



CSIR NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana



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WASCAL to Deepen its Collaborations with the CSIR

The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) is to explore more practical ways of working with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana, to deepen collaborations between the two research institutions for their mutual benefits.

WASCAL to Deepen its Collaborations with the CSIR

The Executive Director of WASCAL, Prof Laurent Sedogo, said this at the second quarter meeting between the CSIR and international agencies operating on its campus. The CSIR has instituted quarterly meetings with international agencies on its campus within the framework of creating the platform for more effective research collaborations.

Currently, six international agencies operate on the campus of the CSIR in Accra. These are the Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), CAB International, WASCAL, and the Brazilian-based agricultural research institution, EMBRAPA.

Chairing the second quarter meeting on the 27th April 2016 at its Regional Office in Accra, Prof Sedogo said WASCAL would endeavor to be a more Ghana-based institution by implementing scientific and capacity building activities with the CSIR. He said there were a number of things the CSIR and WASCAL could do together in the spirit of partnership.

“In the coming days, we will sit together and explore more practical things we can do together,” Prof Sedogo said.

In a presentation at the meeting, Prof Janet Adelegan, the Director of the Capacity Building Department of WASCAL outlined the capacity building initiatives of WASCAL comprising the Graduate Studies, In-Service Training and the Thesis Grant



CABI AFRICA BOSS CALLS ON THE D-G OF CSIR

The Regional Director for CABI Africa, Mr. Morris Akiri, said the CSIR has the potential to collaborate extensively with CABI in the area of research and capacity building.

The Regional Director, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI), Mr. Akiri made this comments when he paid a courtesy call on the Director-General of CSIR, Dr. Victor K. Agyeman. He was accompanied by the Regional Coordinator of CABI West Africa, Dr. Victor Clottey and in the meeting was Mr. Emmanuel Brako, the Director of Finance and Mr. Edward Decker, Senior Scientific Officer both of CSIR.

CSIR to Work with the National Service Scheme

The CSIR has initiated moves to collaborate with the National Service Scheme for the mutual benefit of the two institutions.

Possible areas of collaboration would include deployment of national service persons to the CSIR, provision of training to national service persons in specific areas and assistance to the National Service Scheme to establish small-scale industries.

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CSIR Introduces System to Appraise its Research Institutes

... As CSIR-CRI Tops Latest Rankings

The CSIR-Crops Research Institute (CSIR-CRI) emerged as the best performed Institute in the latest ranking of CSIR institutes. The Institute scored the highest in all the indicators used in the newly introduced system of assessment.



Management of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has introduced an appraisal system to assess the general performance of its 13 research institutes and the Head Office.

The system is based on a number of indicators, some of which include the number of scientific publications; quantum of research grants and internally generated funds, consultancies, patenting and marketing of re-

search products; number of technologies generated for dissemination to industry; and the quality and liveliness of institutes' website.

The CSIR-Water Research Institute and the CSIR-Savanna Agricultural Research Institute placed second and third respectively in the ranking scoring 8.84 and 7.01 as indicated in the table below.

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These proposals were the key outcomes of discussions between the CSIR and officials of the National Service Scheme at the end of a day's meeting of the two institutions.

The CSIR team, which paid a courtesy call on officials of the National Service Secretariat in Accra for the meeting, was led by the Director-General, Dr. Victor Agyeman, and comprised Dr. E. K. Adu, Director of the CSIR-Animal Research Institute (CSIR-ARI), Dr. O. Ansa-Asare, Deputy Director of the CSIR-Water Research Institute (CSIR-WRI), Dr. (Mrs.) M. Obodai, Deputy Director of the CSIR-Food Research Institute (CSIR-FRI), Dr. R. Kofie, Deputy Director of the CSIR-Institute for Scientific and Technological Information, Mr. E. O. Brakoh, Director of Finance, Mr. I. Adam, Acting Director of Administration and Mr. E. Decker, Senior Scientific Officer at the CSIR Head Office.

The National Service Scheme, on the other hand, was led by its Executive Director, Dr. M. Kpesah-White.

A corporate Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to be signed by representatives of the two institutions. As part of the MOU, the CSIR-ARI would establish a meat processing factory; the CSIR-WRI would work towards the establishment of a water purification and bottling company; while the CSIR-FRI would work towards the supply of CSIR-FRI convenient food products to the restaurant of the National Service Scheme in Accra.

