

ACE 1
NEWSLETTER

HIGHER EDUCATION EXCELLENCE



AFRICA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE 2018 IN RETROSPECT MAJOR ACE ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES



WORLD BANK GROUP



AAU



2iE students exhibit their solar panels and solar powered pumping machines

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Since its inception in 2014, about 1600 PhDs and 6500 MSc students have been enrolled under the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) project and 12 International Accreditations attained. The Project has also created internship opportunities for students. Below are highlights of major activities in 2018.

- **Introduction of the ACE Newsletter:** In March 2018, the Association of African Universities (AAU), the Regional Facilitation Unit (RFU) of the ACE I and ACE Impact Projects introduced the ACE Newsletter as a way of improving communication among stakeholders and creating visibility for the Project. The ACE newsletter is issued on a quarterly basis to feature various activities, milestones, new developments and key undertakings by the ACEs in line with the project's objectives. Four editions have been issued so far (March, April, May-July, August-October)

- **Maiden Higher Education Fair:** The maiden Higher Education fair was held on May 7, 2018 at the Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The event brought together about 300 participants including stakeholders from academia, the private sector, industry, civil society, students and others. A wide array of exhibits including scientific equipment, laboratory chemicals, sample innovative processed foods and publications were displayed by the participating Centres of Excellence. The event was followed by a two-day workshop for the Centres from May 8-9, 2018.

Click to see photos <https://www.flickr.com/photos/134073620@N02/albums/72157690787610250>

Video in English- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5Z0z2uTbA8&t=22s>

Video in French- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Btft5nYJx4&t=16s>



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- Introduction of ACE social media pages: The RFU of the ACE Project proudly announced the introduction of the ACE1 Facebook (ACEI) and Twitter (@the_ACEProject) Pages to its communication channels to expedite information sharing among its stakeholders. These platforms serve as avenues to showcase the enormous impact being made by the 22 ACEs to address specific common regional development challenges. The handles are ACE I on Facebook and @the_ACE-Project on Twitter. We encourage all to follow these pages for up to date information on the Project.

- International accreditation: The West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI) hosted by the University of Ghana, the Regional Centre of Excellence in Poultry Sciences (CERSA), University of Lome and CEA- SMA, University of Abomey Calavi, Benin were among the few

Centres of Excellence to have some of their MSc and PhD Programmes internationally accredited. WACCI's Seed Science and Technology (MPhil) and Plant Breeding (PhD) were accredited by the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programs (AQAS), Germany. CERSA also had five of its Masters Programs accredited by the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES) based in France. These Programs are; Process of Transformation and Safety of Poultry products, Bio-safety and Bio-security of Poultry, Poultry Production Techniques, Poultry Biotechnology and Genetics, Socio-economy and marketing of the Poultry industry. Apart from CERSA, HCERES has also accredited two Masters Programmes of CEA-SMA namely; MSc in Mathematical Fundamentals and Applications (MFA) and MSc in Technology of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).



Representatives of WACCI meet with AQAS members to receive International accreditation

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- Commissioning of New buildings for some ACEs: The West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI), both in the University of Ghana, Obafemi Awolowo ICT Driven Park and Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation, University of Benin, Nigeria this year commissioned new buildings to serve as Secretariats and Research Centres.

Click to watch inauguration of WACCI multipurpose building

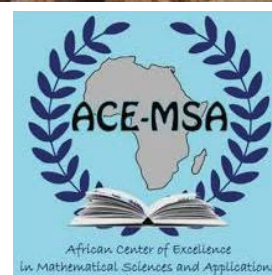
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3MYU7ULdy4&t=470s>



Built from the ground up



**CENTRE D'EXCELLENCE REGIONAL
SUR LES SCIENCES AVIAIRES**





CERHI secretariat

The Journey

Where we started from
(WACCI old building)



Where we are now
(WACCI multipurpose building)



Current OAK Park Research Centre

Extension of WACCBIP building
(Click for more photos <http://www.waccbip.org/waccbip-building/>)



- Workshops/ Conferences: Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE), Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), Ogun State, Nigeria organized two training workshops on Learning Technologies on modern Innovative Instructional Methods, Tools and Techniques and Climate Change. These workshops were held on August 6-11, 2018 and August

13-17,2018 respectively. The workshop was designed to empower staff of higher educational institutions (HEIs), to transit from the traditional format of delivering instruction and assessment to innovative and technology-driven methods. The workshop exposed participants to recent developments in the area of climate change and ways to address climate change issues.



At WACCBIP's third annual research

ACE in Statistics and Economics hosted by the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Économie Appliquée (ENSEA) in Côte d'Ivoire (ENSEA) also held its inaugural workshop on Statistics and Economics. The International Conference on Statistics and Applied Economics (CISEA) was organized under the theme "Drivers of Structural Transformation in Africa to enhance research excellence and create the platform to address methodological challenges faced by actors in the National Statistical Systems (NSS) and provide relevant information to support decision-making.

The West African Centre for Cell Biology of Infectious Pathogens (WACCBIP), University of Ghana also organized its third annual Research Conference from July 18-20, to provide a platform for the dissemination of research conducted by fellows at the Centre and by visiting scientists from its global network of collaborators. The three-day conference held under the theme "Translating Molecular Research into Healthcare Solutions for Africa", brought together world-class scientists from Africa, Europe, and North America.

Apart from organizing their own workshops, the ACEs also participated in some AAU workshops including workshops on Monitoring, Evaluation

and Learning and Research Communication and Commercialization. Among participating Centres were Pan African Materials Institute (PAMI), Centre for Reproductive Health and Innovation (CERHI) and the Africa Centre of Excellence in Neglected Tropical Disease and Forensic Biotechnology (ACENTDFB).

Click to view photos (WACCBIP 3rd Research Conference) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/134073620@N02/albums/72157671319780418>

Click to watch video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43c587PEjdY&t=33s>



ENSEA's International Conference on Statistics and Applied Economics (CISEA)



ACEPRD team with experts

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- **Supervision missions:** As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation, supervision missions were carried out to mark the progress of the Centres. The Centres were visited by Subject matter experts and representatives from the World Bank and the Association of African Universities (AAU). The supervision missions were in March, April and September.





PSC members at the AAU secretariat

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- Selection of forty-four Centres of Excellence for ACE Impact: The third phase of the Africa Centres of Excellence Project, the ACE for Development Impact has selected forty-four (44) Centres to participate. These Centres represent twelve (12) countries in West and Central African regions (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo). These Centres were selected under competitive processes

through desk and remote panel evaluations of proposals by experts in the fields of Health, Agriculture, Environment, Social Sciences and STEM. Subsequently, 65 proposals were shortlisted, and onsite visits were undertaken to these selected institutions. Forty-four Centres of Excellence were selected by the Project Committee Members in a meeting organized on November 2, 2018 at the AAU Secretariat in Accra, Ghana.

Click to view photos from the PSC meetings

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/134073620@N02/albums/72157704271149624/with/44357981050/>

Wishing you all a *Merry Christmas* and a happy **New Year**.