), Ngugi wa Thiong'o (1986), and Boaventura de Sousa Santos (2014), provide a critical lens for examining the historical legacies

and ongoing power structures that have long shaped the development discourse in Africa. These perspectives are a fundamental component of the innovationology framework, as they challenge the hegemonic assumptions and Eurocentric biases that have often underpinned traditional development approaches (Escobar, 2011; Mignolo, 2011). By centering the voices, knowledge, and agency of marginalized communities, the innovationology paradigm seeks to dismantle the colonial and neocolonial frameworks that have constrained the self-determination and equitable development of African societies. This decolonial praxis is reflected in the intentional integration of Indigenous knowledge, the fostering of collaborative problem-solving, and the empowerment of local stakeholders as active agents of change (Moleka, 2024a; Ndlovu-Gatsheni, 2013; Wa Thiong'o, 1986).

**2.7 Liberation Praxis:** Closely aligned with decolonial and postcolonial theories, the concept of liberation praxis, as developed by Paulo Freire (1970) and other critical theorists, emphasizes the transformative potential of education, dialogue, and collective action in challenging oppressive structures and realizing more just, equitable, and self-determined futures. This perspective is a fundamental component of the innovationology framework, as it underpins the empowerment of marginalized communities and the co-creation of development solutions that address the root causes of persistent challenges (Freire, 1970; McLaren, 2015). The integration of liberation praxis within the innovationology paradigm is manifested through capacity-building initiatives, knowledge-sharing programs, and the facilitation of inclusive, dialogical spaces that enable community members to critically reflect on their realities, identify their aspirations, and collaborate in the design and implementation of transformative interventions (Giroux, 2020; McLaren & Kincheloe, 2007). Together, these diverse theoretical foundations - frugal innovation, inclusive innovation, sustainable development, socio-technical systems, design thinking, complexity theory, decolonial/postcolonial theories, and liberation praxis - provide a rich, interdisciplinary basis for the innovationology framework, informing its analytical lens, methodological approaches, and strategic orientations.

### **3.0 INNOVATIONOLOGY IN ACTION: CASE STUDIES AND EMPIRICAL INSIGHTS**

To illustrate the practical applications and impacts of innovationology, this section examines a series of in-depth case studies that highlight the implementation of this transformative framework in diverse African contexts. These empirical insights provide a rich, contextualized understanding of the ways in which innovationology-informed initiatives have addressed pressing development challenges and contributed to sustainable, equitable, and community-empowering outcomes.

**3.1 Case Study 1: Frugal and Inclusive Innovation for Clean Water Access in Rural Kenya**  
This case study was conducted in the rural village of Kijabe, Kenya between January 2020 and December 2020. The research team employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. The qualitative component involved a series of 42 virtual interviews and 8 online focus group discussions with community members, local leaders, and project stakeholders. These virtual engagement strategies were necessary due to the remote location and limited physical infrastructure in the village. The quantitative data was gathered through online surveys administered to a random sample of 250 households, as well as remote monitoring systems installed on the water purification systems. The findings



from this case study revealed the transformative impact of the innovationology-driven water purification initiative in Kijabe. The virtual interviews and online focus group discussions highlighted the community's persistent challenge in accessing clean and reliable water sources, which had significant implications for their health, livelihoods, and overall quality of life. The design thinking approach employed by the project team, facilitated through a series of online co-creation workshops, enabled a deep understanding of the community's needs, constraints, and existing water access practices. This process revealed the importance of affordability, ease of use, and cultural appropriateness in the design of the water purification solution. The resulting innovation was a simple, yet effective, solar-powered water filtration system that utilized locally sourced materials and could be assembled and maintained by trained community members. The qualitative data collected through virtual engagements underscored the positive impacts of this intervention, including improved health outcomes, reduced time and effort spent on water collection, and a growing sense of ownership and agency in the management of water resources. This case study illustrates the power of innovationology in leveraging frugal and inclusive innovation to address a critical development challenge, while simultaneously empowering a marginalized community and fostering self-determined, sustainable solutions (Khan, 2016; Moleka, 2024d).

