

DRAFT MINUTES OF WACWISA CORE TEAM MEETING HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY, 2020, AT THE WACWISA MEETING ROOM, NYANKPALA CAMPUS

1.0 Attendance

1.1 Present

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| 1. Prof Felix K. Abagale | - | Director/Chairman |
| 2. Prof Gordana Kranjac-Berisavljevic' | - | Deputy Director |
| 3. Prof Saa Dittoh | - | Grants Coordinator |
| 4. Prof Israel K. Dzomeku | - | Research Team Leader |
| 5. Prof Abdul-Ganiyu Shaibu | - | Academic Programmes Coordinator |
| 6. Dr Dzigbodi Adzo Doke | - | Research Team Leader |
| 7. Dr Mamudu A. Akudugu | - | Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator |
| 8. Dr Sylvester N. Ayambila | - | Research Coordinator |
| 9. Dr Samuel J. Cobbina | - | Industrial Liaison Coordinator |
| 10. Dr Bernard N. Baatuuwie | - | Research Team Leader |
| 11. Mr Bernard Alando | - | Administrative Coordinator/Secretary |
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| 12. <u>Apologies for absence</u> | | |
| 13. Dr Raymond Kasei | - | Research Team Leader |
| 14. Prof. Abdul-Halim Abubakari | - | Research Team Leader |

No	Discussions	Action Point
2.0	<p>Opening Remarks, Review and Adoption of Minutes.</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 2:40 pm with an opening prayer by Dr Akudugu. This was followed by introductory remarks from the Director of the Centre, Prof. Abagale in which he indicated that the year 2020 was going to be more involving than the previous years. More efforts will be required to accomplish both present and previously planned activities which could not be implemented due to funding challenges. He also indicated that a new Implementation Plan (IP) for the year 2020 would be drafted for inputs and approval of the Sectoral Advisory Board (SAB) of the Centre.</p> <p>The Director's brief remarks were then followed by a review of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th December 2019, which was accepted as accurate, subject to corrections of minor typographical errors. Dr Ayambila then moved for the acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Prof. Shaibu.</p>	

3.0	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes</p> <p><i>3.1 Appointment Letters for WACWISA Core Management Team Members:</i> The Director indicated that he had obtained the pay structure of other Centers of Excellence to be used as a guide for determining the conditions of service of staff of WACWISA, hence, new engagement letters were to be issued to all management team members.</p> <p><i>3.2 Update on Short Courses</i> Prof. Abdul-Ganiyu reported that WACWISA collaborated with the Wageningen University and Research (WUR) to conduct a short course on Drainage Designs for post-graduate students and some staff of WACWISA. He said the participants were all examined and will be given certificates. It was suggested that such relevant short courses should be opened up to include practitioners in the industry, especially WACWISA’s industry partners. It was also suggested that future short courses should include some practical modules and field visits for participants. Opportunities should also be explored to run such courses with WACWISA’s partners at the regional level. Prof. Shaibu agreed to draft a news brief on the event for the WACWISA website.</p> <p>The Academic Programmes Coordinator was also requested to develop a time-table for academic activities for the second trimester before the students resume studies.</p>	<p>Director to discuss appointment letters with Registrar</p> <p>Prof. Shaibu to draft a brief write-up on the short course for the WACWISA website</p> <p>Prof. Shaibu to develop an academic programme for second-trimester activities</p>
	<p><i>3.3 Update on IRAD 2020 Conference:</i> Before the update, the Director expressed his displeasure about how the Conference preparatory work seems to be left for the Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee alone to do and urged everyone to see the Conference as part of their regular line of duty and support it as such. The Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, Dr Ayambila, then reported on the progress so far made. He said the Committee had so far received 30 abstracts, concluded negotiations for the venue, sent out invitation letters and also stepped up fundraising efforts with companies and institutions for support. He presented samples of the conference materials yet to be produced, for comments and inputs. It was suggested all the post-graduate students of WACWISA should be made to register and participate fully in the Conference. WACWISA team members were also encouraged to register online and also make time to participate. Prof. Kranjac-Berisavljevic’ suggested that WACWISA should make the best use of the conference to uplift its image both nationally and internationally.</p>	<p>WACWISA team and students to register for IRAD 2020 conference online</p>
	<p><i>3.4 Update on Grant Applications:</i> The Grants Coordinator, Prof. Dittoh, reported that two grant applications thus Bridge U and ‘Bridge T’ had been developed and submitted. He indicated that the University of Kail in Germany which already has an existing collaboration with UDS could be used to satisfy the application requirement for a European collaborating institution. Also, the research project concept for the possible collaboration with Mohammed the V1 Polytechnic University in Morocco (UM6P/IFDC) collaboration was also done and sent to the</p>	

