

>>> **RECC-LUM THE GAMBIA** <<<**RECC-LUM** *infor*

RECC-LUM project develops MSc degree curriculum for UTG



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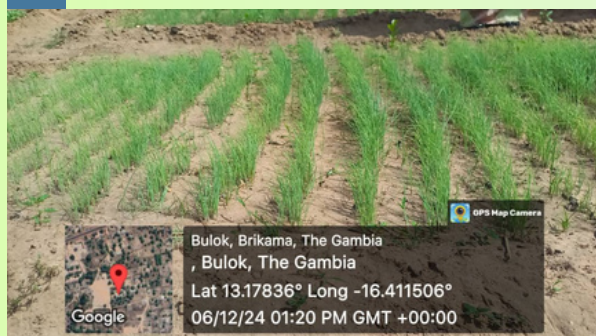


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CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg)



- University of The Gambia (UTG)



- WASCAL (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use):



Upcoming Events

- 1 Analysis of Soil and Water samples
- 2 Case Study Synthesis Reports
- 3 African Symposium on Climate Change, Land Use and Disasters Management in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 28th February 2025 (Hybrid event)

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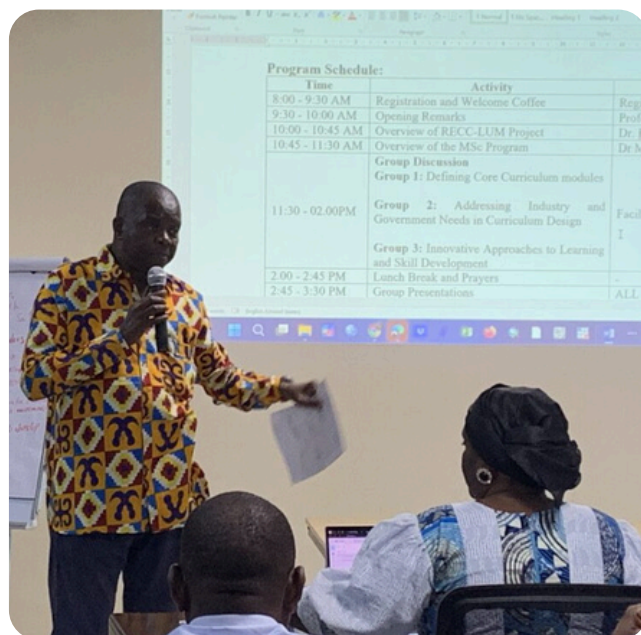

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RECC-LUM



RECC-LUM PROJECT DEVELOPS MSc DEGREE CURRICULUM FOR UTG

Stakeholders Tuesday 14th January, 2025 met to discuss the development of a Curriculum of Master of Science (MSc) program focused on Renewable Energy, Climate Change, and Land Use Management for The University of The Gambia (UTG). In partnership with the Research and Transfer Centre "Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management" at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, and WASCAL Competence Centre on Climate and Environmental Services started a two - year Feasibility Study on Renewable Energy, Climate Change and Land Use Management in The Gambia (RECC-LUM), funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The program aims to equip graduates with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience to address the pressing challenges of climate change, renewable energy transitions, and sustainable land management in The Gambia and beyond.



The curriculum is being designed to meet the growing demand for experts in these fields to ensure that it aligns with both academic excellence and the needs of the industry, government, and development organizations. Speaking on the objectives of the workshop, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of the UTG, Lead Investigator, Professor Sidat Yaffa thanked

donor partners for their contribution and support to building human capacities in developing countries particularly the Gambia.



He said the convergence solicits feedback and suggestions from key stakeholders on the curriculum structure and content of the MSc program, ensuring its relevance and impact in addressing challenges related to climate change, renewable energy, and land use management in The Gambia and beyond.

Prof Yaffa who doubles as the Director of UTG/WASCAL reassured his office's commitment to climate services through research while urging participants to provide valuable insights to the discussion. Contributing via zoom, Senior Researcher, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences Franziska Wolf explained the work plan of the RECC-LUM project including a socioeconomic study of pilot sites in the Gambia. She thanked the local project team for their expertise and commitment to the implementation of the project. Participants were put into groups, addressing core curriculum modules, addressing industry and government needs in curriculum design and innovative approaches to learning and skill development.

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Towards Sustainability

Professor Sidat Yaffa, Lead Investigator of the RECC-LUM project and Director of UTG/WASCAL, announced plans to introduce a BSc in Climate Change and Sustainable Development at the University of The Gambia. Pending Senate approval, the program is set to launch in September 2025, alongside an MSc in Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Land Use. These initiatives aim to complete The Gambia's climate education framework, complementing the ongoing PhD program in Climate Change and Education under UTG/WASCAL.



Professor Kayode Adekeye, UTG's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, highlighted the importance of capacity building to address the socioeconomic impacts of climate change. Speaking at a consultative meeting on developing an MSc curriculum in Climate Change, Renewable Energy, and Land Use under the RECC-LUM project, he emphasized that improved knowledge and skills will foster innovative solutions. He commended stakeholder contributions toward creating a robust, relevant curriculum and urged youth to join the inaugural MSc cohort. Prof. Adekeye noted that the initiative aligns with UTG's vision of promoting equitable and sustainable community development through quality education and research.



