

# WASCAL climate news

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF WASCAL

## WASCAL in retrospect: celebrating 10 years; taking stock of the past, the present and the future



## Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony with the University of Mittweida (WASCAL and SASSCAL)



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WASCAL has successfully ended a two-day working meeting in Lomé, Togo, guided by the purposes and terms of references set out to review the past 10 years of the institution's operations, while forecasting reforms that will go a long way to ensure a more sustainable and stabilized institution; identify the challenges it has faced along the way, and to develop medium- and long-term plan for the sustainability of the organization.

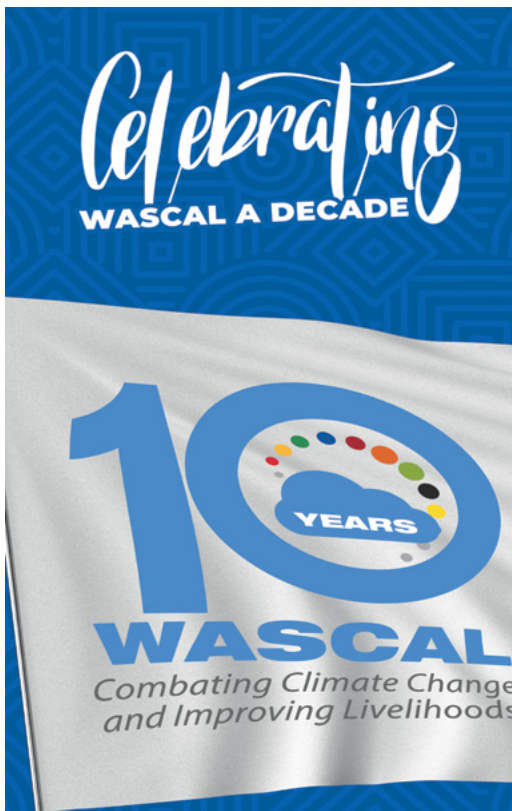
of the WASCAL A DECADE Celebrations week in Lomé, Togo, where the official signing for the commencement of WASCAL took place in February 2012 between 10 West Africa countries and the Federal Republic of Germany. The Executive Director of WASCAL was emphatic about the goodwill WASCAL has begun to attract due its enormous contributions towards the provision of Climate Change solutions in West Africa.

The workshop formed part [Continue on page 2](#)

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## WASCAL in retrospect: celebrating 10 years; taking stock of the past, the present and the future



While congratulating all international and external stakeholders for contributing their quota towards the success stories of WASCAL, he admonished them to continue pushing towards the future and sustainability of the organization. “We are here today to celebrate 10 years of providing empirical solutions to West Africa in research, service provision and capacity building in Climate Change. We must be proud of what we have achieved, and I am convinced that we shall be guided by the stock we are taking at this institutional review, so we can build a stronger institution” he said.

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## Bridging the Gap Between Academic and Practicals: WASCAL Scholars from KNUST on Study Visit to Competence Centre

The WASCAL Research Action Plan WRAP2.0, valued at 11 million euros, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany, and made up of six main research projects, selected under a comprehensive consultation with partners at the local, national, and regional levels has been launched at the WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou.

It aims at building resilient socio-economic landscapes, conducive to sustainable development, which in turns requires synergy of action between scientists and policy makers through, among others, the generation of scientific data and the provision of reliable climate information. That also entails that much more attention should be given to climate change research and climate services in respect to their cardinal role in building the capacity of states, policy makers and other key actors involved in climate risk management.

The Minister of Higher Education Research and Innovation of Ouagadougou, who chaired the ceremony, appreciated the active collaboration between WASCAL and its partners, in the joint effort to fight Climate Change in West Africa through the implementation of WRAP2.0.

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## BMBF invests up to 11 million euro to support research activities at WASCAL

As part of their training, the 5th Batch of PhD students in WASCAL Climate Change and Land Use from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, paid a study visit to the WASCAL Competence Centre. This follows six months of classroom lectures at the Graduate School Programme at KNUST, Kumasi in Ghana.

