



# UNU-INRA Sparkle

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Enhancing Capacity for Managing Africa's Natural Resources

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### Ghana Climate Innovation Centre Launched



*H.E. John A. Kufuor, Former President of Ghana, (2<sup>nd</sup> left), H.E. Tove Degnbol, Denmark Ambassador, (3<sup>rd</sup> left), H.E. Hans Docter, Dutch Ambassador, (4<sup>th</sup> left), and Hon. Julius Debrah (5<sup>th</sup> left), Chief of Staff, Office of the President of Ghana.*

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 marked an extraordinary date in the history of Ghana as the first ever Climate Innovation Center was launched at the Ashesi University College campus in Accra. The Ghana Climate Innovation Center (GCIC) is to help establish local institutional capacity to support Ghanaian entrepreneurs in developing profitable and locally appropriate clean technology solutions to combat climate change.

In his opening remarks, the President of the Ashesi University College, Dr. Patrick G. Awuah Jr., noted that GCIC will be a clean technology hub that will be able to help more than 100 local clean technology companies to develop and grow their businesses.

The launch brought together several dignitaries including, His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor, Former President of Ghana, who was there in his capacity as a UN Special Envoy on climate change, Hon. Julius Debrah, - Chief of Staff at the office of the President of Ghana, His Excellency, Hans Docter - Dutch ambassador to Ghana and Her Excellency Tove Degnbol - Denmark Ambassador to Ghana.

His Excellency Kufuor, in his remarks, emphasised the need for Governments to implement policies to curb climate change problems and called on all stakeholders to ensure a successful implementation of the climate innovation center.

On her part, Her Excellency, Degnbol, the Denmark Ambassador, reiterated the need for exchange of good ideas and partnerships to win the climate change war. She believes that the Danish experience will be valuable to help develop strong and innovative business cases that are key for the private sector to become the driver of a green economy.



*Dr. Calvin Atewamba, (left), and Dr. Dorothy Yong Nje, (right), UNU-INRA Green Economy Fellows at the GCIC Launch. In the middle is Dr. Patrick Awuah, President of Ashesi University College.*

The Ghana Climate Innovation Center is being managed by a consortium, led by Ashesi University College, in partnership with SNV, Ernst & Young and the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA). The Center is being supported by the World Bank, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Netherlands Government.

### UNU Rector Calls on Education and Natural Resources Ministers in Ghana



*Hon. Nii Osah Mills, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources (middle). On his right is Dr. David M. Malone, UNU Rector/ Under-Secretary General of the UN and on his left, is Dr. Elias T. Ayuk, Director, UNU-INRA.,*

The Rector of the United Nations University, Dr. David M. Malone paid courtesy calls on the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources and Minister of Education in separate visits in Accra. The aim of the visits was to deepen the UN University’s working relationship with the ministries.

At the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Minister, Hon. Nii Osah Mills, called for more collaboration between the ministry and UNU-INRA on projects.

The Minister of Education, Prof. Jane Naana Opoku Agyemang, on the other hand, indicated that Ghana is working to develop a national agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and her ministry is keen on implementing the localized SDGs on education, hence the need for partnerships with institutions like UNU-INRA.

Dr. Malone seized the opportunity to express the UN University’s appreciation to the Government of Ghana, through the ministries visited, for the country’s contributions to UNU-INRA’s endowment fund.

The Director of UNU-INRA, Dr. Elias T. Ayuk, presented recent natural resources management policy briefs and other publications of the Institute to the ministries.



*Dr. Ayuk presenting policy briefs and other key publications to Prof. Opoku Agyemang. On her right is Dr. David M. Malone.*

### UNU-INRA Trains Farmers on Wastewater Management



*Dr. Effiom Oku, demonstrating the application of the vetiver technology at the workshop.*

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU- INRA), organized a training workshop for urban and peri-urban vegetable farmers in Accra, on how to treat wastewater for irrigation. The aim was to equip the farmers to use the African species of vetiver grass, “*Chrosopogon nigriflora*” to treat wastewater before using it for irrigation.

Dr. Effiom Oku, Research Fellow for Land and Water Resources at UNU-INRA, who facilitated the workshop, indicated that research has shown that the use of untreated wastewater for irrigation poses health hazards for farmers and consumers, and this explains the need to use the vetiver grass to remove contaminants from wastewater before using it to irrigate vegetables. He added that the vetiver technology can also be used to

remove contaminants from wastewater discharges from industries. Dr. Oku therefore urged the farmers to apply the technology to produce healthy vegetables for consumption. He also called on African Governments to put in place policies to encourage the application of such technologies.

The training workshop brought together about 40 urban and peri-urban farmers from Ghana.

### UNU-INRA Advocates for Youth Involvement in Natural Resources Management



*Mrs. Praise Nutakor, making her presentation at the programme.*

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) has admonished the youth to be interested in issues affecting natural resources management in Ghana, in order to lend their support to halt environmental pollution and degradation in the country.

