WASCAL
West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use

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*Combating Climate Change. Improving Livelihoods*

# WASCAL MONTHLY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2021

## TAKING UP A MEGA TOPIC OF THE FUTURE IN AFRICA'S GREEN HYDROGEN

The Commissioner for Innovation, Green Hydrogen at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Dr. Stefan Kaufmann has emphasized WASCAL is in a pole position to transform the West African energy sector through a cleaner and cheaper means of green hydrogen.

He was speaking at the official launch of the international master's programme in energy and green hydrogen technology in Niamey, Niger.

"With green hydrogen, WASCAL is taking up a mega topic of the future, not only for research and education. Many hopes are associated with it. Hardly a day goes by without reports about green hydrogen. And this from all over the world. Green hydrogen has the chance to become the oil and gas of the future. It is a game changer for the future global energy supply. Wind, solar and water are becoming geopolitical factors" he said.
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# 60 WEST AFRICAN STUDENTS RECEIVE FULL GERMAN GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S IN GREEN HYDROGEN


WASCAL, with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), has awarded full scholarship in International Master's Programme in Energy and Green Hydrogen to 60 students from all 15 West African countries.

Speaking at the official launch in Niamey, Niger which brought together government officials, diplomatic corps and the academic community together, the Green Hydrogen Commissioner, Dr. Stefan Kaufmann made a case for the future of energy in Africa with regard to green hydrogen, and the need for the scholars to tap into it.
"With green hydrogen, WASCAL is taking up a mega topic of the future, not only for research and education. Many hopes are associated with it. Hardly a day goes by without reports about green hydrogen. And this from all over the world. Green hydrogen has the chance to become the oil and gas of the future. It is a game changer for the future global energy supply. Wind, solar and water are becoming geopolitical factors. We are at the beginning of a huge energy transition. Africa could become a new global player in the emerging green energy market. This is a historic opportunity and challenge. It brings along new opportunities for a better global climate, but more importantly, for Africa's sustainable development." He spoke. The minister of Higher Education and Research in Niger, Prof. Mamadou Djibo, in his remarks, expressed gratitude to WASCAL for identifying Niger and West Africa in general as a major partner in its quest to make green hydrogen the global change maker. *Read More*

# UNITED NATIONS ENDORSES WASCAL CABO VERDE'S OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

WASCAL-Cabo Verde is delighted to announce to all the partners, students, and collaborators the endorsement as Decade Project in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, specifically in the Early Career Ocean Professionals Programme (ECOP). This recognition triggers our responsibility and commitment to the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use: Cabo Verde Graduate School on Climate Change and Marine Sciences (WASCAL-Cabo Verde). On behalf of the entire WASCAL-Cabo Verde team, students, and partners, we express our gratitude to the UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic

Commission, the United Nations body responsible for coordinating the Decade's preparatory process.
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# VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF AGRICA PROJECT'S STUDY ON CLIMATE RISK ANALYSIS IN BURKINA FASO


The National institutions, NGOs, and Associations engaged in the fight against adverse challenges of climate change to validate results of a study on major adaptation strategies conducted by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and the West African Science Service Centre in Climate Change and adapted land Use (WASCAL) in Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso.

The Climate Research will benefit the Burkina Faso populace and the entire Sahel region in general. The outcomes of the study will provide relevant ways to decision makers to better adopt and implement the identified strategies. The study was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in close collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

# WASTE-2-ENERGY DOCUMENTARY - GYANKOBAA IN THE ASHANTI REGION OF GHANA


WASCAL team headed by Miss Alberta Aryee, Waste-2-Energy Coordinator, paid a working visit to Gyankobaa Community in the Ashanti Region of Ghana to meet with the farmers and Junior High School children to discuss the perceived benefits of the Hybrid Waste-2-Energy project and to create the awareness of how best these women could be part of the first beneficiaries to the project. Five women, two school children, and the Assembly man were interviewed to know about what they think of the projects, and all expressed their excitement to the many jobs that would be created for the community, the solar, among others. The team proceeded to the Hybrid Waste-2-Energy site where a drone was used to capture the site for the documentary. Overall, the trip was a success and the objectives set out had been achieved.

# THE UPSCALERS PROJECT COORDINATION TEAM PAID AN EVALUATION VISIT TO BURKINA FASO, MALI AND NIGER

The project coordination team carried out a monitoring and evaluation visit in the North, South-West, Boucle du Mouhoun, Sahel and Centre-North regions of Burkina Faso. The team also had interactions with Partner institutions namely INSAH in Mali, INRES and the Alliance for Biodigesters in West and Central Africa (AB/AOC) in Niger.

This activity ran for a period of three months, from August to October 2021.

It was an opportunity to thank all the stakeholders (the focal points, their agricultural managers and the producers) for their great cooperation and commitment in the implementation of the project, and also to consider the possibility of deploying biodigesters in the countries of intervention of the project.

