

CURRENT AND EMERGING NEEDS IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION : VIEWS FROM STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING IN GHANA

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BACKGROUND OF COURSES IN CACS

- B.SC. AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME RUNS FOR 4 YEARS

SIX DEPARTMENTS:

- ANIMAL SCIENCE
- AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND AGRIBUSINESS
- CROP SCIENCE
- SOIL SCIENCE
- ENGINEERING
- EXTENSION
- THERE IS NO FORESTRY DEPARTMENT IN CACS

STUDENTS CAN SPECIALIZE FROM THE FIRST 4 DEPARTMENTS

BACKGROUND CONTINUED

- AGROFORESTRY (AF) IS OFFERED AS A CORE COURSE IN YEAR 4 WITH 3 CREDITS (AGRC 402)
- PROGRAMME IS RUN IN THE 2ND SEMESTER
- THERE IS NO SLOT FOR PRACTICAL
- THERE ARE FOUR LECTURERS ON THE COURSE FROM ANIMAL SCIENCE, CROP SCIENCE, SOIL SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

COURSE CONTENT: AGRC 402

- CONCEPT OF AGROFORESTRY: DEFINITION, PRACTICES, SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY, CLASSIFICATION, ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES, SUSTAINABILITY
- AF PRACTICES AND SYSTEMS: DISPERSED TREES, CONTOUR STRIPS, ALLEY CROPPING, MULCHING AND COMPOSTING, TREE INTERCROPPING, AQUA CULTURE, IMPROVED FALLOWS, TAUNGYA
- APPLICATION OF AF: WOODLOT FARMING, RECLAMATION OF DEGRADED LAND, INTEGRATION OF LIVESTOCK AND TREE CROPS, ALTERNATIVES TO SLASH AND BURN AGRICULTURE
- ECONOMICS OF AGROFORESTRY: EVALUATION OF AGROFORESTRY SYSTEMS

STAKEHOLDERS AND OBJECTIVES OF MEETING

STAKEHOLDERS:

- FARMER
- STUDENT(CURRENT)
- STAFF(UG)
- RESEARCH INSTITUTE
- GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
- NGO
- INDUSTRY
- CIVIL SOCIETY
- FUNDING AGENCY

OBJECTIVES:

- HIGHLIGHT ON SKILLS NEEDED BY INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY
- IDENTIFY AREAS OF RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
- ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF FUNDING

THEMATIC AREAS

- STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION
- STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE RELEVANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION
- STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE UNIVERSITY-RESEARCH INSTITUTION-INDUSTRY LINKAGES

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN AGRIC AND FORESTRY

STRENGTHS:

- THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL FOR BOTH TEACHING AND RESEARCH
- RESEARCH CENTRES SITED IN THREE AGROECOLOGICAL ZONES IN GHANA EACH WITH A SPECIFIC RESEARCH FOCUS
- CLOSE PROXIMITY TO DEMONSTRATION PLOTS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
- EXISTING VACATION TRAINING PRACTICALS IN THE THREE RESEARCH CENTRES
- POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY WHICH OFFERS COURSES IN FORESTRY

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN AGRIC AND FORESTRY

WEAKNESSES

- HEAVY WORKLOAD OF CURRENT AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME
- NON-COMMITMENT OF STUDENTS
- FORMAT OF B.SC. PROGRAMME WHICH NARROWS DOWN TO A SPECIALITY
- HIGH NUMBER OF STUDENT IN-TAKE
- USE OF OLD CURRICULLUM

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN AGRIC AND FORESTRY

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- REVIEW OF CURRICULUM TO REFLECT CHANGING NEEDS OF ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
- SET UP OF DEMONSTRATION AND MODEL FARMS, MUSEUMS
- INCREASED PRACTICAL TRAINING
- INCREASE IN RESEARCH LINKS BETWEEN FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE
- EXTENSION OF AGROFORESTRY COURSE BEYOND ONE SEMESTER
- INCREASE LINKS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS AND FARMER SOCIETY

