



CSIR NEWS

VOLUME 7 2026 Edition



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CSIR CHARTS PATH FOR **AGRICULTURAL** TRANSFORMATION

Advancing Ghana's agricultural transformation was the focus of discussions this morning as CSIR met with H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana. The engagement centred on strengthening agricultural research and development, particularly Ghana's growing potential in wheat production.

The meeting follows CSIR's successful field trials of wheat varieties under local conditions, a significant milestone toward reducing import dependence. Dr. Felix Frimpong, who leads the wheat research programme, highlighted key achievements and the promising performance of the tested varieties.

A major highlight of the discussion was the need to strengthen Ghana's indigenous seed industry. The Director of CSIR-CRI, Prof. Maxwell Asante Darko, emphasised that deliberate government.. [read more...](#)

FROM THE DG'S DESK

From Innovation to Leadership: CSIR, Driving Ghana's Transformation



Prof. Paul Bosu
Director-General

It is with great pride that I introduce Volume 7 edition of the CSIR News. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) stands at a critical intersection of science, policy, and national progress. Our core mandate is clear: to pioneer innovations that solve national challenges and elevate the standard of living for every Ghanaian. Achieving this requires us to step boldly into the corridors of governance. Over the past quarter, we have aggressively leveraged high-level state engagements to amplify our visibility, deploy our technologies, and cement the relevance of science and technology to national development.

Bridging Innovations and Leadership

Scientific impact requires a seamless bridge between research breakthroughs and the political will needed to deploy them at scale. Our strategic courtesy call on Vice President H.E. Professor Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang epitomized this approach, positioning CSIR as the nation's premier scientific institution. By presenting our multi-sectoral research directly to the second highest level of leadership, we ensure that data-driven science remains a foundational pillar of public policy.

This engagement deepened during a vital management meeting with the President of Ghana, H.E. John Dramani Mahama, which focused on a matter of urgent economic interest: local wheat production. By showcasing our climate-resilient, high-yielding local wheat varieties directly to the President, CSIR demonstrated its capacity to drive agricultural transformation. Securing presidential commitment to scale our local wheat initiatives is a massive victory that will save foreign exchange, empower local farmers, and secure food sovereignty.

Fueling National Initiatives & Global Alliances

CSIR is actively providing the technical engine room needed through CSIR – Soil Research Institute, Oil Palm Research Institute, Crops Research Institute, Savanna Agricultural Research Institute and Animal Research Institute to fuel the government's ambitious 24-Hour Economy Initiative.

Our national relevance is continuously



being enriched by our expanding global footprints. CSIR proudly represented Ghana at the 2025 Norman Borlaug International Dialogue in Iowa, USA. Furthermore, strategic meetings with UNESCO and UKCEH under the Sankore Project have strengthened our international alliances. These networks continue to open critical pathways for technology transfers and global funding resources.

At the heart of CSIR's national impact is a world-class workforce of dedicated researchers turning scientific breakthroughs into everyday solutions for Ghana. I entreat all management, staff, partners, and the general public to stand tall and join us in celebrating **Dr. Jerry Asalma Nboyine** (Principal Research Scientist, CSIR-SARI), who was

proudly adjudged Ghana's Best National Agricultural Research Scientist at the **41st National Farmers' Day** celebration. This monumental national recognition brings immense pride to the entire Council, as his breakthrough work in crop protection serves as a brilliant example of the excellence and unwavering dedication that define our workforce. Let us all applaud Dr. Nboyine for hoisting the CSIR flag high on the national stage!

As you flip through these pages, you will witness a CSIR that is visible, structurally sound, and deeply integrated into Ghana's socio-economic evolution. Thank you to our staff, partners, and the government of Ghana for walking alongside us, as we turn innovative research into sustainable national wealth.



CSIR administrators at the 2nd National Delegates Conference of the CSIR Administrators Association of Ghana (CAAG).



RSA Members at the 36th Annual General Meeting at CSIR-SARI, Nyankpala

GENERAL NEWS

CSIR Management meets the President of Ghana

Front page story continuation...

policies are essential to accelerate the commercialization and large-scale adoption of locally developed crop varieties, including wheat.

With numerous high-yielding and climate-adapted crop varieties already developed, CSIR continues to position Ghana to scale innovation for improved food security and economic growth.

Prof. Marian Dorcas Quain, Deputy Director-General of CSIR, shared insights into CSIR's broader national mandate, while Prof. Paul P. Bosu, Director-General

of CSIR Ghana, presented the President with copies of CSIR's wheat production manuals and extended an invitation for him to visit CSIR.

We are deeply grateful to ARIMA Farms from India, which has sponsored our wheat research from inception. We sincerely thank its CEO, Madam Saalai Manikam, for the strong partnership and unwavering support.

CSIR remains committed to translating research into tangible national impact



Prof. Marian Quain (DD-G CSIR) making a presentation to the President.



Prof. Paul Bosu (D-G, CSIR) presenting a Production Manuals to H.E. John Dramani



SOILutions for Security: CSIR engages World Leaders and Experts at 2025 Borlaug Dialogue

Ghana's 'SOILutions for Security' Take Centre Stage

A transformative wave is sweeping through the global agricultural community, and at the forefront is the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), representing Ghana's visionary approach to food security at the prestigious 2025 Norman Borlaug International Dialogue held on 21st - 23rd September 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa, USA.

Held under the theme, "SOILutions for Security," the dialogue, a premier global event on food security, emphasized the foundational role of healthy soil in sustaining global stability.

Ghana's high-level delegation, was led by the Vice President H.E. Prof Naana Jane Opoku Agyemang and the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Eric Opoku. The CSIR delegation, led by the Deputy Director-General Prof. Marian D. Quain, actively engaged world leaders and

experts. CSIR had a dedicated booth to showcase cutting-edge technologies and foster vital international partnerships.