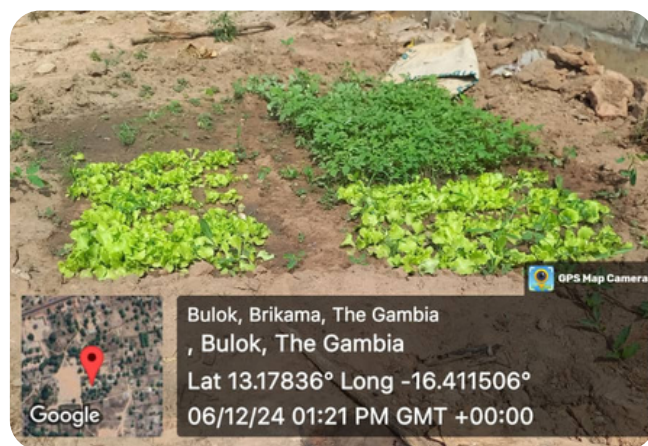
Madi Kambai, Director of Enterprise Support at GIEPA, described the development of UTG's MSc curriculum as a significant opportunity for the institution. He emphasized the need to enhance the country's human resource base through education to better address climate vulnerabilities. Highlighting the challenges faced by smallholder businesses and entrepreneurs due to climate change, he stressed the importance of transforming ideas into practical solutions for the private sector. Mr. Kambai noted that the proposed MSc program would equip graduates with knowledge of international climate treaties and trade requirements, such as those of the European Union. The consultative meeting included participants from academia, the public, and the private sectors.



RECCLUM RESEARCHERS VISIT VEGETABLE NURSERY SITE AT BULLOCK

Dr. Mamma Sawaneh and Dr. Ebrima Sonko, researchers from the RECCLUM project, recently conducted a visit to the vegetable nursery at the pilot demonstration site in Bullock, where they assessed the progress and viability of various crops being cultivated. The nursery features a variety of vegetables, including onions, sweet peppers, cabbage, and salad greens, all grown with care and attention by the local women, who manage the nursery entirely at their own expense, with no financial burden placed on the project.

During their visit, the researchers were impressed by the overall health and quality of the crops. They noted that the community-driven initiative has not only supported the development of sustainable farming practices but has also empowered local women to take charge of their agricultural activities. The women's hands-on involvement is a testament to their dedication to the project and their interest in improving their livelihoods through agriculture.



As a result of their visit, Dr. Sawaneh and Dr. Sonko have expressed an interest in incorporating one of the varieties from the nursery into their ongoing research, recognizing the potential for valuable data collection and further study. This partnership aligns with the researchers' goals to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability in the region.

The choice of crops in the Bullock nursery highlights an important trend in Gambian agriculture, where women often prioritize high-value or highly marketable vegetables. By focusing on these crops, women not only improve their household food security but also position themselves to generate additional income through sales in local and regional markets. While some of the produce from the nursery will be consumed by the families involved, much of it is earmarked for sale, contributing to the financial empowerment of the women and their communities.

This visit by the RECCLUM researchers marks an important step in fostering collaboration between the scientific community and local agricultural initiatives, with the shared goal of improving food systems and economic opportunities in the Gambia.

Interview with Prof. Kehinde OGUNJOBI

My name is Professor Kehinde OGUNJOBI, and I'm the Director of the WASCAL Competence Centre, or what we call the Director of Research of WASCAL.

So, let me start by saying it's a pleasure for us to be part of this work team, of this group, and we are so delighted to be part of the team of Professor LEAL. I think Professor LEAL is one of the very unique scientists in Germany, and indeed in Europe, that have an interest in West Africa, and we have been collaborating severally on different projects.

The latest one we are working on, is called the RECC-LUM project, which is on Land sustainability and management in The Gambia, and we also incorporate this through the use of renewable energy in The Gambia, and I really want to thank BMBF for supporting this project. WASCAL Competence Centre is represented on this project, We are also in partnership with our colleague, Professor Sidat YAFFA and his team in The Gambia. Professor YAFFA is our Director of the Centre of Excellence on Climate Change and Education.

So, we are three big consortia here in this consortium, where you have, of course, Professor Walter LEAL as the head, you have Professor YAFFA representing the

University of The Gambia, and indeed the Centre of Excellence of WASCAL Climate Change and Education in The Gambia, and then my humble self, Professor OGUNJOBI, representing the WASCAL Competence Centre.

On the WASCAL Competence Centre, we have a work package on visibility, communication, and more importantly on what we call the stakeholder engagement, and this is the area where we are coordinating in the project, and I want to also recognize my colleague, Dr Diallo, who is our head of the Data Management Department at the Competence Centre. We have Mr Remi NEBIE, who is also a member of the team and our communication officer, and then we also have our research assistant on the project, Mrs Mame DIARRA.

I also want to recognize that beyond the RECC-LUM project, we have also been interacting and synergizing with the team of Professor LEAL in organizing climate change and adaptation mitigation seminars in Africa. Just last week, we organized a symposium where we brought more than 80 scientists within the region together.

We talked about the various aspects of land use, land cover, and land sustainability. We are looking forward to more collaboration with this team in The Gambia and also Professor Water LEAL to improve livelihood in the West Africa sub-region.

So, I want to thank Mr. Vincent for giving me the opportunity to speak with the media team on this very valuable, important project. Thank you.



Professor Kehinde OGUNJOBI
Director of WASCAL Competence Centre
Director of Research