The objective of the visit was for the students to present their research proposals to the scientists at the Competence Centre, seek advice and guidance to enrich their topics with the ultimate goal of contributing to the fight against the adverse impacts of climate change in West African countries.

Commenting on the objective of the visit, Prof. Forkuo said: "this is to allow students to seek advice, guidance and support from the scientists of

the WASCAL Competence Centre to enrich their topic in the view of delivering high quality thesis with added values to the mitigation strategies against climate change in the sub region."

The students were also given a guided tour of research facilities namely the High-Performance Computer (HPC) and the geographic information system GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory. They also benefited from experts' explanations on how the facilities operate in terms of data storage and management, capacity building trainings of scientists, students and consultants and remote accessibility of the HPC data for modelers across the region. In all, 11 proposals were thoroughly presented by students to scientists and fruitful comments and suggestions were provided.

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## WASCAL Joins NDCs Partnership – A Global Climate Change Coalition as Associate Member

WASCAL has officially been endorsed as an associate member to the NDC Partnership, a global coalition of countries and institutions collaborating to drive transformational climate action through sustainable development and committed to ambitious implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement

and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. As an associate member, WASCAL will have access to all knowledge products and tools shared within the NDC Partnership and opportunities to contribute to their development and review, receive regular updates about NDC Partnership activities and opportunities to engage in global, regional, and country-level activities, and access to information on needs and requests emerging from country partners for assistance.

In welcoming WASCAL to the network, Dr. Pablo Viera, Global Director within the NDC Partnership Support Unit, expressed delight at WASCAL's commitment towards the fight against climate change. "We welcome WASCAL's dedication towards pursuing ambitious climate action and enhancing sustainable development. In joining, you become part of a wider coalition of members and Institutions committed to working together towards these shared goals". He spoke."

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## 10 Years of Building a Climate Change Centre of Excellence: WASCAL Celebrates Achievements in Lomé



WASCAL has celebrated ten years of combating Climate Change, improving livelihoods, and promoting clean and sustainable renewable energy in West Africa. The celebrations of WASCAL A DECADE was held on 27th of May in Lomé. It was an opportunity for WASCAL to highlight progress made so far, including ongoing activities and the challenges for the next ten years.

Elaborating on the theme of WASCAL A Decade: The Making of a Climate Change Solution Provider in West Africa, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, pointed out the progress WASCAL had made so far, in its various areas of intervention, including the provision of climate services, research and capacity building. Dr. Moumini Savadogo also stressed on the high-level expertise WASCAL provides for young West African scientists through the establishment of a strong partnership with twelve (12) universities in the sub-region.

“With 542 students that we have enrolled in universities with full funding of their scholarships till date, 273 have already finished their training and are at the disposal of their respective countries’

sub-regions and the whole world. All these students already trained, are today key development actors at the local, regional, and global level”. He spoke.

Regarding the new focus on green hydrogen, Dr Christoph Rövekamp of BMBF strongly recalled the necessity of finding ways of promoting the future in terms of sustainable energy supply for the region. “Green hydrogen Atlas for West Africa opens a new chapter for a sustainable energy supply locally, regionally, and globally. Green hydrogen is key to climate neutrality”.

In respect to the Strategies for Excellence in the fight against Climate Change at the Horizon 2030, the President of the Council of Ministers of WASCAL, Prof. Hamadou Keita, said that the prospective vision of WASCAL to 2030 was an ambitious programme which included, among others, the development of a 2023-2026 business plan with regard to the challenges and the strategic orientation for the next ten years, and the training of about 1000 young scientists in the domain of climate and land use.

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## Exchange Among Researchers: Kick-Off Event of German-African Climate Protection Projects in West Africa

On 28 and 29 April 2022, around 60 participants addressed the current research status of the six “WRAP2.0” projects and their role for West Africa. The research programme “WRAP2.0” of the WASCAL Science Service Centre is funded by the BMBF.