The Vice President addressing the audience at the event, highlighted the efforts of the Ghana government at addressing food security, climate change challenges and job creation with emphasis on youth and women empowerment.



Panel discussion team comprising: Hon. J. Alexander Nuetah, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia; Hon. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security- Sierra Leone; Hon. Eric Opoku, Minister of Food and Agriculture-Ghana

During a panel discussion on “African Agricultural Partnership,” the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Hon. Eric Opoku, articulated a paradigm shift from aid dependency to mutual investment.

The discussions highlighted Ghana’s commitment to self-reliance through initiatives like the “Feed Ghana” program and the “24hr Economy” drive, which aim to modernize agriculture, boost local production, and create millions of jobs.

Ghana’s plan to establish a soil intelligence system, involving farmers as “soil doctors”, garnered significant interest, demonstrating a commitment to science-informed farming practices. The importance of addressing food security through a healthy soil, the anchor for crops and human life was underscored.



Panel discussion team comprising: Hon. J. Alexander Nuetah, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Liberia; Hon. Henry Musa Kpaka, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security- Sierra Leone; Hon. Eric Opoku, Minister of Food and Agriculture-Ghana

The minister also presented the framework of interventions with clear logical concurrence that seek to address food security from multiple angles with cascading implications and requested to strong international collaboration, partnerships and support.

The World Food Prize Foundation is a nonprofit organization that aims to recognize and promote outstanding contributions to food security, sustainability, and agricultural development. The foundation was established in 1986 by Norman Borlaug, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate known as

the “Father of the Green Revolution. The Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue, is an event organized annually by the Foundation. The event brings together global leaders, experts, educators, students, and innovators from around the world to discuss cutting-edge issues related to food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture.



Scenes of side event organized by Ghana on investing in TRBs for food security. Participants from different countries interacting for future collaborations.



CSIR Team interacting with prospective strategic investors/partners at the event centre



Her Excellency the Vice President of the republic of Ghana addressing audience at the event centre as the Speaker of Honor

CSIR and UNESCO Forge Stronger Ties to Boost Science and Innovation



The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) on **Wednesday February 11, 2026**, hosted UNESCO to a high-level meeting aimed at strengthening cooperation in science, innovation, and research funding mechanisms.

The UNESCO delegation was led by the Assistant Director-General (ADG) for the Natural Sciences Sector, Prof. Lydia Brito, who was in Ghana to attend the Global Closing Ceremony of the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.

Representing CSIR was the Director-General, Prof. Paul P. Bosu, accompanied by the Deputy Director-General, Prof. Marian D. Quain, the Director for CSIR - Water Research Institute, Prof. Mike Yaw Osei Atweneboana and Dr. Wilhemina Quaye, Director for CSIR - Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI).

Dr. Emmanuel Obuobie Acting Chair

of the IHP National Committee, also participated in the meeting.

The discussions focused on deepening cooperation in the following critical areas aligned with national priorities:

- Advancing science-based policy and innovation
- Effective water resource management
- Optimizing research funding mechanisms

CSIR reiterated its commitment to leveraging international partnerships to drive national development through scientific excellence and evidence-based policy.



New Director of Administration Inducted into Office

A Bold Vision to Power Scientific Excellence through Strategic Reform

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has officially inducted **Mrs. Phyllis Nketia** as its new Director of Administration, marking the start of a transformative era for Ghana's premier research institution.

At a ceremony held during the CSIR 2025 Thanksgiving Service at the CSIR-Water Research Institute (WRI), Mrs. Nketia unveiled a four-pillar reform agenda designed to reposition administration from a support service into a "strategic force" for national development.

A Vision for Institutional Transformation

Mrs. Nketia's roadmap focuses on moving beyond routine transactions to an active partnership that supports scientific breakthroughs. Her four-pillar strategy are as follows:

- **Administration as a Strategic Enabler:** Aligning administrative functions with the CSIR Strategic Plan and Act 521 to remove bottlenecks and allow

scientists to focus on demand-driven research.

- **Operational Excellence:** Strengthening our efficiency, transparency, and accountability through the integration of human resources and IT platforms like HRMIS and GIFMIS.
- **Employee Welfare:** Prioritizing staff as the Council's greatest asset by enhancing the Counseling Unit, Gender Desk, and professional development systems
- **Proactive Change Management:** Leading with agility to anticipate trends and manage institutional transitions inclusively.

