



News from Pro-RUWA

Promoting Academic Capacities for Sustainable Agricultural Resources Use in West Africa

Welcome to the 4th newsletter of the Pro-RUWA network!

Networks all have one thing in common: persons, institutions, devices etc. are interconnected for the purpose of exchanging information and sharing resources. Channeling these common goods in the direction of young graduates, research and innovations in life sciences is our aim at Pro-RUWA. To build capacities in higher education institutions in West Africa and foster exchange between disciplines, people and the environment.

In this edition of our newsletter, we highlight on recent networking activities, and share information of our partners within and beyond Pro-RUWA.

Best wishes,
The Pro-RUWA Team

Highlights of this newsletter edition

- Project meetings in West Africa: strengthening the network
- Linking academia with business – professional integration of young scientists
- Calls for Applications

Project meetings in West Africa: strengthening the network

From 16th to 17th and 20th to 21st March 2023, Pro-RUWA's third Finance and Administration Workshops took place at the partner institutions Faculté d'Agronomie d'Université Abdou-Moumouni Niamey, Niger (UAM) and Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques d'Université d'Abomey-Calavi, Bénin (UAC). These meetings, financed by DAAD, served the purpose of monitoring aims and achievements, reflect on past activities and set the path for 2023 onwards. Above all, we utilized the time together to strengthen internal, administrative capacities and our connections as a team.



Prof. Dr. Lompo Désiré Jean Pascal, Pro-RUWA country coordinator Burkina Faso



l: Hannah Grund-Magomu, assistant Pro-RUWA Germany;
r: Prof. Dr. Dossa Luc Hippolyte Pro-RUWA country coordinator Benin

The first two meeting days were hosted by UAM coordinator Prof. Dr. Iro Dan Guimbo in Niamey, Niger. Pro-RUWA delegates were welcomed by Head of department Prof. Dr. Awaiss and the Dean Prof. Dr. Balla. Country coordinators and finance accountants of all four partners focused on improving common understanding of the administrative operations and financial structures of the African Center of Excellence Pro-RUWA



Dr. Sandrine Houessou, assistant Pro-RUWA coordinator Benin

Furthermore, a strategic plan for the joint master program Climate Sensitive Sustainable Resources Management was developed. Following the completion of basic studies in general and deepened agronomic sciences (M1), students will be able to specialize their postgraduate degree in either Agroforestry, Animal Husbandry or Soil Science at one of the three West African Universities, UAM, UAC or Université de Dedougou, Burkina Faso (UDDG), respectively.



l: Dr. Martin Wiehle, Pro-RUWA country coordinator Germany;
r: Hannah Grund-Magomu, assistant Pro-RUWA Germany

The second part of the workshops was hosted by UAC coordinator Prof. Dr. Luc Hippolyte DOSSA in Abomey-Calavi, Benin. Here, the main focus lied on strategic planning of programs to improve employability and the professional integration of young scientists after graduation. Building on already existing initiatives at the three West African institutions, Pro-RUWA will provide supportive measures to offer a creative environment for students to improve their farming practices as well as managerial and entrepreneurial skills.

Pro-RUWA benefits from the experience and contributions of Centre Incubateur de l'Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey (CIUAM), UAC Startup Valley, Vice Dean of UAC Faculty of Agronomic Sciences Prof. Dr. Augustine AOUDJI, Head of Farm Unity UAC Dr. Padenou Emile, Entrepreneurial and Incubation expert Dr. Serge Abihona and Vice President for the integration of graduates UDDG Prof. Dr. Hema Emmanuel.