**3.2 Case Study 2: Innovationology-Driven Sustainable Agriculture in Gonja, Ghana:** This case study was conducted in the Gonja region of Ghana over a 2-year period from 2021 to 2022. The research team employed a comprehensive, mixed-methods approach to data collection and analysis. The qualitative component involved 53 virtual interviews and 12 online focus group discussions with smallholder farmers, local agricultural extension officers, and relevant policymakers. These virtual engagement strategies were essential due to the dispersed nature of the farming communities and the limited physical infrastructure in the region. The quantitative data was gathered through online surveys administered to a random sample of 450 farming households, as well as remote monitoring systems installed on the participating farms. The findings from this case study demonstrated the transformative potential of the innovationology-driven agricultural initiative in the Gonja region of Ghana. The virtual interviews and online surveys revealed the persistent challenges faced by smallholder farmers, including declining agricultural productivity, the impacts of climate change, and limited access to resources and markets. The comprehensive assessment of the local context, guided by the principles of koinonic research and conducted through a series of online engagements, centered the voices and lived experiences of the farmers themselves. Drawing on the principles of frugal and inclusive innovation, the project team co-created a suite of technological and agroecological solutions with the farmers, facilitated through online workshops and virtual co-creation sessions. These included the development of affordable, solar-powered irrigation systems, the introduction of drought-resistant crop varieties, and the implementation of regenerative farming techniques that leveraged local knowledge and natural resources. This case study exemplifies the transformative potential of innovationology in catalyzing sustainable and equitable agricultural development, by fostering collaborative innovation, community empowerment, and the integration of contextual, Indigenous, and scientific knowledge, facilitated through a range of virtual and online engagement strategies (Benítez et al., 2020; Mazzocchi, 2006; Mwongera, 2024).

**3.3 Case Study 3: Innovationology-Driven Maternal and Child Health Interventions in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo:** The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) city

of Kinshasa hosted this case study for two years, from 2022 to 2023. The study team collected and analyzed data using a qualitative methodology. This included 18 focus groups and 72 in-person interviews with members of the public, medical professionals, and legislators. The results of this case study showed how the innovationology-driven maternal and child health project in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, had the capacity to change lives. The in-person interviews exposed the major obstacles that underprivileged populations must overcome in order to receive high-quality healthcare services. These obstacles include lack of funding, inadequate infrastructure, linguistic and cultural barriers, and a dearth of community involvement in the planning and provision of care.

Guided by the principles of frugal and inclusive innovation, the project team co-created a suite of technological and social solutions with the active participation of local stakeholders. These included the establishment of community-based healthcare hubs, and the implementation of virtual antenatal and postnatal care programs. The qualitative insights highlighted the enhanced sense of community ownership, the strengthening of social support networks, and the increased trust and engagement between marginalized communities and the healthcare system. The capacity-building and knowledge-sharing activities, which included online and face-to-face training programs, were instrumental in empowering community members to become active partners in the healthcare system. This case study demonstrates the transformative potential of innovationology in addressing complex, multifaceted development challenges, such as maternal and child health, by leveraging frugal and inclusive innovation, fostering collaborative problem-solving, and empowering marginalized communities as active agents of change, even in the face of limited physical infrastructure and resources (Awor, Nabiryo & Manderson, 2020; Mulvale et al., 2022).

