



**Moses Kotane  
Research Institute**

Research · Innovation · Excellence

# **CALL FOR APPLICATION: UTHUKELA INNOVATOR'S HACKATHON 2025**

**CLOSING DATE: 21 November 2025 (Extended)**

Visit our website to apply

   @moseskotaneresearchinstitute  
[www.moseskotaneinstitute.com](http://www.moseskotaneinstitute.com)

# CALL FOR APPLICATION: UTHUKELA INNOVATOR'S HACKATHON 2025

## Background

The Moses Kotane Research Institute (MKRI), through its Commercialising Innovation and Research (CIR) Programme, in partnership with local municipalities, invites youth, SMMEs, cooperatives, schools, and informal traders from the uThukela District to participate in the upcoming Grassroots Hackathon. This dynamic grassroots innovation challenge offers a platform for community-led problem solving and idea development, focusing on practical, affordable, and locally d

## 3. Theme

uThukela Innovates - Think Local-Solve Local" is the hackathon theme that encourages community-driven innovations in agriculture, tourism and other relevant sectors. It focuses on low-tech, indigenous, economical and service based solutions.

## 4. Hackathon Focus Areas

- Agriculture and Food Security: Manual or solar-powered tools, frugal irrigation systems, composting solutions
- Tourism and Cultural Preservation: Indigenous artefacts, rural hospitality models
- SMMEs and Manufacturing: Product/process innovations, low-cost vending systems
- Sustainability and Waste-to-Value: Recycled material tools, clean energy devices
- Youth and Community Services: Mobile community services, rural training models

## 5. Eligible Participants

- Local youth and community
- Local inventors, creatives and makers
- Informal traders, schools, cooperatives, and SMMEs
- Elders and traditional knowledge holders from the following municipalities: Okhahlamba, Alfred Duma, and Inkosi Langalibalele.

## 6. Judging Criteria

- Relevance to local problems
- Cost-effectiveness and simplicity.
- Use of local/recycled materials
- Scalability and replication potential
- Community benefit and inclusivity

## 7. Prizes and Post-Hack Support

- In-kind support (equipment, tools, training) and any other relevant support to the solution/idea.
- Access to MKRI's CIR and other Innovation Programme
- Mentorship and pilot project opportunities

## 8. Submission Details

Interested participants must submit application form and their proposal topic ideas, which should include:

- A brief background,
- A clear problem statement, and
- A proposed solution.

Submissions must not exceed three (3) pages in total.

Applications should be submitted by **21 November 2025** to [hackathons@moseskotane.com](mailto:hackathons@moseskotane.com)

For queries, please contact Ms Asebenzile Mkunyana at; [hackathons@moseskotane.com](mailto:hackathons@moseskotane.com)