



STRENGTHENING INNOVATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY DISSEMINATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN CEREALS, COCOA AND COFFEE VALUE CHAINS IN WESTERN AND EASTERN AFRICA

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL NETWORKING STI MANIFESTO

This project is on strengthening innovations and technology dissemination for sustainable development in cereals, cocoa and coffee value chains in western and eastern Africa. It aims at building capacity in science, technology and innovation in these regions to boost food security and socio-economic development. This is to be achieved by establishing three centres for innovation and technology dissemination (CITED) to effectively disseminate proven appropriate technologies in cocoa and cereal production in the study regions.

This project is under the ACP-EU Cooperation programme in Science and Technology II (S&T II) and is being implemented in Ghana, Ethiopia and Uganda by University of Molise (UNIMOL), Italy; Gulu University (UGU), Uganda; Bioeconomy Africa (BEA), Ethiopia and the University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Ghana. The University of Molise, Italy is the International Coordinating Partner as required by ACP-EU cooperation programme.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to build and strengthen Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) capacities in the agricultural sector of Western and Eastern African countries to enhance food security and socio-economic development.

The specific objectives are:

- Establishment of working partnership among the participating institutions.
- Establishment of 3 Centres for Innovation and Technology Dissemination (CITED) in each ACP partner country.
- Dissemination of successfully proven appropriate technologies in each ACP partner country.

It is envisioned that the projects sustainability hinges on the following key actions:

- i)** Institutionalisation of project activities in each ACP partner especially CITED
- ii)** Effective and sustainable networks among partner institutions, research and scientific organisations, farmers, agricultural experts, governments, nongovernmental organisations, private enterprises, etc...
- iii)** Measures to combat low farm productivity and weak productivity grows in food growing areas.
- iv)** And, underlining all this education, training and capacity building in sustainable agricultural practices that will lead to environmental sustainability

Consequently, we are inviting all stakeholders and individuals who share in this vision to adopt this document and its measures as a tool to fostering lasting partnership to ensure sustainable food security in the project regions and the world over.

In order to attain the project objectives, it is imperative the partners agree and adopt measures that will help all meet the project objectives, outcomes and deadlines. As founding partners we need to come to a consensus of measures that can be employed in particular to establish the first of the three main objectives of the project.

To this end the following actions are being proposed to facilitate effective networking.

I Website forum

- a) Partners are encouraged to post monthly updates of progress or lack of progress (main achievements and critical challenges)
- b) Partners are also encouraged to respond to or comment on each other's posts.
- c) Reminders and notices are to be posted on the forum as milestones and deadline approach.

II The use of other existing social network in media to facilitate regular and constant communication.

- a) Start a Facebook page, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram etc..
- b) Partners can then invite people in their circles as well as other stakeholders to these sites to keep them updated on progress being made in the projects
- c) Viber and Whatsapp group chats must also be started to provide those already using them further opportunities to network.
- d) Post short videos and a lot of pictures to the social network sites and project sites. These will draw new stakeholders to their sites.

III E-mails and phone calls:

- a) As and when necessary, e-mail and phone updates must also be encouraged among partners.

Steps to establishing and maintaining sustainable networking between partner institutions and stakeholders.

I Identify other key stakeholders- institutions and organisations.

- a) Identify and contact key persons.
- b) Phone, e-mail, SMS messages, Write letters, and follow up in person to share the objectives of the projects with stakeholders.

II Involve stakeholders in TOT (Training of teachers), Field Trials, Farmer field the schools, etc. to keep them actively involved in all aspects of the SATTIFS project.

III Invite and add stakeholders to websites forum, social-networking pages and phone chat groups so they will also receive periodic updates of project progress.