A United Front for Science

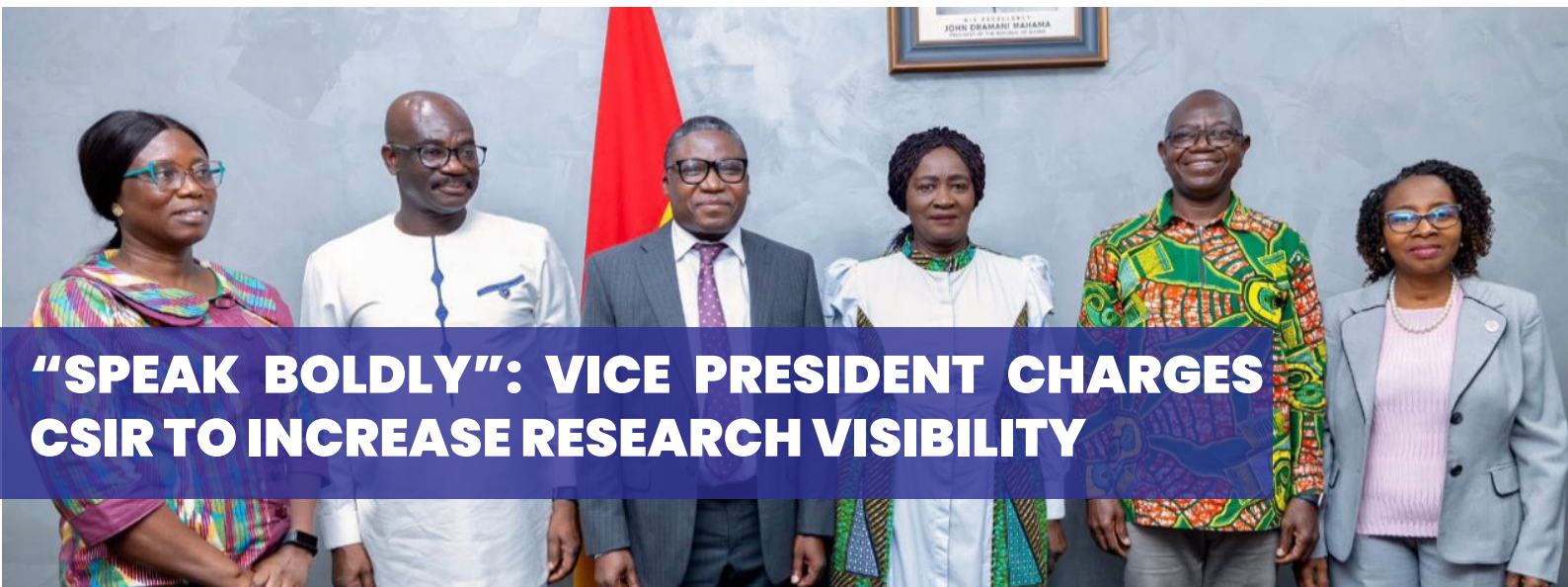
"My vision is about building an administrative system that works for the people, supports science, and strengthens the institution," Mrs. Nketia stated during her oath of office.

The event also featured a message of renewal from Dr. (Mrs.) Ruby Asmah, Deputy Director of WRI, and a call to service by Rev. Fr. Samuel Filton-Mensah, who urged staff to reject



discrimination and embrace their collective responsibility toward national development. In a show of corporate social responsibility, the Council also took up an offering to support the **Korle-**

Bu Cardiothoracic and Dialysis Centre. With this new leadership, CSIR reaffirms its commitment to ensuring its administrative systems match the world-class excellence of its scientific output



“SPEAK BOLDLY”: VICE PRESIDENT CHARGES CSIR TO INCREASE RESEARCH VISIBILITY

On Friday, 20th December 2025, a delegation from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), led by the Director-General, Prof. Paul P. Bosu, paid a courtesy call on the Vice President H.E. Professor Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang.

The high-level meeting focused on synchronizing scientific innovation with national development goals to drive sustainable growth.

The Vice President commended the CSIR for its transformative work, noting that Ghana possesses the necessary expertise to tackle pressing national challenges, ranging from agriculture and food security to health, industry, and climate resilience. She implored the Council to increase its visibility and “speak boldly” through:

1. **Public Exhibitions:** Showcasing tangible research results and technological advancements to the citizenry.
2. **Bold Policy Support:** Providing the critical scientific evidence required for effective national governance.
3. **Active Engagement with policy**

makers: Stepping closer to the government to ensure that research directly answers real-world problems.

“We need research that answers real problems, and CSIR is well placed to lead that effort,” the Vice President stated, expressing her commitment to deeper collaborations that prioritize Ghana’s development

For his part, Prof. Paul P. Bosu on behalf of the delegation expressed the Council’s profound gratitude for the following government initiatives that have bolstered its operations:

- The operationalization of the Ghana Research Fund.
- Strategic engagements with the World Food Programme, which have significantly enhanced the Council’s international exposure.

Despite these successes, the Director-General also took the opportunity to highlight critical challenges regarding staffing levels and infrastructure that require urgent attention to maintain the Council’s momentum and research excellence.



FUELING THE 24-HOUR ECONOMY INITIATIVE: INSIGHTS FROM CRI, ARI, AND OPRI

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is strengthening its role in Ghana's agro-industrial transformation through a strategic partnership with ATRI Energy Transition Private Limited to research and promote the cultivation of Napier grass for biofuel production.

The collaboration aligns with the Government of Ghana's 24-Hour Strategic Economic Policy, launched in July 2025 by H.E. John Dramani Mahama. The initiative seeks to move the country beyond the "business-as-usual" approach and targets significant GDP growth over the next decade through job creation, increased productivity, and enhanced economic security. Agro-processing has been identified as a key driver of agro-industrialization under the policy.

Following CSIR's strategic repositioning towards demand-driven R&D and best-bet innovations and technologies to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability, a consortium comprising

the 24-Hour Secretariat and ATRI Energy Transition Private Limited, India paid an exploratory business visit to the Crops Research Institute (CSIR-CRI) on 8th January 2026.

ATRI Energy Transition Private Limited is planning to establish a biofuel production facility in the Oti Region using Napier grass and has identified CSIR as a key research partner. Subsequently, CSIR-CRI has partnered with the Animal Research Institute (CSIR-ARI) to conduct agronomic and performance trials on Napier grass for biofuel production. The grass will also be evaluated for its suitability as animal feed, thereby creating a dual-purpose value chain.

The large-scale cultivation of Napier grass in the Oti Region will require the identification of climate-resilient varieties and the development of best-bet agronomic practices to ensure optimal growth and high biomass yield. Through this collaborative effort, CSIR is



providing integrated scientific expertise to support sustainable biofuel production while enhancing livestock feed resources under the 24-Hour Economy Initiative.

CSIR-OPRI at the Core of the 24-Hour Oil Palm Initiative

In a significant move toward national economic transformation, the CSIR-Oil Palm Research Institute (CSIR-OPRI) recently hosted a high-level delegation to advance the Government of Ghana's ambitious 100,000 hectare oil palm initiative.