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN AGRIC AND FORESTRY

- INVITATIONS TO EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OUTSIDE OF ACADEMIA TO DELIVER LECTURES ON SPECIAL TOPICS OF RELEVANCE
- SHORT REFRESHER COURSES AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR LECTURERS AND RESEARCHERS TO KEEP ABREAST WITH CHANGING NEEDS
- LINKS WITH INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITIES FOR FIELD VISITS AND ATTACHMENTS
- USE OF E-LEARNING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXPERTISE FROM OTHER PARTNERS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING MODULES

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE RELEVANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION

- LINKAGE BETWEEN UNIVERSITY, RESEARCH AND STAKEHOLDERS NEEDS TO BE CREATED TO ENSURE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ALONG THE VALUE CHAIN OF SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT AND MANAGEMENT
- OUTREACH PROGRAMMES TO 2ND CYCLE INSTITUTIONS TO ADVISE ON RELEVANT SUBJECTS FOR ADMISSION TO DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN AGRICULTURE
- ADOPTION OF FARMING COMMUNITIES AND PROVISION OF EXPERT ADVICE ON AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION
- PERIODIC SHORT TRAINING COURSES BY INSTITUTIONS TO MEET SOCIETAL NEEDS
- INTERNSHIPS AND ATTACHMENTS IN INDUSTRY OR ON FARMS WHICH WOULD BE CREDITED TOWARDS GRADUATION

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE RELEVANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY EDUCATION

- IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR GRADUATES TO BE RECRUITED BY STAKEHOLDERS WAS IDENTIFIED AS A MUST AS B.SC.PROGRAMME MAY FAIL TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN SPECIFICS WHICH MAY MEET THEIR ENTIRE DEMAND
- TEACHING AND RESEARCH STAFF ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO FOSTER THEIR OWN LINKS WITH INDUSTRY THROUGH SOLICITING FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES
- STAFF ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO NETWORK WITH OTHER EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE UNIVERSITY-RESEARCH INSTITUTION-INDUSTRY LINKAGE

- SIGNING OF AN MOU WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO FORMALIZE LINKAGES
- ASSIGN ONE STAFF WHOSE DUTY WOULD BE TO SOLICIT FOR POTENTIAL LINKAGES BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS AS WELL AS COMPILE FEED-BACK
- ALLOW FOR GUEST LECTURES AND SEMINARS FROM EXPERTS IN THE FIELD
- PRACTITIONERS FORUM

STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE UNIVERSITY-RESEARCH INSTITUTION-INDUSTRY LINKAGE

- OPEN DAYS TO SHOWCASE RESEARCH FROM INSTITUTIONS AND PLATFORM FOR STAKEHOLDERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR PRODUCTS
- OFFER PERIODIC FREE CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO REGISTERED STAKEHOLDERS
- FREE ONE DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR RECOGNISED FARMER GROUPS
- CURRENT B.SC. PROGRAMME NEEDS TO BE RESTRUCTURED TO INCLUDE CORE COURSES WHICH WOULD MAKE THE SPECIALIZATION OPTION MORE RELEVANT

FUNDING

- FUNDING WAS IDENTIFIED AS THE MAIN SET BACK TO ATTAINMENT OF OBJECTIVES
- EXECUTION OF DEMAND DRIVEN RESEARCH WOULD FOSTER CLOSER TIES WITH INDUSTRY AND SOLICIT FUNDING FOR PROJECTS
- PATENTING OF RESEARCH INNOVATIONS WOULD PROVIDE SOME ROYALTIES
- LOBBYING OF MINISTRIES AND INDUSTRY WITH AGRICULTURE MANDATES TO PROVIDE A VOTE IN THEIR BUDGET FOR RESEARCH SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED
- DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE WITH REFERENCE TO ECOZONES COULD BE ENCOURAGED
- SOLICIT FOR GRANTS FROM FUNDING AGENCIES TO SUPPORT RESEARCH

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Thank you for your attention
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