



**3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IRRIGATION AND AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (IRAD 2022 CONFERENCE)**

ORGANIZED BY:

West African Centre for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA)

University for Development Studies, Tamale, Ghana

CONTACT:

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THEME:

***“Mining, Water Resources Management and Environmental Sustainability in Africa:
Opportunities and Challenges”***

Conference Date: 22nd – 24th February 2022

Venue: UDSICC, Tamale, Ghana

1.0 Conference Background

The 3rd International Conference on Irrigation and Agricultural Development (IRAD, 2022) is a continuation of the 2nd successful Conference that took place in February, 2020 at UDS, Ghana. The conference seeks to create a platform for exchange of ideas and knowledge among stakeholders for the development of the irrigated agriculture sub-sector. For this reason, the three (3) day conference under the theme, ***“Mining, Water Resources Management and Environmental Sustainability in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges”*** is expected to bring together practitioners, academics, researchers, policy makers, civil society, community/traditional leaders, farmers, agricultural extension agents, irrigation consultants, irrigation facility contractors, technical experts, students, etc. to deliberate on how water resources could be developed for sustainable agricultural systems in Africa and beyond.

The Theme is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) generally and the vision of the Government of Ghana in particular that aim to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the nation’s water, lands and natural resources as well as the efficient management of the mineral resources for inclusive growth and development. This Conference comes on the backdrop of the fact that mining plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of the country and yet its activities have undesirably impact on the environment. This has given rise to recent concerns about environmental problems emanating from mining activities. These environmental problems include land degradation, air and water pollution with heavy metals and inorganic waste with negative impact on plants and animal ecosystems, human health and socio-economic development. These problems lead to poor livelihood outcomes and wellbeing, especially among populations that depend on the environment for survival. Agriculture which remains the main source of livelihoods for poor and vulnerable populations is the worse hurt by the negative impacts of mining on the water resources thereby compromising social, economic and environmental sustainability. The situation is exacerbated by climate change that threatens the livelihoods across the developing world, especially Africa. Thus, the goal of this conference is to create the platform for critical conversation on how to promote environmentally sustainable, economically viable, socially acceptable, politically neutral, gender sensitive, climate smart and generationally stable mining for inclusive development across Africa and Ghana in particular. Undoubtedly, this we believe will contribute to the adoption of efficient management of water resources in mining activities, which will greatly contribute to the achievement of SDG 6, 12 and 15 amongst others.

2.0 Conference Objectives

The conference amongst other things has the following objectives:

- Create a common platform for interaction, discussion, dissemination and exchange of innovative ideas, especially through scientific presentations.
- Provide a platform for identification of sector investment challenges and opportunities.
- Create opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to policy discussions on mining, water resource development, management and sustainable agriculture systems.

3.0 Sub-Themes

1. Mining and Water Resources Management
2. Agricultural Water Management and Pollution
3. Soil and Water Resources Conservation and Management
4. Mining, Environmental Impact and Sustainable Livelihoods
5. Climate Change and Water Resources

4.0 Expected Conference Outcomes

It is expected that the following will be achieved at the end of the conference:

1. A 'position paper'/communiqué on how synergies could be built for improved interconnectedness in mining, water resources management and environmental sustainability for inclusive development.
2. Conference Proceedings
3. Establishment of relevant linkages with the sector players.

5.0 Expected Participants

Engineers, Irrigation Agronomists & Economists, Academics, Researchers, Consultants, Agricultural Based Non-Governmental Organizations, Policy Makers, Government Institutions, NGO's and Donor Agencies, Development partners, Traditional Rulers, Farmers, Students and the General Public.

6.0 Commissioned Paper Presentations

- Speaker 1: The Executive Secretary, Water Resources Commission

- Speaker 2: Chief Executive Officer, Ghana Chamber of Mines
- Speaker 3: The Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency

7.0 Conference Organisers:

The conference is being organised by the West African Centre for Water, Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA), UDS, Ghana. WACWISA was established following the World Bank Africa Centres of Excellence for Development Impact (ACE Impact) and the Government of Ghana's Award of a five-year (2019 – 2023) grant to the University for Development Studies (UDS). The Centre aims at bridging the training gap that exists for manpower in the area of water, irrigation and sustainable agriculture in the West African sub-region. WACWISA envisions being "a leading world-class academic and research Centre specialized in irrigation, water resources and sustainable agriculture". Building on the excellent record of UDS in practical training, WACWISA seeks to attain its vision by developing the skills and knowledge of individuals in the Africa Region to provide practical and sustainable solutions to challenges of water resources, irrigation and agricultural development through high-quality teaching and research. More Information can be found at <https://wacwisa.uds.edu.gh/>