From January 6th to 15th, 2026, a team from the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Secretariat, led by Mr. Joe Nyame, joined Indian investors ATRI Energy Transition Private Limited on an extensive field tour. The mission focused on identifying strategic areas for collaboration to boost productivity, create jobs, and reduce Ghana's dependence on imported vegetable oils.

Showcasing Research Excellence

The delegation's first stop was the CSIR-OPRI, where they engaged with Institute management and visited Ghana Sumatra LTD, the institute's seed production arm. The visitors were given a firsthand look at the Institute's world-class facilities, including:

Ghana's Largest Nursery, a facility capable of producing 1,000,000 high-quality seedlings annually.

The delegation noted that the success of major players like Volta Red, which achieves an impressive yield of 27 tonnes per hectare annually, is built on the scientific foundation provided by CSIR-OPRI.

Strategic Expansion and Feasibility

The tour extended to the Eastern and Oti Regions, visiting GOPDC in Denkyembour Municipal Assembly and various communities in Nkwanta South and North District Assemblies. At

Kambonwule and Damanko in Nkwanta North District, preliminary surveys identified vast, relatively flat lands suitable for commercial production. However, experts from the delegation, including Dr. Isaac Danso (Director, CSIR-OPRI) and Dr. F.M. Tetteh (CSIR-SRI), emphasized that irrigation will be critical to overcoming water deficits in these areas.

The Path Forward

A **tripartite MOU** between the **24-Hour Economy Secretariat**, CSIR (including **OPRI, SRI, and WRI**), and **ATRI** will solidify this partnership.

As the project moves into its first phase, **CSIR-OPRI** will be the primary source for drought-tolerant hybrid planting materials. Future plans include establishing local nurseries in catchment areas to decentralize seedling production and create immediate employment for local youth.

Through this collaboration, CSIR continues to fulfill its mandate of providing the **scientific and technological support** necessary to transform oil palm into a strategic national crop by 2035.



BEYOND THE GMO DEBATE: FACTS VS FEAR

By: Dr Jerry Asalma Nboyine



In this article, we will extend our discussion on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to examine some of the common claims made by opponents of GMO technology in Ghana. Specifically, we will provide answers to questions such as “do we need GM crops? Are they not cancerous? Won’t GM crops adoption make Ghana lose her sovereignty? Does Ghana have the requisite human resources to handle this technology?”

We will start this discussion exploring answers to the question, “do we need GM crops?” My answer to this question is simply Yes. Food insecurity in Ghana is rising, and according to the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), approximately 13.3 million Ghanaians were food insecure by the end of 2024. The UN World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that nearly 38% of Ghanaians will experience hunger in 2026, with the Northern and Volta regions being the most severely

impacted. This hunger will be driven by inflation, climate shocks, and supply chain constraints. These projections are not different for other African countries. To overcome this threat, there is a need to shift toward climate-resilient agriculture, enhanced logistical infrastructure, and strategic policy reforms to combat inflation.

A key technology that has emerged as an important tool to tackle this insecurity by enhancing crop resilience against climate shocks (drought, pests) and increasing yields to counteract high inflation is the genetic modification of crops. This technology has an immense potential in boosting food security when fully exploited by Ghana, although it is not a panacea to the challenge. The importance of modern agricultural biotechnologies, such as genetically modified (GM) crops, in improving productivity is recognized by the Africa Union’s agenda 2063 which envisions a transformed continent with self-sustaining food security driven by science, technology, and innovation. Hence, GM crops are needed because reliance on non-GM crop varieties alone will mean many citizens going to bed on hungry stomachs.

A major question that then arises is: **Are GM crops safe?** Should Ghana and other African countries harness the potential of GM crops to reduce food insecurity. A simple answer to the safety of GM crops is that they are as safe as the conventional counterparts. For instance, over the last 25 years, the European Commission (EC) funded over 500 independent studies on the safety of GMOs.

All the independent research groups consistently concluded that GMOs are



not inherently riskier than conventional breeding technologies. These studies which focused on environmental impacts, food safety, and the coexistence of GM and non-GM crops, generally found no evidence of higher risks than conventional counterparts. Additionally, no confirmed harm has been linked to approved GM crops. Over the last three decades, more than 4,485 risk assessments have been conducted, and they all confirm that GMOs are as safe as conventional crops, with no credible evidence of higher health or environmental risks.

These assessments were conducted in line with harmonized biosafety frameworks with strict safety standards provided by international bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), Codex Alimentarius, OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development), and EFSA (European Food Safety Authority).

In Ghana, the National Biosafety Authority (NBA) conducted a similar rigorous risk assessment for a GM cowpea and eventually approved it for commercialization because it was as safe as the conventional counterpart. GM crops are therefore safe for Ghana to adopt to mitigate food insecurity.

Skeptics have sometimes argued that GMOs cause cancer despite their potential to increase food production. This claim is false. There is no scientific evidence that GM crops cause cancer. Major scientific and health organizations worldwide have concluded that GM foods currently on the market are as safe to eat as their non-GM counterparts. For example, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and the American Cancer Society (ACS) have all stated that GM foods are safe for consumption and do

not increase the risk of cancer.

Also, analysis of health data in regions with high GM food consumption (like the U.S.) versus those with low consumption (like Europe and the U.K.) shows similar cancer rate patterns, suggesting no connection between cancer rates and eating GM foods. In any case, the top five (5) countries that consume GM foods (USA, Brazil, Argentina, Canada, India) are not among the top five countries with the highest incidence rate of cancer (Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Hungary, Belgium). Hence, there is no link between cancer and GM foods consumption.

The adoption of GMOs by African farmers is considered by skeptics as a form of re-colonialization by the west or loss of seed sovereignty. Skeptics claim large multinational corporations such as Bayer, and Syngenta will take control of African agriculture and countries, and make farmers reliant on purchasing new, expensive seeds annually rather than saving seeds.