In November 2021, the starting signal was given for six German-African collaborative projects in the research programme “WRAP 2.0” (WASCAL RESEARCH ACTION PLAN 2.0). Now, on 28 and 29 April 2022, the kick-off workshop for the projects took place in Burkina Faso with around 60 participants. Scientists from West Africa and Germany, representatives of the WASCAL Science Service Centre and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) came together. The overarching goal of all “WRAP2.0” projects is interdisciplinary research to combat climate change. For the researchers, such kick-off events are important for networking and intensifying professional exchange. The workshop focused on questions such as: “What impact can “WRAP2.0” climate research projects have on the livelihoods and socio-economic development of West African societies?” or “How can research strengthen sustainable development in West Africa?”

Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, opened the two-day workshop and emphasized: “All WRAP2.0 projects create new knowledge and therefore provide the basis for innovative solutions to counter the consequences of climate change. For the WASCAL Science Service Centre it is essential to develop the new knowledge together, i.e., in intensive cooperation between African and German research institutions.

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## Newly Nominated Wascall Scientific Advisory Committee Hold First Meeting in Ouagadougou

Newly appointed Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of WASCAL has held its first meeting at the Competence Centre, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The objective of the meeting was to present the new orientation strategy of the new SAC, take stock of the on-going WASCAL Research Action Plan (WRAP 2.0) projects and the Graduate School Programme. The meeting also aimed at providing scientific advice and guide to WASCAL in the implementation of its mission to better face the unrelenting negative Climate Change impacts in the region. Prof. Brice Sinsin, the newly appointed SAC Chairman pledged to ensure that the new team will follow up ongoing and prospective projects by the Executive management and his team for the benefit of the region.”

In his official opening remarks to the SAC members, Prof. Ogunjobi, Director of Research at the Competence Centre said: “As we celebrate our 10 years, the current global dynamics invite us to have an objective look in respect to our field of research and capacity building. That is why, in its quest to find solutions to the negative impacts of Climate Change in our Region, WASCAL is trying to strategically slide into new frontiers of Research and Innovation, ranking from e-waste management, artificial intelligence, coastal erosion, marine and blue economy to Renewable Energy.” He spoke.

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## Towards the Implementation of Paris Agreement: Independent Global Stocktake Hub Project Launched



The WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou, has hosted the official inception workshop of the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) West Africa Regional Hub Project. The objective of the workshop was to officially launch the project and provide foundational information about the ongoing engagements of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the formal GST process through the iGST workstreams.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, the executive director of WASCAL, highlighted the scope and importance of the project in the fight against climate change. To this end, he indicated that “the iGST initiative is an avenue given to all organizations, scientist, civil society, farmers, and farmers organizations to join efforts to contribute effectively to global climate change actions progress and support the countries to make increasingly

stronger commitments”.

Dr. Brian Mantlana from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR, South Africa), in his opening remark, pointed out the importance of his institution’s partnership with WASCAL and the involvement of stakeholders for ensuring a robust GST that empowers ECOWAS countries to take greater climate action for the benefit of the region.

“We know the significance of the global stock taking process in the context of climate change. We want to ensure that we support and work with WASCAL and ensure that there is broad participation by various stakeholders in West Africa contributing to the global stocktaking”, he said.

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## WASCAL and UESDGH Signed MOU to Establish a Mutual Cooperation on Academic and Scientific Research

WASCAL and UESDGH have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on academic and scientific research, co-operation in areas such as; exchange through teaching partnerships and exchange programmes, development of programmes and academic curricula, research, capacity building, consultancy, scholarships, internships, among others. Prof. Eric NYARKO-SAMPSON, Vice chancellor of the University signed on behalf of the UESDGH and WASCAL represented by Dr. Moumini Savadogo, the Executive Director. [Read More](#)





## Citizen Actions on Climate Change and Environment: The Living Lab of West Africa

Kick-off meeting of the Living Laboratory of West Africa (LLWA) under the I-CHANGE project ("Individual Change of HABits Needed for Green European transition, EU-H2020 # 101037193), was held at The WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou.

