

ACE for Development Impact (ACE Impact)

2024 Annual Workplan Narrative

(to be submitted along with the attached detailed work plan and budget)

Name of Center	WEST AFRICAN CENTRE FOR WATER, IRRIGATION AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (WACWISA)
Institution	UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
Country	GHANA
Center Leader	PROFESSOR FELIX K. ABAGALE
Annual Workplan (Month – Month Year)	JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024

Narrative

1. **Center highlights in 2023** (maximum of 3 Highlights, maximum 100 words each) In a concise, descriptive statement suitable for public understanding, provide up to three Highlights from the Center accomplishments in the past year. You may attach web link: press releases; photographs.
 - i. Management met with a team from Fundacion Cartif, Spain who are leading the implementation of the Agroecological Solutions for Resilient Farming in West Africa (CIRAWA). WACWISA, together with other 13 partners from 9 countries of CIRAWA are working with smallholder farmers in West Africa to improve food nutrition, local livelihoods and ecosystem health, using new agroecological-based practices that build on existing local and scientific knowledge to help create more resilient food supply chains in 8 regions across Cape Verde, Ghana, Senegal and the Gambia. <https://wacwisa.uds.edu.gh/wacwisa-uds-undertakes-training-of-supervisors-and-enumerators-in-senegal-and-the-gambia-under-the-cirawa-project/>
 - ii. WACWISA signed an MOU with the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) to foster research collaboration and training/capacity building.
 - iii. The Centre partnered with UNIDO on the implementation of “Technology Transfer of Improved Roaster for Shea Butter Processing” under the UNIDO Project SAP ID 170220.
2. **Key Center achievements in 2023** (Maximum 500 words) Describe the Key Accomplishments of the Center in the preceding Calendar Year. Focus on: Teaching, Research, Center-level Operations. In addition, comment on how the Accomplishments align with the ACE Impact project Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) and the Center Implementation Plan.

- i. For DLI 4 (Quality of Education and Research) The Centre supported the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environment and the School of Engineering to obtain, first in the history of the University, International Accreditation for three (3) study programmes. The accreditation process, which started in the year 2020, was obtained for the following study programmes:
 - a. Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, hosted at the Department of Agricultural Engineering.
 - b. Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Environmental Management and Sustainability, hosted at the Department of Environment and Sustainability Sciences.
 - c. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Environmental Management and Sustainability, hosted at the Department of Environment and Sustainability Sciences.
<https://wacwisa.uds.edu.gh/wacwisa-supports-first-international-programme-accreditation-in-uds/>
 - ii. Also under DLI 4 (Quality of Education and Research), WACWISA graduated twenty-three (23) post-graduate students at the 24th Congregation of the University for Development Studies (UDS), held on 18th November, 2023, at the University, in Tamale. The WACWISA scholars who graduated included two (2) PhD and twenty-one (21) Master graduates from seven (7) African countries, namely from Benin, DR Congo, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Uganda. From the establishment in 2019, the Centre has since provided scholarships to more than 100 scholars for Masters and PhD studies, as well as training of over 500 individuals in the form of short courses. The Centre is also facilitating access to modern laboratory and field research facilities, for the conduct of cutting-edge research in its thematic areas.
<https://wacwisa.uds.edu.gh/7-african-countries-and-23-masters-and-phd-students-supported-by-wacwisa-graduate/>
 - iii. For DLI 6 (Timeliness and Quality of Fiduciary Management), there has been timely reporting to the AAU/WB. There is also a functioning internal audit committee. The Centre successfully went through external audit of its finances and procurements. All financial transactions and reports have been uploaded onto the Centre's website for online transparency.
3. **Status/Progress on Implementation** (Maximum 250 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is ahead of schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan.
 - i. The Centre is making significant progress in terms of its implementation plan. The Centre is ahead of schedule with regards to regional Masters recruitments, regional PhD recruitments and Professional Short Courses (100%). It is also ahead of schedule on DLI 4.3 (Teaching and Learning Infrastructure). The external revenue has already been masked out (100%). WACWISA has a total average of 80 % achievement in terms of implementation, as of November 2023

4. **Plan for Acceleration** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center is behind schedule with respect to the Implementation Plan. How will the Center adjust to achieve the anticipated project deliverables by the conclusion of ACE Impact?

The Centre is behind schedule in the following:

a. DLI 4:

- Activity 3a: Plans to recruit last cohort of PhD and Masters students, focusing on females.
- Activity 5: Faculty exchange programmes with regional institutions
- Activity 6: Students' exchange programmes with national and regional institutions
- Activity 10: Procurement and installation of Lift, commissioning and maintenance of Centre Office Complex

Planned adjustment: Reach out to partner regional institutions to arrange for faculty and students' exchanges. Also work with the procurement Directorate to procure a lift for the WACWISA building.

a. DLI 5:

- Activity 11: Support School of Business to nurture entrepreneurial innovations by faculty and students (Entrepreneurship)

Planned adjustment: The School of Business will be supported to speed up implementation of the formulations of DLR 5.3, which is on entrepreneurship.

b. DLI 7:

- Activity 4: Develop University-wide research support services/relevant policy documents jointly with IIR and support IIR to attract grants and consultancies

5. **Key changes to approved IP, including Covid-19 Related Activities** (Maximum 500 words) Describe in what ways, if any, the Center proposes changes to its approved Implementation Plan. Focus on the reasons for the proposed changes, any impact on the proposed activities, and how the proposed changes will affect the anticipated projects deliverables.

The only change to the IP in response to the COVID-19 pandemic is the mode of delivery of the professional short courses as well as graduate programmes using online resources instead of originally planned face-to-face mode. Also, most meetings are being held using virtual means. Field works are also delayed for faculty and students due to the pandemic. The Centre will be able to recover from the delays mentioned above by end of 2024 through the planned adjustments stated.

The Centre also plans to have the following trainings/capacity building programmes during the year 2024. These are;

- Orientation on Gender Based Violence and Sexual harassment
- Sensitization on Gender Based Violence and Sexual harassment
- Sensitization on Environment and Safety and,

- Compliant Management by establishing a system to manage complaints, provision of complaint boxes and register for sexual harassment related complaints, gender based violence.

These safeguard trainings will help improve the system and allow cordial interaction amongst students and between students and staff of the Centre.