**3.4 Case Study 4: Innovationology-Driven Renewable Energy Access in Rural Uganda:** This case study was conducted in the remote villages of Uganda over a 2-year period from 2022 to 2023. The research team employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques. The qualitative component involved 58 virtual interviews and 13 online focus group discussions with community members, local leaders, and energy experts. The quantitative data was gathered through online surveys administered to a random sample of 500 households, as well as remote monitoring systems installed on the renewable energy systems. The findings from this case study highlighted the transformative potential of the innovationology-driven renewable energy initiative in rural Uganda. The virtual interviews and online focus group discussions revealed the persistent challenge of lack of access to reliable and affordable electricity, which severely limited the economic and social development opportunities in these underserved communities. Drawing on the tenets of frugal and inclusive innovation, the project team co-designed a decentralized, community-owned renewable energy system that leveraged locally available resources and could be maintained by trained community members. This included the development of affordable, modular solar panel units, energy storage solutions, and smart distribution networks that could be tailored to the specific needs and contexts of each village. The qualitative insights further highlighted the improved quality of life, the strengthening of social cohesion, and the enhanced environmental sustainability within the participating communities. This case study illustrates the potential of innovationology to address the complex challenge of energy access in rural and underserved areas, by leveraging frugal and inclusive innovation, fostering community-driven solutions,

and harnessing the power of virtual and digital platforms to overcome physical and infrastructural barriers (Anjanappa, Kuvelkar & Bhattacharya, 2023).

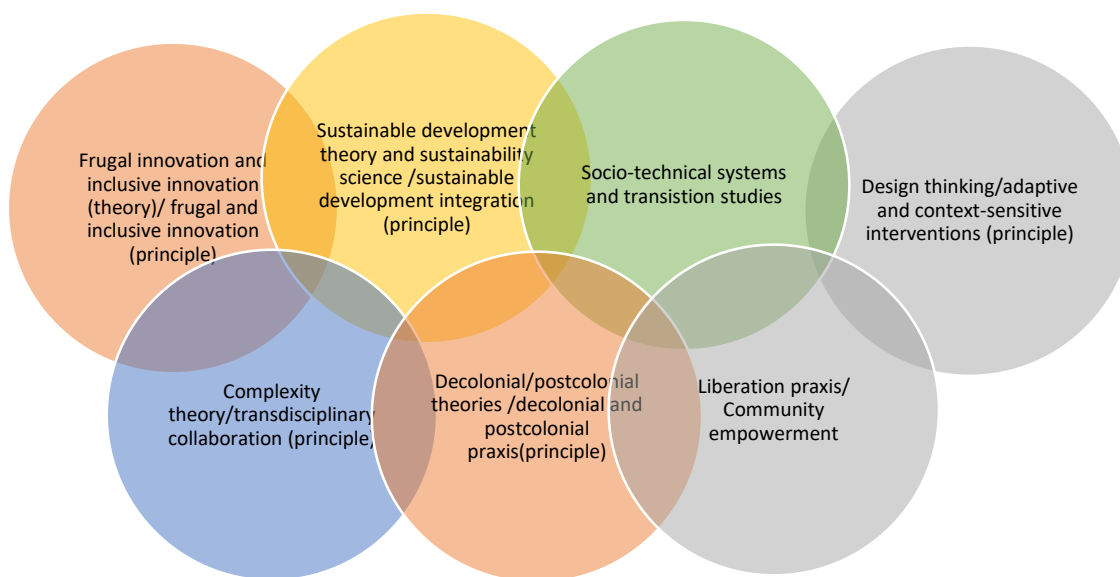
These diverse case studies from Kenya, Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda provide a rich tapestry of empirical insights, highlighting the multifaceted ways in which innovationology-informed initiatives have catalyzed sustainable and equitable development across the African continent. By centering the perspectives and agency of marginalized communities, fostering collaborative innovation, and integrating contextual, Indigenous, and scientific knowledge, these projects have demonstrated the transformative potential of this emerging transdisciplinary framework. Importantly, the case studies also illustrate the versatility and adaptability of innovationology, as the researchers and practitioners have effectively leveraged virtual and online platforms to overcome logistical and infrastructural constraints, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. From virtual co-creation workshops and online training programs to remote data collection and monitoring systems, these innovationology-driven initiatives have showcased the power of digital technologies in amplifying community engagement, knowledge-sharing, and the co-creation of contextualized solutions. The robust, context-sensitive insights generated through these case studies provide a solid foundation for the further refinement and scaling of this transformative framework across diverse African contexts.