The workshop was aimed at establishing the framework of stakeholders, the lab's eco-citizen research, and actions mechanism to involve citizens in monitoring adverse weather conditions, high temperatures, and air pollution as well as quantifying carbon and environmental footprints intangible and realistic urban frameworks called "Living Labs" (LLs).

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of Research, Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi, representing the executive director of WASCAL, while welcoming all participants to the meeting, stressed the existential threat posed by climate change. "The city of



Ouagadougou, like the other cities of the sub-region, has been facing for several years the adverse effects of climate change in the form of droughts and floods with significant damage to residents, agriculture, and infrastructure, including loss of human lives", he said.

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## Bmbf Funded Hybrid Waste to Energy Project Valued at 6.2 Million Euro Commissioned



The Pilot Hybrid Waste to Energy Project valued at 6.2 million euros, with funding from the German government through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has commissioned by the President of the Republic Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa-Akufo Addo at a ceremony held at Gyankobaa Atwima Nwabiagya in the Ashanti Region.

Speaking on behalf of the president, Dr. Kwaku Afriyie,

Minister of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation (MESTI) expressed delight at the timeliness of the project. "The hybrid waste to energy project has come at a time when major cities like Accra and Kumasi are facing dire challenges in finding final dump site. Indeed, the highlight of this project for me, is the utilization of municipal waste for generation of power which could be the sustainable alternative for curbing the waste management challenges facing metropolitan, municipals, and districts (MMDAs) regions in Ghana."

He further stated that the project will contribute to Ghana's climate change strategy. "It is envisaged that this project will help close the communal carbon cycle by developing the value chain of the process with the production and utilization of compost, which would be sold to farmers to boost agriculture and cut down on mineral fertilizer whilst improving the soil structure and also contribute to Ghana's climate change mitigation strategy as well as to the inclusion of renewable energy". [Read More](#)

## WASCAL Donates Seven (7) Automatic Hydro Sensors to Benin Government



After the Gambia and Cabo Verde, WASCAL, through the Competence Centre has officially handed over seven (7) Automatic Hydro Sensor to the Republic of Benin for the benefit of the Department of Water Resources. The ceremony took place at the conference room of the Department for water resources, Cotonou, Benin.

Speaking on behalf of the Water Resource Agency, the Director General, M. Saïd K. HOUNKPONOU, expressed joy and appreciation to WASCAL and the Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) for the donation. He also identified the unrelenting support of the two institutions in strengthening the capacities of national water institutions and agencies in addressing climate change data gap” across the West African sub-region.

Prof. Flora Chadare, WASCAL Board member representing Republic of Benin stressed the importance of data to water resource management. “The hydrological data to be generated from the sensors will close the existing data gap in the country and will undoubtedly assist the Agency in achieving its mandate of improving water resources capability in Benin”, she said.

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## Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visits University Abdou Moumouni In Niger

During her tour in West Africa, Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock paid a visit to the Abdou Moumouni University (UAM) in Niamey, Niger, today.

A 55-member delegation, including Niger's State Secretary of Education, members of Niger's and Germany's parliaments, German and African journalists, as well as experts and industry representatives from Germany accompanied the minister, who attended a conference on climate change and security at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology (FAST) of the Abdou Moumouni University.

Professor Rabani Adamou, pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and International Affairs at Abdou Moumouni and Director of the West African Center for Sustainable Rural Transformation (WAC-SRT) in Niger has coordinated the visit with his team at FAST. During her visit, different research and capacity building projects such as DAAD Centers of African Excellence



(CEGLA, Pro-RUWA and WAC-SRT) and the BMBF-funded project West African Science Service Centre of Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) were introduced. [Read More](#)



## WASCAL admitted as an observer in the UNFCCC process

In recognition of its achievements in the fight against Climate Change, WASCAL was admitted to the United Nation's Framework for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process as an observer organization of twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow.

