



# UNU-INRA Sparkle

Volume 3, Issue 3

Enhancing Capacity for Managing Africa's Natural Resources

## Improving the Development Outcomes of Private-Public-Partnerships in Agriculture and the Environment



**Featured:  
UNU-INRA  
PPP Project**

**Director  
Contributes to  
International  
Conferences**

**Harnessing  
Tree - Soil  
Nexus to  
Foster  
Green  
Growth in  
Africa**

**M.Sc. Student  
Receives  
Certificate of  
Proficiency**

**Three  
Seminars  
Held**

**UNU-INRA  
Receives Four  
Visiting  
Scholars**

**Upcoming  
Event:  
Regional  
Forum and  
Training  
Workshop on  
Green Growth**

Although agriculture is a major growth opportunity in Africa for food security and poverty reduction, there are still fundamental challenges hindering its progress. High levels of investment are required to unleash the potential of agriculture for sustainable development in developing countries. Unfortunately, over the years, many governments in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) have faced challenges with the timely provision of funds for agriculture development. The traditional ways of providing funds through regular budgetary allocations, donor support and concessional bilateral and multilateral loans, have proved to be inadequate and unpredictable. It has

therefore become necessary to find new ways and partnerships to meet the resources required in the development of agriculture.

Against this backdrop, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are being promoted worldwide as an important institutional mechanism to get access to additional financial resources, sharing risks and addressing other (technical, institutional, economic, political, etc.) constraints in pursuit of sustainable and inclusive agricultural development. In SSA, the growing private sector investment is in part channelled through an increasing number of Public Private Partnerships. Although there is a growing interest in PPPs projects that benefit smallholder farmers, there are few studies that have empirically established whether PPPs in SSA agricultural sector can effectively fulfil their intended goals.

In this regard, the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is implementing a one (1) year research project entitled "*Improving the Development*

***Outcomes of Private-Public-Partnerships in Agriculture and the Environment***". The project aims at reviewing and assessing the state of PPPs in agriculture and the environment in a representative number of Sub-Saharan African countries so as to guide further research, policy development and targeting of private and public funds for partnership development. It specifically seeks to address the knowledge gap on PPPs by providing policy-makers, researchers, business decision-makers and relevant stakeholders in the agricultural sector with a better understanding of how PPPs in agriculture operate and how their operation can be improved to contribute to increased food security, social inclusion and poverty reduction. UNU-INRA is implementing this project in Burundi, Cameroun, Ghana, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa.

## NEWS

### Director Contributes to International Conferences



During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Africa Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Food Security conference 2015 held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 30<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2015, the Director of UNU-INRA, Dr. Elias. T. Ayuk moderated a plenary session on "*Building scalable and inclusive business models for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA)*". The session examined, amongst others, types of inclusive business models that can scale up EBA innovation and create opportunities in the entire agricultural value chain; how these models can increase domestic production; and how opportunities can be harnessed to transform Africa's agriculture through inclusive and innovative partnership.

Similarly, the Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) at the University of Ibadan in collaboration with the African Sustainable Development Network (ASUDNET) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network-Nigeria (NSDSN) organized the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS) 2015 in Ibadan from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. The UNU-INRA Director, Dr. Ayuk was invited to deliver a keynote paper on the theme "*Economic growth and decent jobs within planetary boundaries*". The paper addressed two specific questions. First, what opportunities exist in Africa for economic growth and job creation within planetary boundaries? Second, what types of policies are needed to foster the creation of jobs that are both productive and decent?

Also in a different event, the Director was a panellist at the High Level Forum on "*Mobilising domestic resources to finance Africa's transformation*". The forum was organized by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), on September 2-4 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Dr. Ayuk's contribution focused on the challenges and opportunities of the extractive sector in contributing to domestic resources mobilization.

### Harnessing Tree - Soil Nexus to Foster Green Growth in Africa



Policy reforms are needed to successfully harness tree-soil relationship for green growth in Africa. This was a key message in a poster presentation entitled "*Harnessing Tree - Soil Nexus to Foster Green Growth, Soil Carbon Stocks and Ecosystem Services*", presented by Dr. Effiom Oku, Land and Water Resources Fellow, UNU-INRA, at a pre-congress workshop of the XIV World Forestry Congress held from 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, in Durban, South Africa.

During the presentation, Dr. Oku reiterated the need to prioritise the development and implementation of national forest conservation and biodiversity action plans in Africa. He also suggested re-engineering the content of forestry courses at tertiary institutions so as to create a pool of manpower to drive green rehabilitation programmes in Africa. He, moreover, emphasised the need for policy makers to allow industries to contribute to land/forest restoration for the benefits of the industries, the environment and mankind.

The XIV World Forestry congress was held from 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 in Durban, South Africa, under the theme, “*Forest and People: investing in a sustainable future*”. It attracted about 4000 participants from 142 countries. This was the first time the World Forestry congress was held in Africa.

### M.Sc. Student Receives Certificate of Proficiency



Engr. Prof. F.I Idike, Vice Chancellor of Ebonyi State University, presenting the certificate to Mr. Itam Michael Ikoi, the Research Student.