This will eventually weaken their control over their own farming system. This is another misleading claim by opponents of GM technology. Contrary to the claims made by skeptics, the adoption of GM technologies would support local seed development and improve agricultural infrastructure rather than allowing foreign control. For example, the release of GM cowpea in Ghana and Nigeria created an opportunity for local seed companies to improve their stewardship practices and uptake early generation seeds that were produced by government research institutes for multiplication and distribution to farmers. None of the foreign multinational corporations took over cowpea seed production in these two countries.

Similarly, the development of hybrids maize varieties to boost yields in Ghana

did not result in foreign multinational corporations taking over the maize production in Ghana. The national agricultural research institutions continue to produce early generation seeds for uptake by local seed companies for multiplication and distribution to farmers.

In the two examples stated, the capacities of government institutions and local seed companies were rather strengthened to deliver quality seeds to farmers.

It is also worth noting that as part of good agronomic practices, farmers obtain better yields when they do not recycle seeds. Ghana cannot gain food sovereignty if local farmers rely on farmer-saved or recycled seeds that result in low yields.

But does Ghana have the requisite human resources to handle this technology? The answer to this question is Yes. Ghana has well trained scientists capable of effectively and efficiently developing and deploying biotech crops for the benefit of local farmers and the country. A typical example was the release of the pod borer resistant cowpea in Ghana by

local scientists.

From the conduct of genetic transformations through to field testing as well as the conduct of quality controls and quality assurance processes on these crops, Ghana has the requisite institutions and human resources. Opportunities also exist for collaborations with other African nations tailor these technologies to suit our local needs. Examples of state institutions capable of delivering these technologies to farmers are the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission, University of Ghana, University of Cape Coast, just to mention a few.

In our next issue, we will delve deeper into which GM crops are available for cultivation in Africa and globally, and what value proposition they offer. We will also differentiate between hybrids and GM crops. This will increase readers understanding of the GM technology.

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PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF S&T

CSIR Delegation Explores UK Innovation Ecosystem Under Sankore Knowledge Exchange Visit



Three senior representatives from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ghana, participated in a high-level knowledge exchange visit to the United Kingdom from 21–28 February 2026 under the Sankore Project. The CSIR delegation comprised Prof. Marian D. Quain, Deputy Director-General; Dr. Wilhelmina Quaye, Director of CSIR–Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (CSIR–STEPRI); and Dr. Hillary Mireku Botey, Intellectual Property Expert and Senior Research Scientist at CSIR–Crops Research Institute.

The visit, organised by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) with support from the Sankore Project, funded by the **FCDO, through UNESCO**, brought together senior officials from research and innovation institutions in Ghana and Nigeria to engage with leading organizations within the United Kingdom’s science, technology, and innovation ecosystem. Institutions visited included Oxentia, Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd, the University of

Greenwich, the University of Leicester, Loughborough University, and the UK Government Office for Technology Transfer.

For the CSIR delegation, the programme provided valuable exposure on how leading universities, research institutes, and government agencies successfully transform research outputs into societal and economic benefits. The discussions highlighted the importance of strong institutional systems for innovation management, technology transfer, and commercialization of research results.

A key takeaway for CSIR was the opportunity to strengthen research collaboration with UK institutions in areas such as environmental science, agricultural innovation, digital technologies, and space-enabled data applications. Such collaborations could open pathways for joint research proposals, access to international funding mechanisms, and participation in global research networks.

The visit also underscored important capacity-building opportunities for CSIR in the management and commercialization of intellectual property (IP). Engagements with technology transfer organizations demonstrated practical approaches to identifying knowledge assets within research institutions, protecting them through appropriate IP mechanisms, and developing viable commercialization pathways through licensing, spin-offs, and industry partnerships.

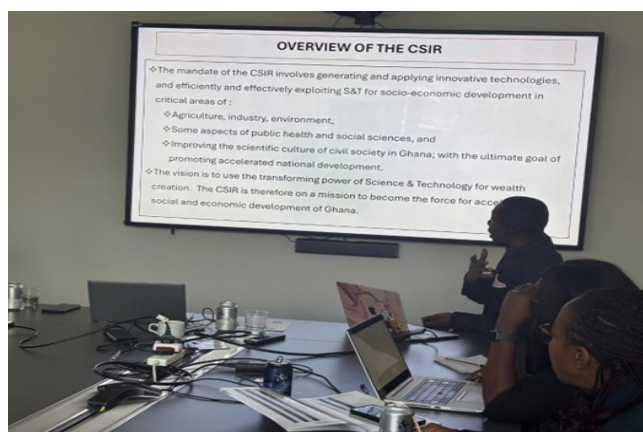
For CSIR, which continues to position itself as a key driver of science-based development in Ghana, these lessons are particularly relevant. Strengthening internal capacity for IP asset management and technology commercialization will help the Council unlock greater value from its research outputs while contributing to national

industrial development and job creation. Beyond institutional learning, the visit also reinforced the importance of building strong international partnerships. The interactions created promising opportunities for future collaborations between CSIR and several UK research organizations in areas including innovation policy, food systems transformation, environmental monitoring, and technology transfer systems.