CSIR Introduces System to Appraise its Research Institutes

... As CSIR-CRI Tops Latest Rankings

INSTITUTE	PUBLICATIONS (15%)	RESEARCH GRANTS (10%)	WEBOMETRICS (10%)	IGF (25%)	PATENTS (20%)	MARKET PRODUCTS (10%)	REPORTING (10%)	TOTAL SCORE	RANKING
CSIR-HO	0.00	0.00	4.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.12	9th
1. ARI	1.07	0.00	0.15	1.37	0.00	0.00	0.48	3.07	11th
2. BIRRI	1.07	0.00	0.94	3.16	0.00	0.00	0.72	5.89	6th
3. CRI	4.29	2.66	1.37	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.72	10.34	1st
4. FORIG	2.72	1.21	0.78	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.72	6.81	4th
5. FRI	0.74	0.00	0.40	2.67	0.00	0.00	0.72	4.53	8th
6. INSTI	0.08	0.00	0.19	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.48	1.54	14th
7. IIR	0.49	0.00	0.29	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.48	2.36	13th
8. OPRI	0.49	0.23	0.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.48	2.6	12th
9. SARI	1.73	1.87	0.28	2.41	0.00	0.00	0.72	7.01	3rd
10. SRI	0.66	0.00	0.13	1.87	0.00	0.00	0.72	3.38	10th
11. STEPRI	0.00	1.70	2.25	1.71	0.00	0.00	0.72	6.38	5th
12. WRI	0.00	0.00	3.23	5.13	0.00	0.00	0.48	8.84	2nd
13. PGRRI	0.82	2.34	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.72	4.57	7th

The ranking of the website of CSIR institutes was based on Webometrics ranking criteria. Webometrics rank institutions according to such indicators as presence,

visibility and excellence. The CSIR Head Office was ranked first in the performance of websites scoring 28.84 as shown in the following table.

INSTITUTE	PRESENCE	VISIBILITY	EXCELLENCE	TOTAL	RANKING
CSIR-HO	5.91	21.67	1.26	28.84	1
WRI	1.29	20.27	1.06	22.62	2
STEPRI	0.16	14.66	0.91	15.73	3
CRI	1.92	6.64	1.02	9.59	4
BRRRI	3.64	1.26	1.70	6.60	5
FORIG	0.00	4.50	0.95	5.44	6
FRI	0.95	0.99	0.87	2.81	7
IIR	0.11	1.06	0.87	2.04	8
SARI	1.26	0.09	0.61	1.96	9
INSTI	0.67	0.04	0.61	1.31	10
ARI	0.00	0.35	0.68	1.04	11
SRI	0.03	0.14	0.72	0.89	12
OPRI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13
PGRRI	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14
Total	10.00	50.00	10.00	70.00	

On the basis of the findings, Management recommends that CSIR institutes should endeavor to work

on the indicators they fell short and especially work towards updating their websites regularly.

Engage more with the CSIR for fruitful business development

...Director-General appeals to entrepreneurs

The Director-General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. Victor K. Agyeman, has made a passionate appeal to members of the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) to engage more effectively with the CSIR. He said entrepreneurs belonging to the AGI could take advantage of technologies developed by the CSIR, which had been proven to be suitable for Ghana's conditions.

Such public research-private sector engagements, according to him, could translate into fruitful outcomes for the mutual benefits of all stakeholders. "All I can say is to encourage entrepreneurs to engage more with the CSIR for fruitful business development," he said.

Dr. Agyeman made the appeal at the opening of a day's business seminar on 18th April 2016 at the CSIR-Science and Technology

Policy Research Institute in Accra. The seminar, which brought together researchers and private sector entrepreneurs, was designed to create the platform for sharing ideas on how to improve research-industry linkages in Ghana.

It was organized by the CSIR-Technology Development and Transfer Centre on the theme "Improving Research-Private Sector Linkages in Ghana: The Business Perspec-

tives."

Mr. Asare Adjei, the President of the AGI, delivered a paper on overcoming business challenges in Ghana, stressing the need for research-industry linkages; while the Director of the CSIR-Water Research Institute, Dr. Joseph Ampofo took participants through the business gaps in research. Mr. Jonas Osafo-Adamu, the Managing Director of the Humbeg Farms in Anum in the Eastern region of Ghana, shared his practical experiences of doing business with CSIR technologies. A lecturer at the University of Ghana Business School, Dr. Dan Quaye spoke on the factors driving business development and innovations with respect to practical issues in business-led initiatives and networking. The seminar was chaired by the Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Madam Salimata Abdul-Salam.



CSIR Wins Technology Impact 2016 Award

The CSIR has been adjudged winner of the Excellence in Product Innovation (Manufacturing) Award at the just ended Technology Impact Awards night 2016. It was organized by The Business Executive Group, held at the plush Golden Tulip Hotel in Accra on Friday 3rd June, 2016, on the theme “Promoting the Role of Technology in Ghana’s Growth and Development”. The CSIR was honoured with a citation and a glass prism plaque. In all, there were 15 award winners including companies and institutions such as The Trust Hospital Limited, ECOBANK, IPMC, Accra Institute of Technology and others.



