

*Enhanced academia involvement for
fast tracking SMEs development in
the leather sector in Sudan*

A joint research activity between
(SUST) & (ALLPI)

INTRODUCTION

- Sudan has a huge live – stock which is about 105 million heads of the different species viz. cattle, sheep ,goat & camels (Ministry of Animal resources & fisheries) .
- The annual production of hides & skins is estimated to be 3 million & 25 million pieces respectively.

- The modern tanning industry started in Sudan in the year 1945 with Osman Salih tannery in Omdurman & now there are 27 tanneries , most of them are located in Khartoum State.
- There are three Leather centers viz. the National Leather Technology center, the National center for hides & skins improvement & Karari Vocational Training Center.

SUDAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- Sudan University of Science & Technology being a leading University in the leather sector has established in the year 2000 the Industrial Leather Engineering Department in the college of Industrial Engineering & Technology. & in the year 2005 the Technological Incubator for Leather Industry (TILI) as a joint venture between Sudan University of Science & Technology and the Federal Ministry of Industry & Trade was founded.

- This Incubator started work in the year 2007 & it consists of the following departments:-
- The Tannery
- The footwear & leather goods
- Quality control
- CAD- CAM
- Training
- Recently the University established the self Training & Entrepreneurship centre .
- Therefore we believe that this Project is of high relevancy to (SUST).

Research Problem

- No real & accurate data concerning the SMEs in Sudan in addition there is no direct link between the SMEs & the relevant institutes e.g. the incubator.
- Hence, this research is intended to address the following question:
- **To what extent the interface between the incubator and SMEs is suitably managed to create a conducive environment for the development of the leather sector in Sudan.**

- The following questions will be more specifically addressed:
- What is the character of SMEs involved in the leather business in Sudan (nature, location, size)?
- What are the challenges facing the SMEs?
- To what extent there was discrepancy between the incubator and SMEs needs and expectations?
- How can the incubator provide appropriate services and incubate SMEs based on good understanding of their prospects and needs?

Research objectives

- To be aware of the character of SMEs involved in the leather business in Sudan.
- To identify the challenges facing the SMEs.
- To scrutinize and recognize the needs and expectations of the SMEs.
- To develop a conceptual framework that facilitates appropriate incubation of the SMEs pertinent to their contribution to the development of the leather sector in Sudan.

Research justification

- The incubator is seen as a unique institution in the leather sector as it is distinguished by the following characters:
- The incubator is a part of an esteemed university (SUST).
- It is reasonably equipped in its different departments.
- This incubator is the first one in Sudan with a cumulative experiences of over a decade.
- Considering the unique quality of SUST and its incubator, it is expected that acknowledging the nature of SMEs will facilitate their better incubation leading to the development of the leather sector in Sudan. Moreover, experiences and lessons learnt might be applicable to other African countries and contribute to the enrichment of the ALLPI knowledge base.

Research focus and methodology

- A comprehensive literature study will be conducted as part of the reconnaissance study of the issue. Consequently, Khartoum & North Kordofan states will be selected as the focus of this research. SMEs involved in the leather business will then be identified and classified
- An appropriate sample covering the various SME strata will be selected.
- Data collection will be based on a variety of tools. All selected SMEs will be interviewed based on the semi-structured interview technique. This will be augmented by other data collection tools including: observations, case studies and individual/group discussions.

The research team

- Socio-economic specialist.
- Leather Technologist
- Footwear & leather goods specialist.
- Four research assistants (2 male+2 female).

Required Resources

- The following requirements will need to be provided for the proper accomplishment of the project:
- Transportation.
- Stationeries.
- Typing, printing, copying and binding.
- Staff stipends.
- Contingencies.
- Time (12 Months)

Plan of The Work

[illegible]

Budget

Local Component to be met by (SUST)

No.	Item	Cost/SDG	
1	Stationeries	30000	
2	Office Renting	60000	
3	Electricity & Water	30000	
Total		120000	

Foreign Component to be Facilitated by (Allpi)

No.	Item	Cost/\$	Remark
1	Transportation	8000	Renting a car
2	2-Computers	1000	
3	Printer	500	
4	Copying Machine	5000	
5	Staff Stipends	10000	3 Researchers + 4- Assistants
6	Contingences	5500	
Total		30000	

Research Out - Come

- Identification of the character of the SMEs involved in the leather business in Sudan.
- Identification of the challenges facing the SMEs.
- scrutinization and recognition of the needs and expectations of the SMEs.
- Publishing at least one paper

Thank you

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