

Improving University Research Governance in West and Central African Universities

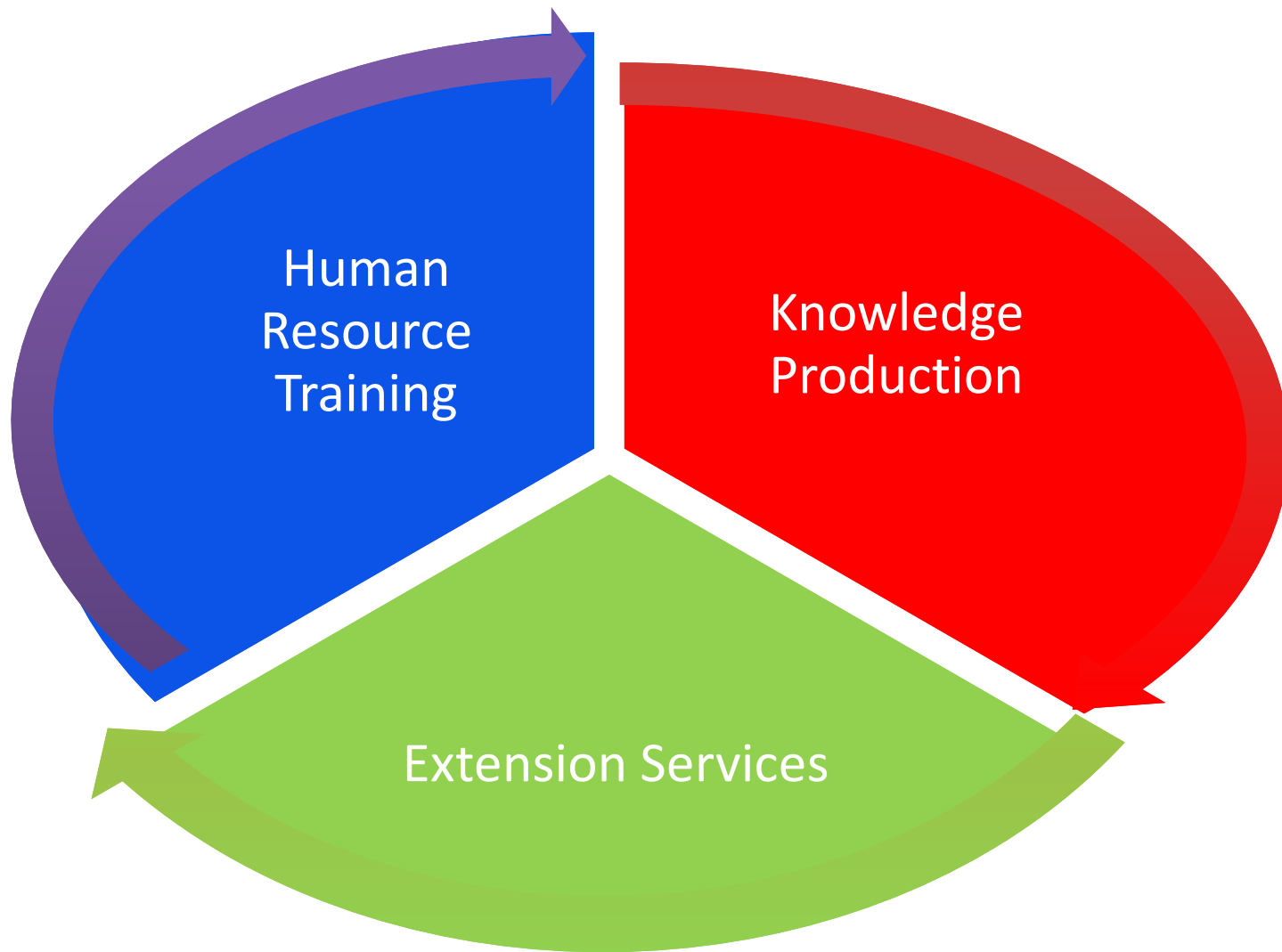
By

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Role Universities in Africa



- There is now greater acceptance amongst the development community of the economic benefits of higher education, which include training skilled human resource, creating public knowledge, exchanging skills between industry and academia and developing better technology.



