

# UN TECHNOLOGY BANK FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

## Appointment of New Managing Director



◆ In **April 2024**, the UN Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries welcomed Mr. Deodat Maharaj as its **new Managing Director**. With over 25 years of international leadership experience, including working in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Mr. Maharaj brings a wealth of expertise to his new role. As the 3rd Executive Director of the UN Technology Bank, Mr. Maharaj is poised to lead the institution's efforts in leveraging science, technology, and innovation to support the 45 LDCs across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and the Caribbean, ensuring that they receive the assistance they need to fast-track their development goals.

### Meeting with UNDP ICPSD



### 27th session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development



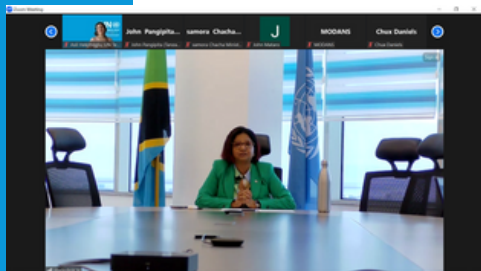
### Meeting with Under-Secretary General H.E. Rabab Fatima



## Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs)



◆ The **Technology Needs Assessment** for **Malawi** was kicked-off in **May 2024**, bringing together over 80 participants from various sectors. The TNA will identify key technologies and expertise needed to address the country's development challenges, with a focus on technology transfer and capacity building.



◆ The **Technology Needs Assessment** for **Tanzania** was launched in **April 2024**. The initiative will work to pinpoint the technologies and technical know-how required to address the country's development needs, with a strong emphasis on technology transfer and capacity building, especially in the blue economy sector.

## Post-Harvest Loss Management of Cashews in The Gambia



◆ From **27th to 30th May 2024**, the UN Technology Bank conducted a field mission to **The Gambia** to assess challenges in the cashew nut sector as part of the **Post-Harvest Loss Management project**. Aligned with The Gambia's National Development Plan, the project aims to strengthen the country's capacity to reduce post-harvest losses in the cashew nut value chain. With technical support from TÜBİTAK and Gambian authorities, the team conducted comprehensive field assessments, visiting farms, processing facilities, and storage centers. Meetings with stakeholders, including farmers' cooperatives and the Gambia Cashew Alliance, provided valuable insights into the sector's key challenges and opportunities.

## Events participation - May 2024

◆ The UN Technology Bank participated in the ninth annual **Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation** at the UN Headquarters in New York. During the forum, we co-hosted a side event on **10 May**, focused on "Unpacking the potential of STI for enhancing agricultural productivity in LDCs and LLDCs", which brought together experts to explore how technology and innovation can support sustainable agrifood systems in some of the world's most vulnerable countries.

◆ We took part in two key side events at the **SIDS4 conference in Antigua and Barbuda**. On **27 May**, at the session titled "Delivering Universal Eye Care: Innovative capacity building to end avoidable sight loss, strengthen health system resiliency, and accelerate progress towards the SDGs," the discussion centered on the urgent need to expand eye health services in Small Island Developing States. On **29 May**, we joined the panel for the ISA side event "Leveraging partnerships and transformative actions to advance women empowerment and leadership in deep-sea research," which focused on promoting gender equality in marine science and fostering sustainable ocean governance.



Wednesday, 29 May 2024  
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM  
Overflow ID Room,  
American University of Antigua



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