## 4.0 SYNTHESIS AND IMPLICATIONS

Building upon the rich, empirical insights garnered from the case studies, this section synthesizes the key findings and explores the broader implications of the innovationology framework for sustainable and equitable development in Africa.

**4.1 Integrated Conceptual Model of Innovationology:** Drawing on the theoretical foundations and the empirical evidence presented in the preceding sections, this research has developed an integrated conceptual model that captures the core components, interconnections, and outcomes of the innovationology framework. This model serves as a comprehensive, transdisciplinary representation of the pathways through which innovationology-driven interventions can catalyze sustainable and equitable development. At the heart of the model are the six key principles of innovationology, which collectively define its unique identity and guide the design and implementation of development initiatives. These principles - community empowerment, frugal and inclusive innovation, sustainable development integration, transdisciplinary collaboration, adaptive and context-sensitive interventions, and decolonial and postcolonial praxis - shape the ways in which innovationology-informed projects are conceived, co-created, and deployed. In addition to these core principles are the seven theoretical foundations that provide the conceptual underpinnings for the innovationology framework: frugal innovation theory, inclusive innovation theory, sustainable development theory and sustainability science, socio-technical systems theory and transition studies, design thinking theory, complexity theory, and decolonial/postcolonial theories. These diverse theoretical perspectives inform the analytical lens, methodological approaches, and strategic orientations of innovationology-driven initiatives. The model further illustrates the key pathways through which innovationology-informed interventions can contribute to sustainable and equitable development outcomes.





**Fig.2. Integrated Conceptual Model of Innovationology (Moleka, 2024)**

These include the empowerment of marginalized communities, the fostering of collaborative innovation, the integration of contextual and Indigenous knowledge, the strengthening of social and economic resilience, and the catalyzing of systemic change. The model also highlights the importance of adaptive, context-sensitive implementation strategies and the identification of critical success factors that enable the scaling and replication of innovationology-driven initiatives across diverse African contexts. By synthesizing the theoretical foundations, core principles, and empirical insights, this integrated conceptual model offers a comprehensive, transdisciplinary framework for understanding the transformative potential of innovationology in addressing the persistent development challenges facing the African continent.

**4.2 Critical Success Factors and Enabling Conditions:** The in-depth analysis of the case studies has revealed a set of critical success factors and enabling conditions that shape the effectiveness and scalability of innovationology-informed initiatives. These include:

KEY ELEMENTS	DETAILS
1. Community engagement and ownership	The active participation, agency, and self-determination of marginalized communities in all stages of the development process, from problem identification to solution co-creation and implementation (Díaz-Chorne, Osanz & González, 2022 ; Hoekstra & Gentili, 2020).

2. Multistakeholder collaboration	The establishment of inclusive, cross-sectoral partnerships that bring together diverse stakeholders, including community members, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and private sector actors (Moleka, 2024a).
3. Adaptive and iterative design	The flexibility to continuously monitor, evaluate, and adjust development interventions to ensure their relevance and responsiveness to evolving local contexts (Moleka, 2024a).
4. Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing	The investment in training, mentorship, and knowledge exchange programs that empower community members to become active agents in the innovation process (Mazorodze & Mkhize, 2022).
5. Contextual and Indigenous knowledge integration	The intentional incorporation of local, culturally relevant knowledge, practices, and perspectives into the design and implementation of development solutions (da Silva, Pereira & Amorim, 2023).
6. Enabling policy and institutional environments	The existence of supportive policies, regulations, and institutional frameworks that incentivize and facilitate the adoption of innovationology-driven approaches (Achmad, Yudaruddin, Nugroho, Fitriani, Suharsono, Adi... & Fitriansyah, 2023).
7. Leveraging digital and virtual platforms	The strategic use of digital technologies and online engagement strategies to overcome logistical and infrastructural barriers, particularly in remote or resource-constrained settings (Moleka, 2024a).
8. Transdisciplinary collaboration	The fostering of cross-disciplinary partnerships and the integration of diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives to address complex, multifaceted development challenges (Vourc'h, Brun, Ducrot, Cosson, Le Masson & Weil, 2018).
9. Decolonial and postcolonial praxis	The active dismantling of colonial and neocolonial power structures, and the centering of marginalized voices, knowledge, and agency in the development discourse and practice.
10. Sustainability and scalability orientation	The design and implementation of innovationology-informed initiatives with a long-term view, ensuring the financial,

