



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE

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UNIVERSITY OF GHANA RECEIVES \$2.9 MILLION SUPPORT FROM USAID TO IMPROVE EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN GHANA

May 19, 2015

NEWS RELEASE

Legon/Accra - Ghana – University of Ghana today signed a five year agreement with USAID/Ghana for improving higher education in agricultural research and innovation. The \$2.9 million will support higher education programmes at the School of Agriculture, College of Applied and Basic Sciences and the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement Scholarships for Masters and PhD programmes. This will make it possible for young Ghanaian scientists to obtain world-class training in plant breeding, soil science, crops and agribusiness, as well as economic analysis and modeling in support of Ghana's economic growth and transformation.

USAID will provide direct support to strengthen and maintain the University's role as a leader in providing higher education training, particularly in agricultural research targeting food security crops such as rice, maize and soybeans. The support will also seek to strengthen the University's national and international research programs by promoting further collaboration with U.S. universities.

In partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the Ministry of Education, USAID and the University of Ghana will ensure sustained food security and reduce poverty among farmers for generations to come.

USAID/Ghana's Acting Mission Director, Andrew Karas remarked that, "future innovations in agricultural research and growth will be led by Ghanaians who are trained right here in Ghana. This requires access to world-class education to accelerate efforts towards achieving food security and prosperity in Africa for years to come."

Prof. John Ofori-Anim, Dean of the School of Agriculture, University of Ghana noted that "the funding will contribute immensely to building human capacity in agriculture for Ghana in line with the School's vision of contributing to sustainable human development in agriculture."

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“Under this project, the School of Agriculture in particular will offer training to extension officers of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and farmers which will enable them contribute significantly to the attainment of food security in Ghana,” Prof. Ofosu-Anim, added.

About University of Ghana

The University of Ghana, the premier and the largest university in Ghana, was founded in 1948 for the purpose of providing and promoting higher education, learning, and research. With a mission to create an enabling environment that makes the University increasingly relevant to national and global development through cutting-edge research as well as high quality teaching and learning, the University of Ghana has a long history of contributing to human resource development of Ghanaians.

About USAID

USAID is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential. USAID supports Ghana in improving basic health care, increasing food security, enhancing access to quality basic education, and strengthening local governance to benefit all Ghanaian people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.A. Amoa', is positioned above the printed name.

Stella A. Amoa
Director of Public Affairs