



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

University of Education - Winneba, College of Agriculture
(UEW-CAGRIC) - LEAD PARTNER

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Project Kick Off

Lead Partner hosts Steering Committee at Inception Meeting

The Inception meeting for the Project titled ‘Enhancing Capacities on International Agriculture Agreements for Development for Regional Agriculture and Food Markets’ was held on the 6th of January, 2014 at the Campus of the, College of Agriculture Education of the (CAGRIC) of the University of Education-Winneba (UEW). CAGRIC is the lead partner of the Project.

This is the culmination of months of background work among the partners and the sponsoring organization. The meeting brought together the representatives of the partner institutions for the first time to deliberate on the initiation, schedule of activities and the implementation of the project.

An overview of the project revealed that there is a challenge in Agricultural Industry which has to do with Trade Agreement. The project therefore seeks to make interventions to develop capacities and enhance skill sets and competencies in negotiation platforms for West Africa in bilateral/multilateral agreements. This is crucial as the economy of West Africa is largely dependent on agricultural exports to external trading blocks.

This project is, therefore, an intervention to assist relevant officials of the participating countries hone their capacities in trade negotiations. The project is being supported by the EC.

The project would be focusing on the current program of ECOWAP with emphasis on CAADP.



I-r, Dr Dipeolu Adewale, UNAAB; Prof. Richard T. Awuah, KNUST, Agric Expert; Chris Addy-Nayo, Team Lead, Trade Expert; Elsie Okulaja, Visibility and Com Officer; Dr Leroy Cegbe, University of Liberia; Prof Harrison Dapaah, CAGRIC-UEW, Lead Partner; Dr Momodu Kanu, Njala University, Sierra Leone, Joshua Padi, Finance and Admin Expert.



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The EC Supports Trade Negotiations Capacity Developments In West Africa

The EC has identified negotiations capacity gaps in Ghana and is supporting the government through the Ministry of Trade and Industry to develop skills in that area. This was disclosed by Christian Peters, Head of Economics and Trade, EC Delegation, Accra, Ghana to the members of the steering committee of the Edulink/ CAGRIC project titled “Enhancing Capacities on International Agriculture Agreements for Development of Regional Agriculture and Food Markets”

The Project team paid a courtesy call on the EC Delegation at their Office House, Cantonments, Accra. The visit was also to formally present the project to the Delegation and to seek further collaboration in the implementation at the local level.

Welcoming the team, Mr Peters said the EC Delegation will also be willing to support this project and facilitate meetings with the project partners in the other countries to be visited during the field missions.

The team was also encouraged to collaborate with other established institutions outside the region who have already developed the trade negotiation capacities. It was established that experts will be identified in these institutions to peer review reports and outcomes and to facilitate and participate in the upcoming workshops.



The EC officials elaborated on some of their related engagements within the country. In Ghana there are enabling the licensing of tropical logs to Europe. They also support the Ghana Export Promotion Agency (GEPA) and National Bureau of Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) and Food and Drug Authority (FDA). They work with the private sector through the Chambers of Commerce to overcome challenges and to adhere to with EU import requirements and regulations.

Partner Institutions

Federal University Of Agriculture Abeokuta , Nigeria



William R. Tolbert Jr. College of Agriculture and Forestry, (WRTJ CAF), Liberia University of Liberia.



Njala University, Freetown, Sierra Leone.



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