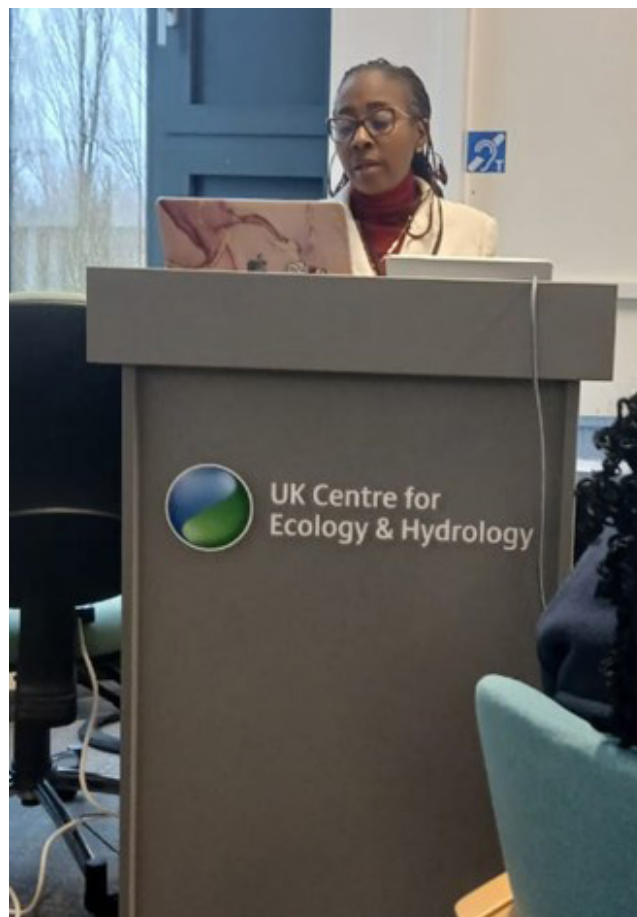
In summary, the knowledge exchange visit provided the CSIR delegation with strategic insights that can support the Council's ongoing efforts to enhance research impact, strengthen innovation systems, and accelerate the commercialization of home-grown technologies for sustainable development in Ghana.



CSIR Team: Prof. M. Quain, Dr. W. Quaye and Dr. H.M. Botey at Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd. Office



Dr. Hillary M. Botey making a presentation on behalf of CSIR



Prof. Marian D. Quain making a presentation at UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH)

THE SCIENTIST FOR THE EDITION

Dr Jerry Asalma Nboyine,
Principal Research Scientist, Ecologist.



Dr Jerry Asalma Nboyine is an Entomologist and Principal Research Scientist at the CSIR - Savanna Agricultural Research Institute. He currently leads the Crop Protection and Postharvest Programme and chairs the institute's Publication and Editorial Committee. He previously served as Team Lead for the Northern Region Farming System Research Group (NR-FSRG), one of the institute's major divisions. His research interests focus on environmentally friendly pest management strategies for cereal, legume and fibre crops, as well as the development and deployment of insect-resistant crops through biotechnology, biosafety and regulatory science.

Over the past 15 years, Dr Nboyine has led and collaborated on several impactful developmental research projects. Among these was his collaboration with CABI West Africa under the Action on Invasive Species Project, which contributed to the development and deployment of

sustainable fall armyworm management strategies for farmers. He also served as Co-Principal Investigator of the Feed the Future Peanut Innovation Laboratory Project, which led to the establishment of the Ghana Groundnut Working Group (GGWG), a platform that annually brings together stakeholders within the groundnut value chain to discuss productivity improvement and value addition.

Dr Nboyine was Principal Investigator of the Pod Borer Resistant (PBR) Cowpea Project funded by the United States Agency for International Development through the African Agricultural Technology Foundation. Under his leadership, the research team collaborated with African and international institutions to develop a genetically modified cowpea variety with in-built resistance to the legume pod borer, a destructive pest responsible for significant yield losses in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In June 2022, the variety became the first genetically modified food crop approved by the National Biosafety Authority for environmental release and placement on the market in Ghana after rigorous risk assessment. It was subsequently approved by the National Seed Council for commercial cultivation in July 2024 and officially launched as Songotra-T cowpea.

The Songotra-T variety is transforming cowpea production in rural communities across Ghana. Farmers who had previously abandoned cowpea cultivation are returning to the crop because of the variety's resistance to the legume pod borer, higher yields and reduced insecticide requirements.

Unlike conventional varieties that require multiple insecticide applications, Songotra-T requires only two rounds of spraying to achieve high yields. The variety is also early maturing, making it suitable for areas with shorter rainy seasons and terminal drought conditions. Farmers in Northern Ghana popularly refer to the variety as “faako,” meaning “saviour.” Dr Nboyine and his team continue to support seed companies with early generation seeds and establish annual demonstrations to increase awareness and adoption among farmers.

To further improve value for farmers, traders and consumers, Dr Nboyine’s team is collaborating with the Institute

of Agricultural Research, Ahmadu Bello University, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization under the Alliance for Cowpea Improvement in Africa (ACIA). The partnership seeks to develop cowpea varieties with both field resistance to the legume pod borer and postharvest protection against cowpea weevil infestation.

Dr Nboyine is also actively involved in public education on the safety and importance of bioengineered crops for food security and national development. Through scientific outreach and evidence-

“Research only matters when it solves real problems”

based engagement, he continues to advocate for the responsible adoption of biotechnology in agriculture.

In recognition of his contributions, Dr Nboyine received the Africa Science and Technology Fellowship on Data Transportability in 2022 and the CSIRO Chair’s Medal for Science and Engineering Excellence in 2023. In late 2025, he was adjudged Ghana’s Best National Agricultural Research Scientist. Dr Nboyine has over 108 publications, including refereed journal papers, book chapters, conference papers, technical reports and extension materials. He serves as a reviewer for several reputable journals and as an external examiner for postgraduate programmes at the



University of Ghana and the University for Development Studies. He holds a PhD in Ecology from Lincoln University, an MPhil in Entomology from the University of Ghana and a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from the University of Cape Coast.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Mr. Isaac Duah Boateng

Principal Technical Officer, CSIR- OPRI



Mr. Isaac Duah Boateng has demonstrated exceptional dedication, teamwork, integrity and reliability throughout his long and distinguished service at CSIR-OPRI. Since joining the Institute on 2nd September 1996 as a Field Assistant Grade III, Mr. Duah has shown unwavering commitment to his duties and has steadily progressed through the ranks to his current position as Principal Technical Officer. His career progression reflects not only his vast experience but also the confidence the Institute has in his professionalism, competence, and strong work ethic.