By this status, WASCAL now has the right to nominate a representative to a UNFCCC conference by applying to each conference for accreditation.

The Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo expressed delight about the acceptance. "We are delighted to be given this status. It will go a long way to continue discharging our commitment to as a West African international organization combatting climate action and improving livelihoods."

Over the years, WASCAL'S contributions towards the attainment of UNSDG13 on climate action through building capacities of young West African scientists by



providing full scholarship at the masters and doctoral levels, as well as providing unique research and climate services to policy makers and other strategic local, national, regional and global stakeholders has positioned the institution as an international centre of excellence in Climate Change.

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## Three African Institutions Partner to use Artificial Intelligence to tackle Climate Change



The West African Science Services Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) in partnership two other institutions, RUFORUM, an organization made up of African universities working to promote agricultural development and the AKADEMIYA2063, established to expand the portfolio of research and capacity-strengthening for agricultural policy making, are partnering WASCAL to implement the Climate Change AI Hub initiative for the next four years in Africa.

With financial support of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

(SIDA), the AI hub seeks to build climate change capacity across Africa, including the collection of data and contributing to climate change policy development and harmonization.

The project is intended to create and strengthen the inter-disciplinary collaboration among scientists and institutions in helping fulfil the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action innovation.

At the opening session of a two-day kick-off workshop of the continental network on responsible artificial intelligence initiatives in Accra, Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, explained that the project was to develop technologies that would help accelerate the implementation of the National Adaptation Plans and the Nationally Determined Contributions of African countries as well as other climate smart agricultural programmes.

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## WASCAL Donates Five Automatic Hydro Sensors to Cabo Verde

In its quest to reduce data gaps and improve climate change mitigation, the WASCAL Competence Centre has donated five new set of automatic hydro sensors to the Cabo Verde Agency of Water and Sanitation (ANAS). The ceremony took place on the Campus Ribeira Julião, ISECMAR.

In his address, Mr. Cláudio Santos, Chief Executive of the Cabo Verde Agency of Water and Sanitation (ANAS) expressed his gratitude to WASCAL and BMBF. "This unvaluable donation which will strengthen their network with accurate data and will help better address climate change impacts by bridging the gap of data unavailability". He said.

Speaking on behalf of WASCAL, Dr Moumini Savadogo expressed his appreciation and renewed his acknowledgement to BMBF. "I am elated to see that



the donation of the equipment is parallel with Cabo Verde needs and expectations. We shall continue to support in strengthening the capacities of national water institutions and agencies in addressing climate change data challenges".

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## Validation and Dissemination Workshop on H2 Atlas in Nigeria Futminna



At the recent workshop on the Validation and Dissemination of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded project on H2Atlas on green hydrogen generation potentials in Nigeria held in Federal University of Technology, Minna (FUTMINNA) the following observations were made:

1. Nigeria has abundant renewable energy potential that can be tapped in an increasing profile to contribute significantly to its energy mix.
2. Solar and Wind energy will play a critical role in the quest for the energy transition.
3. Green hydrogen is trending globally as it is considered the fuel of the future.
4. In Nigeria, green hydrogen is not currently in use but has potential that can be explored.

5. The potential for the production of green hydrogen in Nigeria is technically and economically viable
6. There is the need for the inclusion of a green hydrogen energy curriculum for tertiary institutions, especially at the undergraduate level.

Watch the media interview on YouTube by Dr. Solomon Agbo, coordinator of H2 Atlas from Forschungszentrum Jülich. and Prof. Appollonia Okhimamhe, Director of WASCAL's Graduate Studies Programme in Climate Change and Human Habitat at the Federal University of Technology, Minna (FUTMINNA),

[Click to watch full video](#)



## COP15, Abidjan: WASCAL Calls for Robust Synergy to Find Alternative Solution to Land Degradation in West Africa



One of the key highlights at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNFCCC) Abidjan Cop15 side event by Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) and partners on “Shaping enabling conditions for sustainable interventions for drought resilience” was the issue of creating a robust synergy amongst stakeholders in the quest to find alternative solution to land degradation through green hydrogen while restoring the already degraded lands through formidable abridging of science-finance policies.

