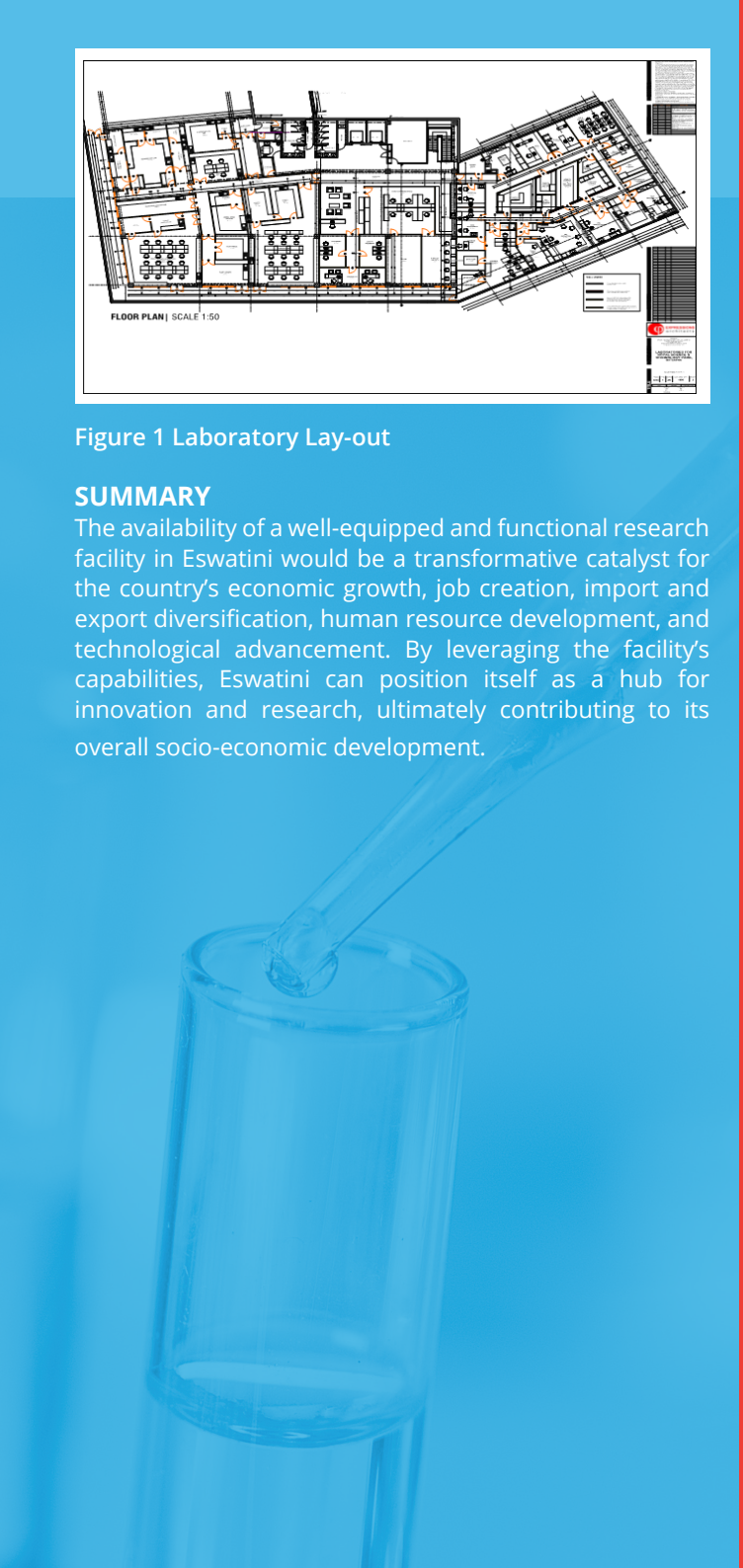
Figure 1 Laboratory Lay-out

SUMMARY

The availability of a well-equipped and functional research facility in Eswatini would be a transformative catalyst for the country's economic growth, job creation, import and export diversification, human resource development, and technological advancement. By leveraging the facility's capabilities, Eswatini can position itself as a hub for innovation and research, ultimately contributing to its overall socio-economic development.



