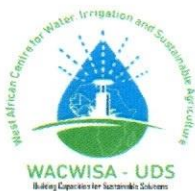


Communique Issued at the End of the 2nd International Conference on Irrigation and Agricultural Development (IRAD 2020)



**West Africa Centre for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA)
University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana**

1. The West African Centre for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA), an African Centre of Excellence, in the University for Development Studies (UDS) held a 3-day international conference from February 25th to 27th 2020 on the theme: “*Water Resources Development for Sustainable Agricultural Systems*”.
2. WACWISA, specialises in training (short courses, Master, PhD and Postdoctoral) and research in Water Resources, Irrigation Science and Engineering, Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change.

In Attendance Were:

- a. University for Development Studies (UDS)
- b. West Africa Centre for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA)
- c. International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- d. Water Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (WRI-CSIR)
- e. Savannah Agriculture Research Institute of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (SARI – CSIR)
- f. Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA)
- g. Deputy Minister, Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- h. Minister, Upper West Region
- i. College of Agriculture and Natural Science of the University of Cape Coast (UCC),
- j. Fadama III AF of Nigeria,
- k. HydroFarm Ltd
- l. Kukobila Naisa Farms Ltd
- m. Fallu Farms Ltd
- n. Arima Farms Ghana Ltd
- o. International Water and Agricultural Development (IWAD)

- p. Students from Ghana and Togo

On Water Resources for Agricultural Development in Ghana:

3. The conference noted the continued pollution of water resources through illegal mining activities, thus threatening the agricultural sector through loss of water quality and land resources.
4. The conference reaffirmed the importance of intensifying and strengthening of strategic stakeholder partnerships for the proper management of water resources.
5. While welcoming the Government of Ghana's "One Village One Dam" initiative, the conference called for a guided Ghana Government's investment in the development of small to medium scale farmer-managed irrigated agricultural projects so as to allow beneficiaries explore the opportunities that abound in the sector is imperative.
6. The conference further emphasized the need for increased government's investment in capacity building (at all levels) and research so as to increase the gains associated with such investments.
7. The conference underscored the importance of improved recognition and support for private enterprise in the irrigation and agricultural development sector of the country to promote increased investments and its associated benefits.


Agricultural Development in Africa

8. The conference further amplified voice for ECOWAS and African Union's recognition of the importance of irrigation investments that will lead to socioeconomic growth - such as the investment in human resource development for the irrigated agricultural sector.
9. Strengthen the processes leading to the implementation of the aspirations of AU's Agenda 2063 was noted by IRAD 2020 participants as a laudable step to speed-up the process of sustainable growth and development of the economies of Africa.

10. In order to catapult the growth and development of Africa, IRAD 2020 called for a comprehensive investment strategy to recognise and harness the potentials of educational and research institutions of the continent.
11. The conference also entreated all African states and governments to speed-up the process of signing and ratifying all Agriculture and Environmental Management Treaties of the AU in order to make them functional and beneficial.
12. IRAD 2020 additionally underscored the need for investment by all African countries in the generation of accurate and timely data in the agriculture sector to accelerate the growth of the sector and the continent.
13. The conference called for increased investment and funding of the “**African Union Research Grants (AURG)**” programme to promote investments, collaborations and trainings/capacity building within Africa through enhanced research and educational partnerships. AURG was noted as a very important pillar necessary to support education and cutting-edge **research by Africa and for Africa** as investment in these grants will support the achievement of especially all the Goals under Aspiration 1 of the AU Agenda 2063.

From the organizers of the 2nd International Conference on Irrigation and Agricultural Development (IRAD 2020), a special appreciation goes to recognize the work and support of all partners for their commitment to the development of the sector.

Done at Tamale this day of 27th February 2020


Prof. Felix. K. Abagale
(Director, WACWISA)