



ENHANCING OF CAPACITIES ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD MARKETS MARKETS

College of Agriculture (CAGRIC), University of Education
Winneba-Ghana

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FUNAAB receives ECIATA Team from CAGRIC

The project team field visits to Partner Institution, Federal Univ. of Agric, and Abeokuta (FUNAAB) in Nigeria last April was a success. The aim of the project team from the College of Agriculture, Univ of Winneba, was to share experiences with FUNAAB on the ongoing trade-capacity needs assessment study whose outcomes would be used as inputs into the design of the new Curriculum and training courses on agriculture trade capacity negotiations.



(L-R) Prof. R. Awuah-Univ of Winneba Dr. Akinbode- Univ of Abeokuta, Dr. Kola Adebayo-Univ of Abeokuta, Chris Addy-Nayo-Univ of Winneba, Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB-Prof Oyebo, Prof Adewale Dipeolu-Univ of Abeokuta, Prof. Siaka Momoh-Univ of Abeokuta.

Prof. Richard Awuah, the Agricultural consultant from the Univ of Winneba, explained that the project would not only train stakeholders in workshop type situations, but will also develop a curriculum for training of students at the Masters level. The Vice-Chancellor of FUNAAB Prof. Oyebo assured the project team of their full support for the collaboration as the project will fill a vital gap in the agriculture academic curriculum and believe that the new Curriculum to be designed by the Partners to enhance agriculture trade and negotiations capacity would be patronized and well received by the students.

ECIATA Team Meets with EC Abuja Delg and ECOWAS

Whilst in Nigeria, the ECIATA Project Team visited Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria, which hosts the ECOWAS Commission and also the Regional EC Delegation for the ECOWAS Region. The aim was to discuss the EDULINK II Funded ECIATA Project with both the ECOWAS Commission and EC Delegation and to explore areas of complementarity and synergies for collaboration between the regional Academic sector and both the ECOWAS Commission and EC Delegation. At the EC Delegation office in Abuja, the First Secretary and Head of Trade Section, Massimo de Luca, and Juan Casla, Head of the EC Economic and Governance Section stated that the focus of the current EU projects in West Africa was to strengthen trade capacities and competitiveness in regional agriculture. The ECIATA project team highlight the challenge posed by the vast gap between the dissemination of information between academia and policy formulators in the region and the need to bridge this by engaging the trade officials.



(L-R) Massimo de Luca, Head of Trade Section-EC Delg-Abuja, Chris Addy-Nayo-Univ of Winneba, Juan Casla-Head of Economic and Governance, at EC Delg-Abuja, Prof Siaka Momoh-Univ of Abeokuta, Prof. Awuah-Univ of Winneba, Sarah Edewor-Univ of Abeokuta.

The EC Delegation shared their experiences on a number of Agriculture and Trade Programmes funded under the 10th EDF (European Development Fund) and expressed their interest in the Project and believe that there could be



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possible areas of collaboration between the Delegation and regional Academic Community on ongoing or future Programmes under the 11th EDF in both Trade and the Agriculture Sector.

During the visit to the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Gbenga Obideyi, Director for Trade, ECOWAS Commission expressed his enthusiasm on the project when the team visited the Trade Directorate of the ECOWAS Commission.



(L-R) Sarah Edewor, Univ of Abeokuta, Prof. R. Awuah, Univ of Winneba, Dr Gbenga Obideyi, Director of Trade for ECOWAS, Chris Addy-Nayo, Univ of Winneba and Prof Siaka Momoh of Univ of Abeokuta.

He indicated that the Project was worthwhile, saying his Directorate routinely conducts training in the area of trade negotiations in the sub region and that to date about 500 people have benefited from such training. He also stated that the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS) which has been in place for almost 20 years is an intervention tool to enable member states to integrate their trade in line with ECOWAS principles especially in the agricultural sector. He noted that some countries in the sub- region have a comparative advantage in certain agricultural commodities and, therefore, there was a need for unimpeded movement of food from areas of high production to areas of deficit to ensure food security in the sub region. This, he said, was a major reason for establishing the ETLS. He believed that there are potentials for collaboration between the Trade Directorate and the ECIATA Partners. The team also visited the ECOWAS Agriculture Directorate in the ECOWAS Commission. The Head of the Directorate, Mr. Alain Troare expressed his interest in the Project and stated the need for the ECOWAS region to develop

capacities in areas such as trade negotiations. He said it was necessary to involve ECOWAS in the implementation of the ECIATA Project and gave his assurance to collaborate with the ECIATA Academic Partnership to enhance the development and growth of the Agriculture sector in the ECOWAS Region.



(R-l) Prof. R. Awuah, Univ of Winneba Dr. Vivian Iwar of ECOWAS Agric Directorate, Mr. Alain Sy Traore- Dir of Agric Directorate ECOWAS, Mr. Chris Addy-Nayo,-Univ of Winneba, Mr. Komla Bissou-ECOWAS Agric Directorate, Mr Ernest Aube, Programme Officer-ECOWAS Agric Directorate.

ECIATA TO EXPAND ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP

The ECIATA Academic Partnership would be expanding its network across the ECOWAS region with the inclusion and participation of the **Univ of Cape Verde** and **Univ De Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso** as Associate Partners. The expansion of the Partnership would provide the opportunity for Partners to gain a broader range of experiences and to share amongst Partners international best practices on Agriculture Trade Agreements and Negotiations in other parts of the ECOWAS region.

COMING EVENTS:

- **Liberia-Univ of Liberia Visits and Exchange:** 12th May - 15th May, 2014.
- **Sierra Leone- Njala Agriculture University Visits and Exchange:** July, 2014.
- **Ghana- Needs Assessment Dissemination Workshop: Accra, November, 2014.**



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