The UPSCALERS project is coordinated by WASCAL and co-implemented with Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT/IMK-IFU, Germany), Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universitaet Bonn (Uni-Bonn/INRES, Germany), Institut du Sahel (CILSS/INSAH, Mali), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI, Kenya). It is funded for 46 months (2018-2021) by the African Union Commission through the Financing Agreement between the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

# COURTESY CALL TO THE NIGER HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, PROF MAMOUDOU DJIBOU

It's time for West Africa to envisage Green Hydrogen as the future of cleaner and cheaper energy in the sub region. When the team from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), visited the Minister responsible for Higher Education and Research, Prof. Mamoudou Djibou, ahead of the official launch of the 4 International Master's Programmes in Green Hydrogen Technology in Niger, it was clear that issues of renewable energy is very crucial in the discourse of the people of Niger and West Africa as a whole.
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On 19th and 20th October 2021, in the framework of the implementation of AgRAIN Project, a training workshop on Vegetation Mapping Using Google Earth Engine was held at the Competence Centre in Ouagadougou. This hybrid training (online and physical) was organized by the German Aerospace Centre and WASCAL. Participants included scientists, students, technicians, and representatives of public authorities in West Africa.

At the end of the training, certificates were issued to all participants who successfully completed the training. AgRAIN is a research project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and aimed at facing the impact of climate change by exploring ways to adapt land use in Burkina Faso in order to minimize the vulnerability of agriculture and food production in Burkina Faso. *Read More*

## INDUCTION OF WASCAL 1ST BATCH OF STUDENTS IN GREEN HYDROGEN PROGRAMME

The First Batch of WASCAL's International Master's Programme in Green Hydrogen Energy are currently undergoing a four-month language proficiency training programme in English for Francophone students and French for Anglophone students at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana and Université de Lomé TOGO respectively. Students have been officially inducted into the scholarship programme at a virtual ceremony with a symbolic presentation of laptops to each student to aid their academic work held together with the funders, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) led by Dr. Stefan Kaufmann. *Read More*

# TESTIMONIALS

**By Riyanatou Sidi,** Niger - WASCAL Scholar, Green Hydrogen.

"In just 3 months WASCAL has given me a second language to now speak English, aside the full scholarship to study Green Hydrogen. It still sounds like a dream, and I urge all scholars to never let this opportunity go waste. Thank you to the sponsors from Germany."

**By Mahamdou Bah,** Sierra Leone, WASCAL Scholar, Green Hydrogen Technology Programme.

" WASCAL is changing lives. WASCAL is bringing Africans together on one common ground to solve the problems of Africa"

## WASCAL LOSES PROF. FATOU GUEYE

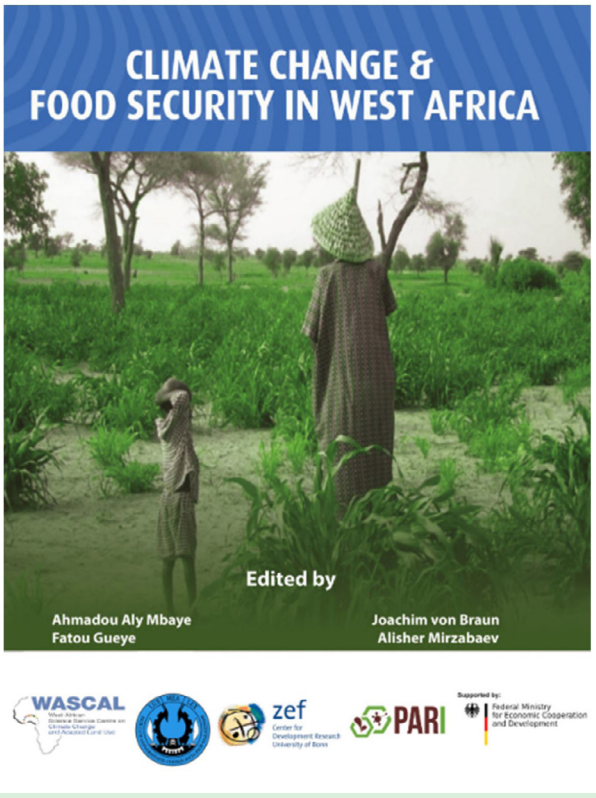

Professor Fatou Gueye Lefèvre was the Director of WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme (GSP) on Climate Change Economics at the University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Senegal.

It was a very sad moment for WASCAL and the national GSP on climate change economics, where she was playing an important role, first as academic assistant, and then as a Director. Fatou was a hard-working woman whose work ethics and kind relationship to colleagues and students were praised by all partners of the GSP and UCAD. She was promoted the first lady to become economics professor at UCAD, only last year and was preparing to celebrate her 41st birthday on October 30 2021. She has left a heart-broken team and husband with three little children. We all pray Allah that her soul rest in peace.

## BOOK PUBLICATION

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

Climate change affects food security in West Africa in diverse and often complex ways. It not only affects food availability through its impacts on crop yields and livestock productivity, but also shifts in agricultural potentials due to climate change will have profound effects on crop and livestock choices and consequently on local food value chains. For many net food-buying households in the region, losses in crop yields and livestock productivity can often translate into reduced access to food due to higher food prices. Moreover, higher frequency of extreme weather events under changing climate, such as heatwaves, droughts, and floods, is already undermining the stability of West African food systems. Weather extremes are exacerbating the existing problems with food safety and nutritional security, posing particularly severe risks on the most vulnerable social groups. It is further projected that changing climatic conditions will facilitate the spread of infectious diseases in the region taking an increasing toll on nutritional security and human health.




Individual and policy choices made regarding food systems and diets have important implications for climate change adaptation and mitigation in West Africa. *Read More*

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