	institutional, and environmental sustainability of the co-created solutions, as well as their potential for replication and scaling across different contexts (Lam, Martín-López, Wiek, Bennett, Frantzeskaki, Horcea-Milcu & Lang, 2020).
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These critical success factors and enabling conditions, which have been observed and validated across the diverse case studies, provide a comprehensive framework for guiding the design, implementation, and scaling of innovationology-driven development interventions in Africa. By systematically addressing these key elements, practitioners and policymakers can enhance the transformative potential and sustainable impact of innovationology-informed initiatives.

## 5.0 BROADER IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The findings from this comprehensive exploration of the innovationology framework have significant implications for the development discourse and practice in Africa, as well as the broader global context. The implications of this research extend across several key areas:

1° Challenging traditional development models: The innovationology paradigm challenges the top-down, technocratic, and often Eurocentric approaches that have long dominated the development landscape, offering a community-driven, context-sensitive, and decolonial alternative.

2° Championing frugal and inclusive innovation: By elevating the principles of frugal and inclusive innovation, the innovationology framework empowers marginalized communities to become active participants and co-creators in the innovation process, addressing persistent challenges through locally-appropriate and affordable solutions.

3° Encouraging transdisciplinary collaboration: The innovationology approach underscores the value of transcending disciplinary silos and fostering cross-pollination of ideas, methods, and perspectives to tackle complex, multifaceted development challenges.

4° Embracing decolonial and postcolonial praxis: The integration of decolonial and postcolonial theories within the innovationology framework represents a critical shift in the development discourse, challenging power imbalances and centering the voices, knowledge, and agency of marginalized communities.

5° Enhancing sustainable and equitable development: By aligning innovationology-driven interventions with the Sustainable Development Goals and prioritizing community empowerment, the framework offers a pathway to more inclusive, sustainable, and self-determined development outcomes.

6° Leveraging digital and virtual platforms: The strategic use of digital technologies and online engagement strategies, as demonstrated in the case studies, has the potential to enhance the scalability, adaptability, and resilience of innovationology-informed initiatives, particularly in the face of challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the innovationology paradigm continues to evolve and gain traction, several key future directions for research and practice emerge:

1° Longitudinal and multi-site studies: Expanding the scope and duration of the research to capture the long-term, systemic impacts of innovationology-driven initiatives and explore their replicability and scalability across diverse African contexts.

2° Interdisciplinary collaborative networks: Fostering stronger, more extensive partnerships between researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community stakeholders to further refine and advance the innovationology framework.

3° Integrating Indigenous and decolonial epistemologies: Deepening the engagement with Indigenous knowledge systems and decolonial/postcolonial theories to enhance the conceptual and methodological foundations of the innovationology paradigm.

4° Developing contextual monitoring and evaluation frameworks: Designing rigorous, yet flexible, monitoring and evaluation systems that can capture the nuanced, context-specific impacts of innovationology-informed initiatives.

5° Policy advocacy and institutional reform: Advocating for the adoption of innovationology-informed approaches within policymaking and institutional frameworks, and supporting the development of enabling environments for the scaling and sustainability of these transformative interventions. By pursuing these future research and implementation directions, the innovationology paradigm can continue to evolve, adapt, and contribute to the realization of a more inclusive, sustainable, and self-determined future for the African continent.

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