Stakeholders Meet in Accra to Plan Co-ordination Activities of CGIAR Centres in Ghana

About 67 participants representing the Consortium of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centres and CGIAR Research Programmes in Ghana as well as stakeholders from key government ministries and agencies, non-governmental and farmer-based organisations converged in Accra for a two-day National Consultation Workshop from 2nd to 3rd March 2016.

The Workshop was co-organised by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA); the two key partners of the CGIAR in Ghana, and was facilitated by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). It was on the theme “Developing Integration Plan and Coordination Mechanisms for CGIAR Research to Support Agricultural Research in Ghana.” Participant discussed among other issues, how the integrated efforts of the CGIAR centres could be aligned and made to complement national priorities.

In a statement, the Director-General of the CSIR, Dr. Victor K. Agyeman, said the CSIR shared in the objectives of the CGIAR as eight of its research institutes were engaged in agricultural research. He added that cross-cutting thematic research themes

had been developed for institutes of the CSIR consistent with the CGIAR’s Research Programmes.

The Head of Office of IWMI West Africa, Dr. Olufunke Cofie, made a presentation on the background to the CGIAR site integration process globally and in Ghana. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by the Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Madam Salimata Abdul-Salam, on behalf of the Minister. The keynote address was delivered by the Chief Director of MoFA, Ing. Joseph Boamah.

At the end of Workshop, participants had a common understanding of current development challenges in Ghana and related priorities for agricultural research for development.

12-Member CCST Board Inaugrated

A 12-member Board tasked to oversee the running of the newly established CSIR College of Science and Technology was inaugurated at the CSIR Head Office on 24th November 2015.

The Board, chaired by Professor Anamuah Mensah, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University College of Education, Winneba, has Dr. (Mrs.) R. E. M. Entsua-Mensah, a Deputy Director-General of the CSIR, Professor D. D. Kuupole, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Professor W. O. Ellis, Vice-Chancellor of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Professor Kobina Yankson, a former Pro-Vice Chancellor of the UCC, and Professor Mahama Dweijua, former Executive Secretary of the National Council for Tertiary Education as members. Other members include Mrs. Carlien Bou-Chedid, former Executive Secretary of the Ghana Institution of Engineers, Nana Oforiwaa Koranteng, a Development Consultant, Dr. R. Cobinnah, former Director of the CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, Rev. Dr. Hans Adu Dapaah, a former Director of the CSIR-Crops Research Institute, Dr. Paul Effah, a former Executive Secretary of the National Council for Tertiary Education, and the President of the Association of Ghana Industries.

Inaugurating the Board, the Chairman of the Governing Council of the CSIR, Mr. Abe Incoom, admonished members of the Board to commit themselves fully to the task of working to transform the University College into one of a difference, capable of producing graduates with the required science and technology knowledge and skills that

would drive national development. He asked members to devote all their time and energy to the business of building the needed structures that would make the University unique. "You must have the passion to take something from the scratch, work hard to develop it into a unique product so that you can leave a legacy for posterity," he stressed. He asked members to bring on board innovative ideas and the required expertise that would ensure the production of graduate scientists/researchers who would make a positive impact on society. He said by their dedication to the task, the Board would be remembered for starting with something, and building on it towards the path of accomplishment.

On behalf of members of the Board, Professor Anamuah Mensah pledged to provide all the support that would transform the University College into a centre of excellence. He noted that Ghana needed a strong science and technology base to serve as the source of knowledge, skill and technology required to drive national development. Professor Anamuah Mensah said Ghana currently has a pool of 39 research scientists per million people; a figure he bemoaned as being rather inadequate in comparison with Kenya with about 700 research scientists per million people. "We will work harder and harder to carve a niche for ourselves," he pledged.

The Deputy Director-General of the CSIR, Dr. (Mrs.) R.E.M. Entsua-Mensah, who

championed the University Project, commended staff of her Secretariat for the efforts they had made to actualize the dream of setting up a University for the CSIR.

The idea to establish the CSIR University College of Science and Technology was to offer the opportunity for the CSIR to use its rich science and technology expertise, highly trained and experienced human resource, and existing laboratory facilities to carry out the complementary role of training greater numbers of science and technology professionals at the graduate level.

It was specifically designed to expand the platform for science and technology innovation training at the postgraduate level, grow science and technology research capacity for national development and help focus student research on generating practical solutions to national socio-economic problems. The University runs MPhil and MSc programmes in engineering, agricultural, biological and environmental-related courses accredited by the National Accreditation Board. The University is affiliated to the University of Cape Coast for the non-engineering courses, and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology for the engineering courses. Dr. R. Cobinnah is the President of the University College, with Dr. W. Plahar as his Vice.