Speaking on the theme, “shaping enabling conditions for sustainable interventions towards drought

resilience in Africa drylands: Intersecting views” the Executive Director of WASCAL Dr. Moumini Savadogo was emphatic about bridging the science□policy□finance gaps in West Africa for sustainable land management for climate resilient. He stated the need for the employment of various strategies in the fight against land degradation in Africa through mitigation and adaptation efforts. He also identified the need for institutions to work together to ensure a cohesive and coherent victory. It was a key moment in the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought. It will build on the findings of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook and offer a concrete response to the interconnected challenges of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss as we step into the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Dr. Savadogo further elaborated the role of capacity building and the impact of WASCAL in this area in the contribution towards the mitigation and provision of alternative measures to win the battle against land degradation.

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## WASCAL and the Republic of Niger Enhance Strategies for Renewable Energy

In order to develop an adequate energy supply strategy, especially in the context of Renewable Energy in Niger, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Niger, and WASCAL have held a workshop in Niger, with the objective to develop a project model within the framework of Renewable Energy, taking into account the country’s priorities in terms of research, education and energy coverage.

At the opening of the workshop, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Niger Prof. Moussa AG Arya, observed that Niger has a huge untapped Renewable Energy potential. To this, he said, “The country is sunny all year round. The average monthly values observed vary from 5 to 7 kWh/day, and the average duration of sunshine is 8 hours per day. Also, Niger has interesting wind potential in the north of the country with an average wind speed of 5 m/s, while the average speed in the south is about 2.5 m/s. In addition, the



Niger River, an important resource for hydroelectric production, crosses the country over a length of 500 km”.

Dr Bruno Korgo, Renewable Energy Regional Coordinator of WASCAL assured the Republic of Niger of the commitment and strong willingness of BMBF to financially support the project. He also said WASCAL will provide the necessary technical assistance and guidance for a successful development of the project.

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## Innovation Systems and Agri-Based Digital Technologies for Improved Agricultural Productivity in Burkina Faso



Pests and diseases (especially in maize, onion, and tomatoes) constitute a major problem to the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso (and the rest of West Africa) and threaten food security in the country.

To contribute to solving the problem of pests and diseases in Burkina Faso, WASCAL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fishery Resources (MARAH) and Afrique Geosciences (a local drone mapping specialist company) had developed a project called PPedMaS (Precision Pest and Disease Management System based on Multidimensional Big Data) which has been funded as one of the ten (10) projects that received funding through the AGriDI (Accelerating inclusive green growth through agri-based digital innovation in West Africa) initiative.

AgriDI is funded through the ACP Innovation Fund of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) financed by the European Union and

is implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), under its Regional Coordination Unit of the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), in collaboration with the University of Abomey Calavi (Benin), Agropolis Foundation (France) and Gearbox Pan African Network (Kenya).

The official inception workshop of the PPedMaS Project has been held at the WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, the main objective of which is to outdoor project and engage relevant stakeholders.

The project aims to deliver a web-based pests and diseases data platform, an early warning web application, an expert advisory system for managing pest and diseases, and a mobile application that will provide immediate solutions to farmers on pests and diseases in maize, onion, and tomato farming systems.

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## The Precision Pest And Disease Management System (PPEDMAS) – Workshop

The PPedMaS – Precision Pest and Disease Management System Workshop was highly successful.

The 4-Day workshop kick started the PPedMaS Project Drone Mapping Technicians which aims at building capacities of 15 survey technicians and students on drone piloting at the Competence Centre. It is expected that the project will provide solutions to pests and diseases in maize, onion, and tomato farms in up to 15 selected districts in in Burkina-Faso. The project is funded by the European Union through the ACP Research and Innovation fund. [Read More](#)











#wascaldecade



# CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF

Combating Climate Change and Improving Livelihoods

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