In his current role, Mr. Duah is responsible for critical technical operations including artificial pollination and the germination of oil palm seed nuts. These tasks require a high level of precision, patience, and technical expertise, as they directly impact on the Institute's oil palm breeding and seed production programs. Mr. Duah consistently performs these responsibilities with great attention to detail and a deep sense of responsibility, ensuring that the Institute's research and seed production objectives are achieved efficiently and effectively.

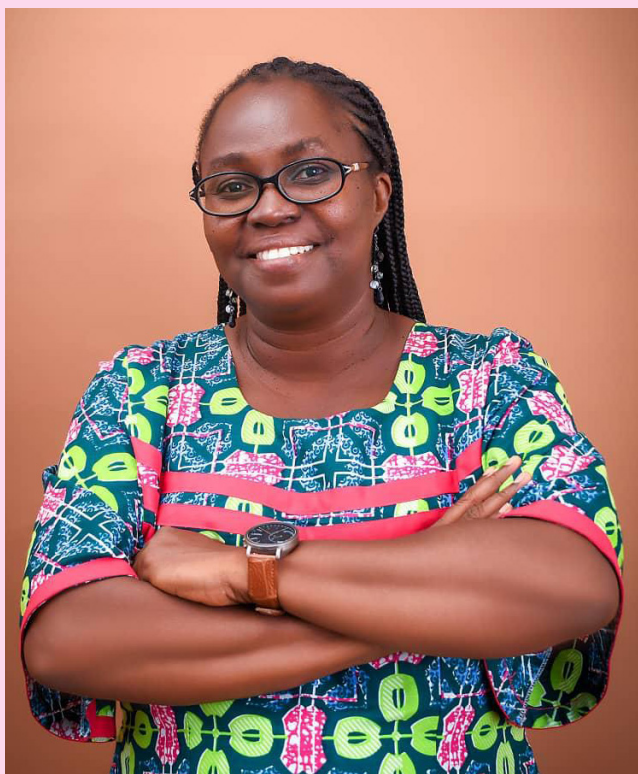
One of the most remarkable aspects of Mr. Duah's service is his exceptional dedication to duty. The nature of his work requires strict timing and careful monitoring of pollination and germination activities. As a result, his role often engages him on weekends and public holidays, yet he continues to discharge his duties diligently without hesitation. His willingness to work beyond normal working hours demonstrates his strong commitment to the success of the Institute and his passion for the work he performs.

Mr. Duah is also highly regarded for his teamwork and collaborative spirit. He works closely with researchers, technicians, and other staff members, always ready to share his knowledge and offer assistance whenever needed. His co-operative attitude helps promote a positive working environment and strengthens the effectiveness of the technical team. Younger and less experienced staff members benefit greatly from his guidance and practical experience, as he willingly supports and mentors them in performing technical tasks accurately and professionally.

Equally notable are Mr. Duah's integrity and reliability, which have been evident throughout his years of service. During the seed germination process under his supervision, no single seed has been lost, demonstrating his exceptional sense of accountability, careful handling of research materials, and unwavering commitment to maintaining high standards in his work. This remarkable record reflects the level of trust that the Institute places in him and underscores his reputation as a dependable and trustworthy professional. Supervisors and colleagues alike rely on him to carry out assignments responsibly and with minimal supervision. His consistent punctuality, accountability, and honesty have made him an invaluable member of the Institute.

APPOINTMENTS AND MILESTONES

Mrs. Phyllis Nketia
Director of Administration



Mrs. Phyllis Nketia is a distinguished administrative leader with over two decades of progressive experience within the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). She currently serves as the Director of Administration, a role she assumed on January 1 2026, where she provides strategic leadership in strengthening administrative systems and institutional governance.

She began her career with the CSIR in 2003 at the Building and Road Research Institute (BRRI), Kumasi, and has since built an exemplary career across multiple divisions, including CSIR-INSTI and the Head Office. Through consistent dedication, professionalism, and leadership excellence, she rose steadily through the ranks to her current executive position.

Mrs. Nketia has made significant contributions to organizational development and public sector

administration. She has played a pivotal role in the formulation and implementation of key institutional frameworks, including the Human Resource Policy Manual, Administrative Policies and Regulations, Transport Policy, Corporate Performance Appraisal System, and Schemes of Service for various staff categories. Her work has been instrumental in promoting transparency, strengthening governance structures, and advancing merit-based performance management across the Council.

Academically, she holds two Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees, one in Human Resource Management from Central University, Accra, and another in Logistics and Supply Chain Management as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. She has further enhanced her expertise through executive training in human resource management and labour law.

She is an active member of several professional bodies, including the Senior Human Resource Management International (SHRMI), the Chartered Institute of Human Resource Management Practitioners (CIHRMP), Ghana, and the CSIR Administrators Association of Ghana (CAAG).

Driven by a dedication to excellence, Mrs Nketia continues to champion efficient administrative systems, inclusive governance practices, and institutional effectiveness, supporting CSIR's mandate to advance scientific research and technological innovation for national development.

