



**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**INSTITUTE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY (IAST)**

**UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES RELATIVE TO SDGs**

**By:**

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## **Introduction**

The Institute of Applied Science and Technology (IAST), University of Ghana, was set-up in 2012 to facilitate linkages between industry and academia, as well as facilitate the implementation of the University's innovation strategy. In 2018, IAST was selected among the International Association of Universities to be a lead on **SDG goal 1-No Poverty**.

Since then, IAST has championed this cause by leveraging on the University of Ghana's in-house expertise and resources to advance initiatives that sets to meet the SDG 1 targets. Below are activities initiated, facilitated or supported by IAST relative to the SDG.

## **Coaching Support for Vegetable Farmers**

IAST facilitated coaching support for selected participants of the Government of Ghana flagship project o youth in Greenhouse farming (SDG 8). This support provided key interventions to enhance the productivity and efficiency of program participants at various stages of the Youth in Greenhouse project. The ultimate goal was to assist in producing marketable products to enhance their income levels (SDG 1). IAST partnered with the Vegetable Production and Exporters Association of Ghana (VEPEAG) and GIZ Ghana (SDG 17) on their Market Oriented Agriculture Programme (MOAP) in providing this support. A report has been sent to the GIZ Ghana and Ministry of Agriculture for their action on current and future engagements.



## **Training of Financial Managers Relative to Vegetable Farming**

IAST provided training to sector players in the banking industry who provide key financial services to established and start-up agricultural stakeholders. IAST developed a training module on Vegetable Value Chain to the Ghana National Banking College (SDG 17). This training was to apprise key decision makers in the banking sector on the current practices in the vegetable production ecosystem. This ultimately will guide creditors on their financial risk assessment, vegetable market volatilities and debt recovery strategies. Potentially, this training sought to strengthen (SDG 16) the financial lending regime relative to small, medium and

large-scale vegetable farmers. This will enhance confidence in lending while increasing the capacity of vegetable farmers to upscale their production to meet market demands (SDG 2).



### **Continued Training in Greenhouse Production**

IAST through its flagship Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Centre, continues to host and train students and external members across the Greenhouse value chain. The academic disruptions brought about during the covid pandemic provided some opportunities to train 26 (14 women and 12 men: SDG 5) students at no cost in greenhouse farming and related technologies both virtually and physically. As at November 2020, six (6) of the trained students who have graduated are currently farm managers and employees (SDG 8) of some major private greenhouses in Ghana.



**Collaboration with School of Engineering Sciences And Toyota for a Training School**

IAST together with its internal collaborator, the School of Engineering Sciences has partnered Toyota Ghana Limited to establish a multipurpose Engineering workshop and training school to enhance the delivery of teaching and learning particularly to students and faculty in engineering and the physical sciences. IAST facilitated this by providing a space in its proposed science park for this project. Construction of this workshop has started and it is expected to be completed in 18 months. This training workshop will be equipped with state-of the art technology to provide quality education (SDG 4) and enhance research and innovation (SDG 9)

**CONSTRUCTION OF UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES TRAINING CENTRE  
& TOYOTA GHANA WORKSHOP**

 <p>Client: <b>TOYOTA GHANA COMPANY LIMITED</b> P. O. Box 1644, Accra - Ghana</p>	 <p>Consultants: <b>ADK CONSORTIUM</b> P. O. Box CT 4457, Cantonments, Accra Tel: 6762 229 184</p>
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## **Collaboration with Nestle on Food and Nutrition Security and Climate Change**

IAST leveraged on its relationship with Nestle Ghana Limited to secure an MOU (SDG 17) with the global giants in providing grants for research in the areas of food and nutrition security (SDG 2 & 3) and climate change (SDG 13). Through this collaboration, an amount of CHF 600 000 (\$638 000) was offered as grant for training the next generation food scientist at the PhD level in areas that help deepen the understanding of nutritional dynamics in the African Sub-Saharan region. IAST recruited five female students and offered full scholarship including tuition fees, research expenses and monthly stipends for the entire duration of their studies at the University of Ghana.



## **Promoting Space Science and Technology in Africa**

IAST partnered with the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) to facilitate the 4<sup>th</sup> African Space Generation Workshop held in Ghana between February 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Workshop was a two-day regional workshop, which brought together students and young professionals with agency and industry representatives from across the African continent. It provided an opportunity for the future leaders of Africa's space endeavours to proactively

establish strong relationships, exchange ideas and knowledge, and to collaborate on brainstorming new ideas and solutions using space technology for the benefit of Africa.



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