

# Innovations and firm performance in sub-Saharan Africa

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

**Innovations and firm performance in sub-Saharan Africa:  
Empirical analyses**

by

Elvis Korku Avenyo

1. 'Innovation is a driver of income growth and can help address poverty and directly improve well-being of different groups in society. Under certain conditions the gains from innovation benefit everybody in society; in other cases on the contrary, they might reinforce social exclusion' (OECD, 2015).
2. Innovation is 'pervasive' in sub-Saharan Africa (Chapters 2, 3, 4 & 5).
3. Enhancing firm innovation is not a guarantee for decent employment (Chapter 2).
4. The performance of new products introduced by registered firms is shaped by the degree of strategic collaboration with informal enterprises (Chapter 3).
5. Informal enterprises are not 'hidden' in sub-Saharan Africa (Chapter 4).
6. Alternative learning processes are key drivers of innovation activities in informal enterprises (Chapter 5).
7. 'The modern masters promise very little' (Mary Shelley).
8. 'We should favor innovation and freedom over regulation' (George Allen).
9. 'A key ingredient in innovation is the ability to challenge authority and break rules' (Vivek Wadhwa).
10. 'An innovation will get traction only if it helps people get something that they are already doing in their lives done better' (Clayton M. Christense).
11. 'Mate *ηu* aw▷ nu sia nu to eya ame si doa *ηusēm* la me' (Filipit▷wo 4:13).