PROMOTIONS

NAME	POSITION	INSTITUTE	DATE
MS. FRANSICA A. ASHONG	CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER	CSIR-BRRI	01/01/2026
MR. EMMANUEL HEGAN	CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER	CSIR-OPRI	01/01/2026
MS. CHRISTIANA TEIKO AGGREY	CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER	CSIR-IIR	01/01/2026
MS. BARBARA ASUNKA	CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER	CSIR-FRI	01/01/2026
MR. SIXTUS VIIRU	CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER	CSIR-ARI	01/01/2026
MS. ANTOINETTE VORDZORBGE KELEVE	CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER	CSIR-ARI	01/01/2026
DR. ALLEN OPPONG	CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST	CSIR-CRI	01/01/2026
DR. FRANCIS KUSI	CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST	CSIR-SARI	01/01/2025
DR. PATRICIA PINAMAN ACHEAMPONG	CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST	CSIR-CRI	01/01/2025
DR. ROSE OMARI	CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST	CSIR-STEPRI	01/01/2025
MR. ARIMEYAW SALLEY IBN SAEED	CHIEF ACCOUNTANT	CSIR-HEAD OFFICE	01/01/2025
DR CHARLOTTE ODURO	CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST	CSIR-FRI	01/07/2025
DR. SETH AWUKU MANTEAW	CHIEF RESEARCH SCIENTIST	CSIR-INSTI	01/01/2024

GALLERY

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CSIR NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE & INNOVATION FAIR – 2026



SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Theme:
Harnessing Science, Technology
and Innovation for Sustainable
Development



INNOVATION FAIR

Theme:
From Research to Market: The Role
of CSIR in Driving Innovation for
National Development

PROGRAMME DETAILS



SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE:

Wednesday 14th - Thursday, 15th October, 2026



INNOVATION FAIR

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th October, 2026



TIME: 9am - 6pm each day



CONFERENCE VENUE:

Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, Accra



INNOVATION FAIR VENUE:

Efua Sutherland Children's Park, Accra

PLEASE REGISTER FOR
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<https://nscif.csir.org.gh/>

CONFERENCE SUBTHEMES

1. Food Security through innovations
2. Sustainable Infrastructure, Housing, and Transport Systems
3. Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation
4. Digital Transformation and Emerging Technologies
5. Health, Biotechnology, and Bioeconomy
6. Energy, Climate Change, and Green Transitions
7. Data, Monitoring, and Impact Evaluation for Sustainable Development

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SUBTHEMES HERE



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The poster features a smiling man in a white hard hat and a yellow safety vest holding a solar panel. In the background, another person is seen working on a roof with solar panels under a bright sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

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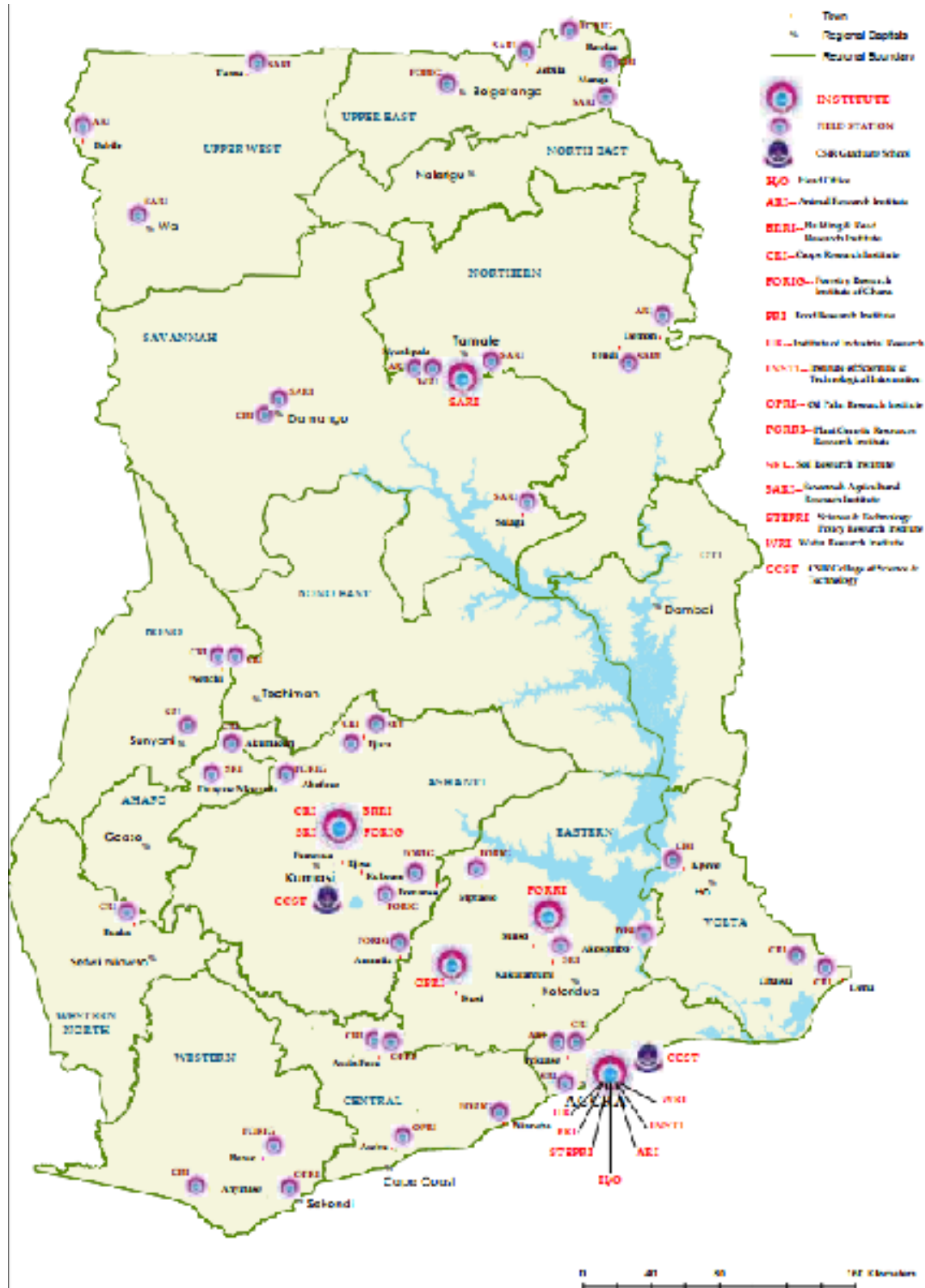
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