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RSTP_Eswatini

Royal Science and Technology Park

Royal Science and Technology Park

BIOTECHNOLOGY PARK

Royal Science & Technology Park

ROYAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

The Royal Science and Technology Park (RSTP) was created through the vision of His Majesty King Mswati III. The Vision is well enshrined in the Act of Parliament, the Royal Science and Technology Park Act of 2012 repealed by the RSTP Act of 2023. The Vision is the first comprehensive effort to promote science, technology and innovation in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

The Royal Science and Technology Park is divided into two divisions which are the IT Park and the Biotechnology Park. It manages about 317.17ha of land, of which 152ha is dedicated to industrial development land and 165.17ha is shared between research and laboratories, administration centres and residential buildings. The RSTP aims to provide steadfast support for basic research and innovation. In doing so, we provide a coherent approach to maximizing the innovation dividend through the RSTP research facility..

Biotechnology Research Facilities

The RSTP Research Facilities is a part of the master plan for the RSTP as the National Research Laboratories to be situated at the RSTP. Looking at the goal of the Government to diversify into a knowledge-based economy, in which the bioeconomy is the main contributor and the RSTP is one of the main key players in the implementation of the bio-economy strategy.

Main Goal

To be a leading centre for comprehensive and multidisciplinary biotechnology that will bridge the laboratory equipment gap in the country, support research, education and technology transfer for biotechnology applications

Objectives

1. Conduct cutting-edge research and technological innovation to improve the quality of life of Emaswati.

2. Contribute to the research ecosystem by serving as a hub for national, regional and international research networks, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

3. Research, develop, and accelerate the dissemination of transformative technologies.

4. Support Innovation and commercialisation of local products to increase the export market.

5. Promote socioeconomic transformation through Research Development & Innovation to assist in bettering the lives of people in Eswatini.

6. Enhance human capital and infrastructure; diversify income streams; and ensure financial sustainability and good governance.

Services:

- **Capacity Building:** Invest in developing state-of-the-art infrastructure, equipment, and human resources to enhance the facility's research and testing capabilities, contributing to Eswatini's bioeconomy.

- **Service Provision:** Offer high-quality analytical, testing, and research services to support the needs of other laboratories, academic institutions, and industry partners in the food and Agriculture sector.

- **Collaborative Research:** Facilitate and foster cooperative research projects between universities, research institutes, and private sector organizations to drive innovation and address pressing challenges in the biotechnology field.

- **Promote Knowledge Dissemination:** Organize conferences, workshops, symposia, training programs, and knowledge exchange platforms to enhance the skills and expertise of researchers, technicians, and industry professionals in the biotechnology domain.

- **Institutional Networking:** Establish and strengthen partnerships with local and international biotechnology institutes, universities, and industries.

National Strategies and Policies supporting the program

- SADC Common Agenda, 2019
- AU-EU Agenda 2063
- Bio-economy Strategy, 2019
- National Development Strategy,1999

- A Poverty Reduction and Action Plan, 2006
- Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth for 2030
- RSTP Act, 2012 amended 2023
- STI policy, 2011

Laboratory Scope

1. Testing Facilities (ISO 17025 Accredited)
   - Food quality testing
   - Food safety testing
2. Pharma lab /IK
3. Plant tissue culture-propagation
4. Animal Tissue Culture
5. Protein Prep - GMP manufacturing of biosimilars (ICGEB)
6. DNA and Forensics lab. Incubator facilities
7. Core Facilities
   - Sequencing/genotyping/bioinformatics
   - GC/LC/MS analytical facilities
   - Plant and animal pathogens
8. Incubation Facility