Improving the quality and relevance of university research within national innovation systems in West and Central Africa: The Governance Issues

2010-2013

April 2010
Background

- **Regional Drivers at the West and Central Africa Regional Office**
  - University Research
  - Organizational Development
  - Regional Integration

- **Round Table on the Role of University in Research for Development in West and Central** (December 2008)

- **Issues of Governance**
  - Strategic Planning
  - Organization of the university research system
  - Operational Management of structures
  - Funding
WARO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK in relation to IDRC thematic programme

University Research

Organizational Development

Regional Integration

Agriculture and Environment

Information and Communication Technologies

Social and Economic Policies

Health and Health Systems

Sciences, Technology Innovation
Participatory Process (February-October 2009)

- Selection of 6 universities in 5 countries
- Designation of Focal Points by universities
- Literature and Donors Interventions Review
- Situational Analysis by a team of 5 national consultants and 1 regional coordinator
- Participating universities: Université d’Abobo-Adjamé, Côte d’Ivoire, University of Buea, Cameroun, Université Cheikh Anta Diop and Gaston Berger, Sénégal, University of Ghana, Université of Ouagadougou, Burkina
## Universities Profiles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UAA</th>
<th>UB</th>
<th>UCAD</th>
<th>UGB</th>
<th>UG</th>
<th>UO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creation</strong></td>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students</strong></td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>11,068</td>
<td><strong>60,080</strong></td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>29,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers</strong></td>
<td>170</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,169</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Faculties/UFR</strong></td>
<td>4 UFR</td>
<td>5 faculties</td>
<td>6 faculties</td>
<td>4 UFR</td>
<td>16 facult</td>
<td>7 UFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schools and Institutes</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Centres/laboratories</strong></td>
<td>14 labos 1 centre</td>
<td>9 labos 4 centres</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>1 centre 16 labos</td>
<td>19 cent. 15 lab</td>
<td>7 centres 55 labos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three Dimensions of application of University Research Governance

- Organization of the Research System
- Institutional and Strategic Steering
- Management of structures, resources, programs and projects
Project Directions

- Knowledge production on innovation systems
- Institutional and Individual Capacity Building
  - Science Policy Research
  - Research Management / Administration
  - Governance / Resource Mobilization
- Promotion of a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
Project Outline and Activities

- DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT RESULTS
- EVALUATION
- INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
  - AAU - leadership
  - Collaborators - STEPRI / GIMPA / CESAG / CAURA / WARIMA
  - Initial participating universities— 5 universities
Main Research Question

Which governance systems need to be developed to ensure quality university research that is relevant to local needs and national development priorities within the national innovation systems in West and Central Africa?
Specific Research Questions

• National Level:
  • Will look at national innovation system, research policies and strategies, role of actors and how universities interact with actors.

• University / Institutional Level
  • Will look at institutional mechanisms, participation of external actors in priority settings, decision-making and evaluation

• Society (end users) Level
  • Will look at mechanisms to consult end users (private sector, NGOs, communities, public sector etc) in priority setting and research implementation, exchange of knowledge
GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the project is to better understand and assess the place and role of universities in national innovation systems in West and Central Africa, and how to foster linkages with other actors to ensure quality of university research and its relevance to local needs and national development priorities.
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To Review the national science and technology research and innovation policy or strategy and identify if/how the policy integrates university research;
- To Review the organisation of university research systems;
- To Assess the process of priority setting and research planning, and the role of internal and external actors;
- To Identify and examine regulations on research management, administration and evaluation;
- To Assess the existing mechanisms and practices on dissemination of research results;
- To Assess conditions and practices that are necessary to build synergies between universities and end users for socio-economic development;
- To Propose measures to integrate university research as a critical component of the national innovation system.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

CAPACITY BUILDING

➢ To Develop research capacity in science and technology policy research;
➢ To Develop, test and validate governance tools;
➢ To Develop and pilot training modules on research management and administration;

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

➢ To Develop a community of practice amongst policymakers, researchers, research managers and administrators.
Resources and timeline

Leadership: AUA, STEPRI
Collaborators: CESAG, GIMPA, CAURA
Participating universities: 5 countries, 6 universities

Budget: $CAD 2.4 M
Duration: 3 years