The call was made by Mrs. Praise Nutakor, Communications and Public Relations Associate of UNU-INRA, during an outreach programme organised at the University of Ghana campus by the United Nations Student Association (UNSA), Legon Chapter, in collaboration with the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG), Ghana.

The programme, which was under the theme “**Sustainable Development Goals - Youth Involvement in Global Development**”, falls under the UNCG annual outreach programme dubbed UN4U. It brought together Communications Specialists from various UN agencies in Ghana, who spoke to the students on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relating to their respective agencies’ areas of work.

Speaking on the SDGs and youth involvement in natural resources management, Mrs Nutakor encouraged the students to set good examples and support efforts to educate the public on the dangers of negative environmental practices. She stated that UNU-INRA’s work aims at promoting sustainable management of Africa’s natural resources, and about six of the SDGs relate directly to the Institute’s mandate. According to her, the SDG # 6 - *Clean Water and Sanitation*, SDG # 7 –

*Affordable and Clean Energy*, SDG # 8 – *Decent Work and Economic Growth*, SDG # 13 – *Climate Action*, SDG # 14 – *Life Below Water* and SDG # 15 – *Life on Land*, all fall within UNU-INRA’s programme areas.

Other members of the UNCG who also participated in the programme were Ms Cynthia Prah, National Information Officer, UN information Centre (UNIC), Ms Vera Boohene, Communications Specialist, World Food Programme (WFP) and Mr. Daniel Sam, National Project Officer, International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Ms. Prah took the students through all the 17 SDGs, and Ms. Boohene spoke particularly on SDG # 2, which aims at promoting food security. Mr. Sam of the IOM, on the other hand, emphasised on the need to reduce inequalities within and among countries (SDG # 10). He noted that the 2030 agenda is all about 5Ps: People, Peace, Planet, Prosperity and Partnership, and urged the students to get involved in promoting the global goals.

The UN4U outreach programme brought together over 150 students from the University of Ghana.

### Workshops on PPPs in Agriculture and the Environment Held in Six SSA Countries



*Participants at the National Validation and Dissemination Workshop in Accra, Ghana.*

The United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) organized National Validation and Dissemination Workshops in six Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries, namely Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa. The aim of the workshops was to bring together key national stakeholders directly involved in private - public partnerships (PPPs) to review and discuss findings of country assessment studies conducted in the various countries on the Institute’s project entitled “*Improving the Development Outcomes of Private-Public-Partnerships (PPPs) in Agriculture and the Environment*”.

The workshops enabled the participants to identify critical issues that needed to be addressed in the research reports to better inform inclusive and sustainable PPPs in agriculture and the environment. The PPPs project is being funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

## UNU-INRA Welcomes New Research Fellows



*Dr. Ngozi Finette Stewart*



*Dr. Dorothé Yong Nje*

UNU-INRA has added two new research fellows to its team. They are Dr. Ngozi Finette Stewart, Environmental Policy Fellow and Dr. Dorothé Yong Nje, Green Economy Fellow.

Dr. Stewart is a specialist in Environmental Law and Ethics. She has taught Environmental Law for over ten years at the University of Benin, Nigeria. She has also been a key participant in the United Nations working groups on Human Rights and the Environment as well as a member of the Technical Review Committee under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Prior to joining UNU-INRA, Dr Stewart was a Visiting Faculty at Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman. She holds PhD in Environmental Law and Ethics, from the University of Leicester, United Kingdom, Dip.IEL from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), Geneva, LL.M and LL.B from the University of Benin, Nigeria.

Dr. Yong Nje, on the other hand, has more than seven years working experience in conducting statistical and economic analyses in the areas of international development, environmental and agricultural economics. Dr. Yong Nje was formerly a researcher and teaching assistant at the University of Ottawa, Canada and the University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon. She was also a UNU-WIDER Visiting researcher. She holds a PhD in Environmental Economics and Natural Resources Management, and a Master's degree in Public Economics, all from the University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon.

### Other Scholars Received in the Quarter



*Dr. Maruf Sanni*, a Visiting Scholar, obtained his doctorate degree in Public Policy with focus on low-carbon development pathways from the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. He is a Senior Research Officer at the National Centre for Technology Management in Nigeria.

*Mr Tongnoma ZONGO*, a PhD Intern, holds an Mphil. Degree in Geography (Land Use Option) from the University of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso and currently a PhD student in the Geography Department of the University of Ouagadougou and University of Paris I, France. Zongo has been a Researcher at the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Research (CNRST) in Burkina Faso since 2014.



## UPCOMING EVENT

- Event:** Public Seminar on new research findings
- Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016
- Venue:** UNU-INRA Office, Legon Campus, Accra



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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 Cameroon, 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