Mainstreaming CSA and CIS into universities' curricula: training West Africa universities lecturers on thematic modules

1- Background

The Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) Project builds on the initiatives and achievements under the CGIAR Research Program on the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) in Africa. With a focus on climate-smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and on climate information services (CIS), the AICCRA project includes an important capacity development component for the benefit of six (6) countries in Africa. RUFORUM is a global partner to AICCRA to work in West Africa and the East and Sothern Africa but also to work at the continental level. RUFORUM as a Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture working in West Africa with WASCAL which is a Regional Institution on Capacity Building and Adapted Land Use to develop curricula and training materials that will make accessible to other SSA countries, the knowledge on CSA and climate agro-advisory services generated in the six intervention countries. WASCAL has signed a contract with CIAT to achieve this objective under the global partnership RUFORUM has with AICCRA to be able to stress on and capacity development focus on actors' access to knowledge and tools related to Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Climate Information Services (CIS).

The RUFORUM/ WASCAL activities in West Africa align to the AICCRA Project Development Objective indicators to:
   i)   support the uptake of climate-smart agriculture innovations through piloting;

   ii)   knowledge generation and sharing for effective services; and

   iii)   partnerships for delivery.

The main actors targeted in the different Universities are all Universities' staff and students, extension service providers and other partners working with universities to delivers climate agro-advisory services generated in the six core intervention countries and beyond.

Moreover the vulnerability across the region will be consider in paying attention to the gender issues in all the activities and the participation of women in the training and other activities undertaken under all component of the project.

WASCAL is implementing the west African component of the AICCRA project to support universities mainstream CSA and CIS in their respective curricula. The activities are mainly

conducted in Ghana, Senegal, and Mali. But the spill over effect is expected through the dissemination of the training material and other activities such as regional need assessment, course content development in other west African countries.

As part of it 2023 activity plan, WASCAL plans to implement capacity building (Training of trainers) of university lecturers on the new curricula developed from RUFORUM and WASCAL networks. Targeted participants are deans and lecturers (multidisciplinary) from RUFORUM universities, WASCAL Alumni and partners (e.g., polytechnical schools).

2- Objective of the training

The general objective to create awareness, train lecturers and share to them the training material developed on four thematic modules on CSA and CIS to contribute to AICCRA overall objectives on training material development that are going to be made available through RUFORUM online platform.

Specific Objective

- Create awareness by sharing with the participants the relevance of CSA and CIS as well as the AICCRA project impact for Africa

- Conduct in person training of lecturers on the modules developed mainly targeting lecturers that are WASCAL alumni from Ghana (75%) and other WASCAL alumni from West Africa, as well as lecturers at KNUST (25%)

- Collect feedbacks from trainees for further improvement of the four modules

- Disseminate by making available the training material developed for their future lectures.

2- Expected deliverables

- Infonote documenting the whole process: gap/need assessment, testing and validation, lessons learnt and dissemination across universities in Africa, including non-AICCRA countries university reached [WASCAL/RUFORUM]
- The training report including insights of the participants.
- This results from this workshop will contribute to significantly influence the course taught in the future by those alumni

3- Methodology

WASCAL is leading the development of 4 modules as part of AICCRA overall curricula development led by RUFORUM (table below). The modules after finalization are going to be tested online with lecturers identified after a survey. The objective of the test is to have feedback from the lecturers on each module and incorporate those input to improve the different modules. Then an expert is going to evaluate the module content for more improvement before the final printing of the training material as support of courses. The training material will be made available to the lecturers composed of WASCAL Alumni, lecturer in come Universities in Ghana.

This different test will be done by the end of August 2023. Then the training material are going to be printed to make sur that all participants will get a hard copy for the purpose of dissemination.

CSA/CIS Thematic areas for training modules target

No.	Thematic areas	Resource's persons involved in the development of the module	Team Leader
1	Indigenous and local trees based agroforestry systems involving	Prof Achille Assogbadjo Egeru Anthony	Prof Achile Assogbadjo
2	Crop-livestock aquaculture integration	Dr Chabi DJAGOUN Prof Koné Daouda	Prof Chabi DJAGOUN
3	Soil - carbon sequestration – crop production	Prof Agyare Wilson - Dr Diallo Yacouba – Prof Adeyewa	Prof Agyare

4- Preparation of training material

The different modules developed, tested, and validated will be compiled to have the following documents:
- Training manual (module)
- Power point presentation, film, flyers, posters

The above package of documents will be shared with the participants.