A research student under UNU-INRA’s project with the title “*Potential of an African Vetiver Grass Species in Healing Industrial and Domestic Sick Water*” has successfully completed his M.Sc. thesis entitled “*Effectiveness of Vetiver in the Treatment of Waste Water in Ebonyi State Municipal*”. The student, Mr. Itam Michael Ikoi was awarded a certificate of proficiency by UNU-INRA. The certificate was presented to him by the Vice Chancellor of the Ebonyi State University, Engr. Prof. F.I Idike, on behalf of the Director of UNU-INRA, Dr. Elias T. Ayuk at a short ceremony in the University.

Mr. Ikoi, in a message to UNU-INRA, expressed appreciation to the Institute for awarding him the certificate. He also thanked his supervisors, Dr. Effiom Oku, Land and Water Resources Fellow, UNU-INRA and Dr. Catherine V. Nnamani, Director, Biotechnology, Research and Development Centre of the Ebonyi State University, Nigeria, for the support given him.

### Three Seminars Held

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) organised three seminars during the quarter to disseminate information on some of its research findings with the general public. The 1<sup>st</sup> seminar held on August 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, had presentations on the following topics:

- ✚ *Climate Change Induced Migration and its Implications for the Development of SMEs and the Protection of Rural Livelihoods in Nigeria*, by Dr.

Oluwafunmiso Adeola Olajide, UNU-INRA Visiting Scholar.

- ✚ *Estimating the Opportunity Cost of Conservation Tillage Adoption as Climate Change Mitigation Option in Tandjoare, Togo*, by Ms AFO-LOKO Owodon, PhD Intern, UNU-INRA.

Dr. Olajide’s presentation drew upon a study that is investigating the relationship between climate change, migration and the development of SMEs in Nigeria. Ms AFO-LOKO’s research on the other hand, estimated the opportunity cost of conservation tillage adoption in Tandjoare, and determined its explanatory factors. The findings revealed that, the total cost of conservation tillage adoption in Tandjoare is about 125,854.00 USD per annum.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar, held on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015, was on the topic “*Addressing Wastewater Challenges with an African Bio-Resource*”, by Dr. Effiom E. Oku, Land and Water Resources Fellow, UNU-INRA. The research, which assessed the potential of an African grass species, “*Chrysopogon nigritana*”, in treating wastewater, reveals that the vetiver grass is effective in removing contaminants from wastewater to the World Health Organisation / Food and Agriculture Organisation’s (WHO/FAO) or the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) internationally accepted limits of heavy metals in wastewater.



Cross section of seminar participants

The 3<sup>rd</sup> seminar in the quarter, held on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, witnessed three different presentations. The topics of these presentations were:

- ✚ *Assessing the Impact of Climate Shocks on Farm Performance and Adaptation Responses in the Niger Basin of Benin*, by Dr. Boris Odilon Kounagbè Lokonon, UNU-INRA Visiting Scholar.

## UPCOMING EVENT

✚ *Use of Multi-Criteria Evaluation, GIS and Optimization Problems in Water Resources Management, Planning and Modelling: Case of Bâoulé (North West of Côte d'Ivoire)*, by Dr. Naga COULIBALY, UNU-INRA Visiting Scholar.

✚ *Options for Greening the Concessionary Forestry Business Model in Rural Africa*, by Mavis Boimah, UNU-INRA PhD Intern.

The presentation by Dr. Lokonon was on a research that aims to assess the impact of climate shocks on farm activities and to simulate adaptation policy responses using a recursive dynamic mathematical programming model. The study by Dr. Coulibaly on the other hand, aims at implementing a decision support tool to facilitate Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Bâoulé basin, a sub-basin of Niger River, and Ms Boimah's study proposed a "Green Business model" for Africa's concessionary forestry business. Introducing the concepts of both sustainability and green innovation into the "business as usual" forestry practices, the study found that there are many opportunities to make the concessionary forestry business greener and inclusive.

The seminars attracted participants from the public and private sector as well as from academia.

### UNU-INRA Receives Four Visiting Scholars



*Dr. Oluwafunmiso Adeola Olajide*  
Lecturer, University of Ibadan,  
Nigeria



*Dr. Aklesso Egbendewe-Mondzozo*  
Assistant Professor, Université de  
Lomé, Togo



*Dr. Boris Odilon Kounagbè Lokonon*  
Lecturer, Université de Parakou,  
Benin



*Dr. Naga Coulibaly*  
Lecturer, Université de  
Nangui Abrogoua, Côte d'Ivoire

✚ Regional Forum and Training Workshop on  
"Greening Industries and Green  
Entrepreneurship Promotion as a Driver of  
Sustainable and Inclusive Growth in rural  
Africa"

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

**Location:** Accra, Ghana



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### About UNU-INRA

UNU-INRA enhances the capacity of African researchers to conduct research on natural resources management issues to inform policy formulation and implementation.

Although UNU-INRA is an institute of the United Nations University (UNU) system, it was an African concept developed by some committed top African scientists. Its establishment is supported by the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union (AU). On this strong political and moral support, UNU-INRA was established in 1986.

*UNU-INRA appreciates the continued contributions from the Governments of Ghana and Zambia to its endowment fund. The Institute is also grateful to the following organisations for the funding support to carry out specific projects:*



Sparkle is a quarterly newsletter of UNU-INRA.

It is an acronym for Sustainability through Partnership in Africa where Resources are optimally utilized using Knowledge that is holistic, Leadership that is inclusive and Economy that is green