Why the Project

- Gaps in linking university research with development priorities
- Weak linkages between knowledge producers and knowledge users
- Lack or seemingly lack of interest in university research by the political systems
- lack capacity for providing effective direction, organization and management of university research

Main Objective

The main objective of the project is to strengthen governance systems for research and foster better linkages between universities and other actors in the national innovation systems to ensure quality university research and its relevance to local needs and national development priorities

Components of the Project

- **Institutional and Individual Capacity Building:**
 - To contribute to the professionalization of the governance of university research through the development and sharing of tools and training modules
- **Multi-stakeholder Dialogue:**
 - To promote continuous dialogue and learning on the governance of university research through the development of a community of practice
- **Knowledge Production:**
 - To generate pertinent knowledge on university research in West and Central Africa and make the knowledge generated available to all stakeholders

1. Institutional and Individual Capacity Building

- **Governance Tools**

- Basic texts governing the roles of different university bodies
- Research Strategic and Operational Plan
- Resource Mobilization Plan
- Administrative and Financial Procedures Manual
- Guidelines for Accreditation and Evaluation of Research Units
- Information Management (databases)
- Policy on Intellectual Property
- Code of Ethics

Institutional and Individual Capacity Building Contd.

- **Building Capacities on Science and Technology Policy Research**
- Opportunities for researchers to deepen their understanding and practice of STI policy research
- Support PhD and Master students interested in research on universities in national innovation systems

Institutional and Individual Capacity Building Contd.

- **Training Modules on Research Management and Administration**

- Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG) and Ghana Institute for Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)
- Collaborating with West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA) and the Canadian Association of University Research Administrators (CAURA)

2. Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

- **Annual Forum**
- Vice-Chancellors and Research Directors interact with key stakeholders on issues of:
 - university research and development
 - Funding
 - priority setting and research planning
 - private-public partnerships
 - Valorisation of research results

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Contd.

- **Collaborative e-Platform for Communication and Knowledge Management**
 - Web 2.0 tools to allow social networking among actors through
 - Blogs
 - Provision of multimedia resource centre to publish, consult and share documents
 - Spaces for working groups on selected issues
 - Calendar for common events

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue Contd.

- **Field Visits** (eg.National Forum for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (FRSIT) in Burkina Faso and Open Days with Private Sector at University of Buea)
- **Participation in International Events on Research and Innovation Management**
 - Regional levels eg. SARIMA, WARIMA
 - International levels (International Network of Research Management Societies – INORMS)

3. Knowledge Production

- Basically research that will look at the position of universities in the national innovation system, national research policies and how universities interact with all stakeholders

Knowledge Production Contd.

- Specifically, the research part will :
- Review the national science and technology research/ innovation policy or strategy and identify how the policy integrates university research
- Map existing national innovation systems to determine the role and place of university research and interactions with other actors
- Review and compare the organization of university research systems in public and private universities
- Assess the process of priority setting and research planning, and the role of internal and external actors

Knowledge Production Contd.

- Identify and examine regulations and practices on university research management, administration and evaluation
- Assess the existing mechanisms and practices on valorization and dissemination of research results in society
- Assess the conditions and practices that are necessary to build synergies between universities and end users for socio-economic development
- Propose measures to integrate university research as a critical component of the national innovation system.

Participating Universities

– **Association of African Universities/ IDRC Project and covers:**

- 4 public and 2 well established private universities from
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ghana
- Senegal

Expected Outcomes



Knowledge Production

- Information on national innovation systems in West and Central Africa
- Information on status of science and technology policy research, and state of university research governance

Expected Outcomes

Capacity Building

- Increased expertise in research management in universities in the region
- Improved governance of university research through development of appropriate tools
- Research management /governance training
- Research management and, science and technology policy research skills



Expected Outcomes

Multi-stakeholder Dialogue

Research management actors enriched through networking and collaboration

Research management actors exposed to relevant innovations and new approaches



Finally, do you care for a
burger?



Thank you