5- Relevance
- Create awareness by sharing with the Universities Deans the AICCRA objectives in improving capacity Building through CSA and CIS
- Developed and elaborated are going to be presented to the Universities leaders as well as WASCAL alumni who are working as lecturers at the University for the benefits of the students and improvement of the Universities curricula in the future.
- Disseminate the training material as contribution of AICCRA to support University lecturers

6- Efficiency and effectiveness

The training will support the achievement of the deliverables of WASCAL and RUFORUM and to discuss on the perspectives considering the gender issue and other vulnerable groups.

7- Impact

- Awareness created for university leadership on CSA and CIS
- The most important change through the meeting is the availability of courses content for sustainable implementation into the University system in the future
- Discuss how the trainees can get access to RUFORUM platform for the use of the information.

8- Sustainability
- Assurance that the outcomes are likely to continue after the programme has ended in term of training staff, students at different level,
- Sensitization of University leadership to disseminate the information shared

9- Key Audiences
The targeted audience for the meeting is composed of :

- Deans, HoD, Postgraduate School Director of KNUST,
- Lecturers from partners universities of Ghana, Mali and Senegal
- Directors of WASCAL graduate studies programme in KNUST
- Lecturers from partners Universities
- AICCRA representative from Senegal
- RUFORUM platform Manager
- RUFORUM leadership representative

10- Duration and financial support

The training will take place in Kumasi on September 13th to 15th. The departure will be on September 12 and the return in September 16.

The meeting will be supported by AICCRA

After the in-person training, a certificate will be given to the trainees.

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in Africa
Agenda

Date: 13-15 September 2023
Day 1: 13th September, 8h30 – 17h45 min

	ACTIVITIES	Speakers/Responsible
8h30-9h05	Arrival and Registration of the participants	Selasi Weto WASCAL/Theresa Sarpong Pepra
9h05-10h00	Welcome address WASCAL GSP Director	KNUST/GSP Director
	Welcome of WASCAL Scientific Advisory Chair	Prof Brice Sinsin
	Opening Remark WASCAL	Vice-Chancellor KNUST
	Self-introduction	All participants
	Presentation and Validation of the Agenda	Prof Koné
	Orientation and Expectation of the meeting: AICCRA	Prof KONE Daouda WASCAL & RUFORUM
10h00 - 10h15	Impact of mainstreaming Climate Information Services into the University Curricula	Prof Benjamin Lamptey
10h15 -10h20	Sharing with the VC the package of training material	AICCRA representative
10h20 -10h40	**Group Photo**	**IT**
10h40-11h00	Health Break	Selasi
11h00-11h05	**1- Awareness created for university leadership on CSA and CIS** • The Capacity building of AICCRA targeting University learning Programmes, Why? and how? Presentation of the training material developed: Process and relevance.	Prof Koné Daouda Prof Agyare Wislson
11h05-11h10	Distribution of the training material to the grantees	
11h10-11h30	LUNCH	
11h30- 12h30	**2- In-person Training** • 2-1- Soil - carbon sequestration – crop production	Prof Agyare
12h30-13h00	Break	
13h00-14h00	2-1- Soil - carbon sequestration – crop production contd	Prof Agyare
14h-16h15	Feedback of the trainees	Dr Bessah/Williams
16h15-16h30	End of the day	

16h30-17h30		
17h30-17h40		
!7h40–17h45		

Day 2: 14 September, 9 – 18 h

	ACTIVITIES	Speakers/Responsible
9h00-9h10	Arrival and Registration of the participants	Welcome of participants
9h10-11h15	2-1- Soil - carbon sequestration – crop production contd. Practical activities	
11h15-11h30	Health Break	Selasi Weto WASCAL/Theresa Sarpong
11h30-13h00	2-1- Soil - carbon sequestration – crop production contd. Practical activities	
13h00-14h00	Lunch break	Selasi Weto WASCAL/Theresa Sarpong
14h00-16h00	visit	Team of Prof Agyare
16h00-16h15	Health Break	Selasi Weto WASCAL/Theresa Sarpong
16h15-17h30	2-1- visit	Team of Prof Agyare
17h30-17h40	Feedback of the trainee	Dr Bessah/Williams
17h40-17h45	End of the day2	
17h45	Closing Day 2	

Day 3: 15th August, 9h – 16h

	ACTIVITIES	Speakers/Responsible
8h30-8h40	Arrival and Registration of the participants	Welcome of participants
8h40-11h00	2-4- module from RUFORUM	Module from RUFORUM
11h00-11h20	Health Break	Selasi Weto WASCAL/Theresa Sarpong
11h20-12h30	2-4- module from RUFORUM	Module from RUFORUM
12h30-13h00	Sharing with the grantees the RUFORUM platform to get access to the other training material	
13h00-13h20	Certificate to the participants	
13h20-13h30	Closing remark	

13h30-14h30	LUNCH	Selasi Weto WASCAL/Theresa Sarpong
14h30-	Site visite in Kumasi	Williams/Bessa