<p>team in Morocco for feedback. Prof. Abagale commended the work so far done by the Grants Coordinator. He indicated he was also working on a grant application in response to a call from the DELTAS on Health and Climate Change. He said the deadline was 28th February 2020 and he was trying his best to see how far he would go by then. He called on all team members to support the process. A few themes that were suggested for consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Food and nutrition • Sustainable agriculture • Agriculture, nutrition and health <p>The Director also informed the meeting that UDS was being registered with the grants database and therefore will soon be receiving premium notifications on grant calls. He encouraged all to take advantage of it.</p>	
<p><u>3.5 Students Research Supervision:</u> The Director noted that all faculty staff will be allocated students to supervise. He suggested that there was a need to adopt innovative approaches in supervision to ensure that the research grant is properly utilized.</p>	
<p><u>3.6 Update on Academic Programmes:</u> The Academic Programmes Coordinator, Prof. Shaibu, reported that course work for both MPhil and PhD candidates was progressing steadily. Results of the first-trimester examination were being compiled for submission and arrangements for an impending field trip to Irrigation sites in the Upper East Region had been concluded. While commending the efforts of the Academic Programmes Coordinator, the Director advised him to ensure that lectures do not overlap and also avoid weekend schedules.</p>	
<p><u>3.7 Technical Support to Government's One Village, One Dam (IVID) Initiative:</u> WACWISA/CARE International Collaboration. Dr Akudugu reported that he had developed and submitted field data collection instrument to the CARE International team for further engagement, but was yet to receive feedback from them.</p>	<p>Dr Akudugu to follow up on CARE International for further engagement</p>
<p><u>3.8 Update on Accreditation of WACWISA Programmes:</u> Prof. Dittoh reported that the MPhil/PhD Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems programme was at the level of the campus board for consideration. The Director added that the MPhil/ PhD Integrated Water Resources Management programme was at the level of the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for consideration and approval. He was hopeful that the two programmes will be approved. The Director also indicated that he had engaged with the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment (FNRE) to include the Environmental Management and Sustainability programme in the 2020/2021 call for application to attract more regional female students.</p>	<p>Prof. Abagale to follow up on the status of WACWISA programme accreditation at NAB</p>
<p><u>3.9 Half Year Report to the Association of Africa Universities:</u> The Director announced that he had received the reporting template from AAU on the status of WACWISA. He said the summary indicated that WACWISA had achieved all deliverables except staff and students internship. The Director also announced that the next ACE Conference and Workshops for all Centres of Excellence were scheduled for 24th to 28th February 2020 in Abuja, Nigeria.</p>	

	<p><i>3.10 Update on Students Field Visits:</i> Prof. Shaibu reported that a five-day field visit was embarked upon to Nasia Farms, Kukuobilla Farms, International Water and Agriculture Development (IWAD), and the Irrigation Company of Upper Region (ICOUR). He said the visit was very insightful and the students were now putting together their field reports for presentation. The next field visit was being scheduled to irrigation sites in the Upper West Region, which will include the new students. Prof. Dittoh suggested that the students should also be taken to the informal irrigation sites so that they will appreciate the informal irrigation systems that are practised.</p>	<p>Prof. Shaibu to finalise the plan for a students field visit to Upper West Region.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Main Business</p> <p><i>4.1 Arrival of Second Batch of Students:</i> It was reported that six (6) PhD and four (4) masters' students were expected to arrive on 17th February 2020. These were to be made up of three (3) regional and five (5) Ghanaian students. All arrangements had been made for their arrival and reception both in Accra and Tamale.</p>	
	<p><i>4.2 Staff and Students Internship:</i> The Director indicated that all staff and students of WACWISA are expected to go on an internship with industry partners that are not government institutions. He directed that all team members should identify one WACWISA partner each and arrange an internship programme for at least six (6) weeks. Some of the partners include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DECO • Amati Company Ltd • Garu Presby Agriculture Stations (PAS-G) • Ariku Farms • Mallam Farms Ltd • Fallu Farms Ltd • Hydrofarm • Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana • SAVANET • Arima Farms • Rice Farmers Association • Kukuobilla Farms Ltd • Royal Zebango Farms 	
	<p><i>4.3 2020 WACWISA Implementation Plan</i> The Director reminded the team that there was a need to put together the 2020 Implementation Plan. He suggested activities that were planned for 2019 and could not be implemented to be captured for implementation.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Closing Dr Akudugu moved a motion for the closure of the meeting and was seconded by Dr Doke. The closing prayer was said by Dr Cobbina The date for the next meeting was to be communicated later. The meeting ended at 4:10 pm</p>	

Compiled by:



Bernard Alando (ChPA, CMC)
Administrative Coordinator/Secretary



Prof Felix K. Abagale
Director