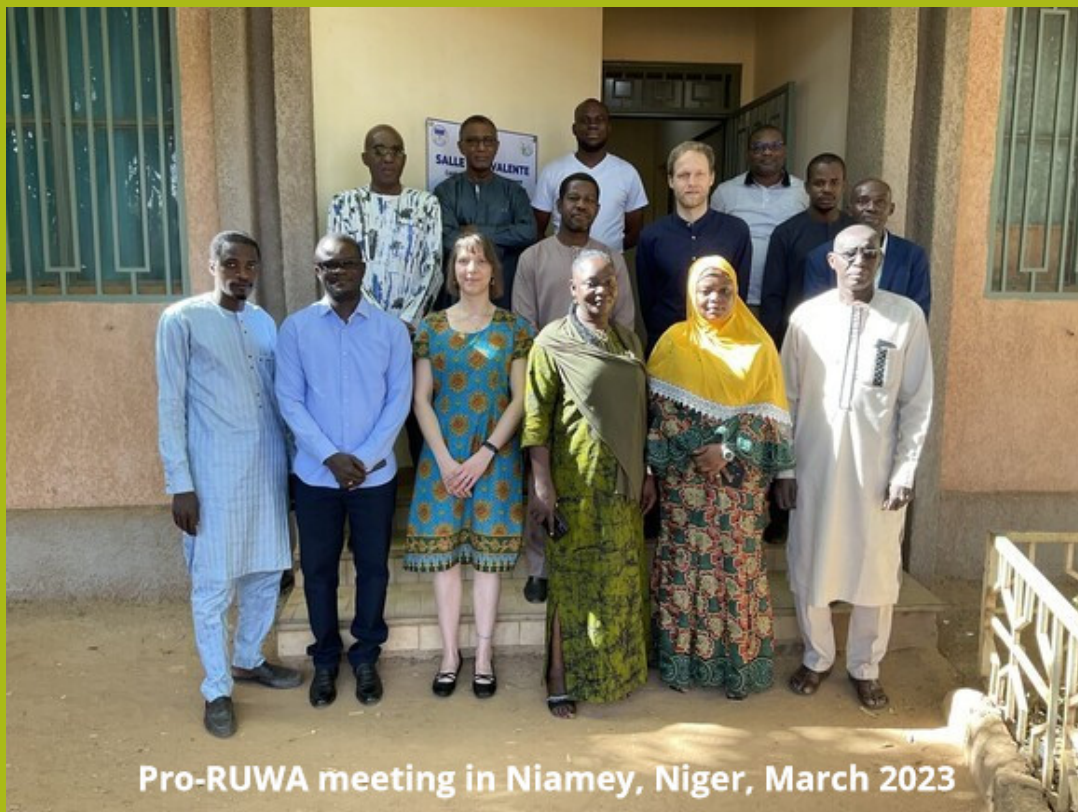
At both sites the dynamic workshops and participatory group work were moderated and facilitated by the Centers' German coordination team represented by Dr. Martin Wiehle and Hannah Grund-Magomu. We thank our team members Dr. Abdoulaziz Dan Dano and Dr. Sandrine Houessou as well as the many assisting hands for their support in organizing these events.



Pro-RUWA Niger (f.l.t.r.)
Dr. Abdoul Aziz Dan Dano, assistant coordinator;
Issa Moussa, finance administrator;
Dr. Dr. Dan Guimbo Iro, country coordinator



l: Prof. Dr. Aoudji Augustine, incubator Pro-RUWA Benin;
r: Prof. Dr. Hema Emmanuel, incubator Pro-RUWA Burkina Faso



Pro-RUWA meeting in Niamey, Niger, March 2023

Linking academia with business – professional integration of young scientists

No doubt, globally and in Africa, employers are in constant need of graduates with the appropriate mix of hard, digital, and soft skills. People who take initiatives, integrate into fast paced work environments, learn new ways of working and develop creative solutions to real life problems. Integrating graduates into business should focus on how to equip individuals to be successful on the job market, while also cultivating entrepreneurial and innovation mindset.

Among many ongoing initiatives across Africa, the Pro-RUWA network is developing strategies for the successful integration of youths after graduation. Each partner university has formed a committee for the incubation project. Beyond the individual universities' and faculties' strategies, the network is concerned with building functioning structures across and beyond (institutional) borders.

We are happy to work in collaboration with existing institutions, among other [CIUAM](#) and [UAC startup valley](#). While our network is still growing. For more information and inquiries regarding Pro-RUWA incubator project, please contact [Ms. Hannah Grund-Magomu](#)

Calls for Application

+++ Pro-RUWA MSc Scholarships +++

12 Master scholarships available for the academic year 2023/2024 in the joint-program Climate Sensitive Resources Management held at UAC, Benin, UAM Niger and UDDG, Burkina FASO. Within the fields of agronomy, livestock, agroforestry topics of regional challenges of scarce and heavily contested natural resources, climate change, and food security in a scientifically sound and applied manner.

For more information and pre-registration, please contact [Dr. Sandrine HOUESSO](#)

+++ DAAD MPhil Scholarship +++

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarships for the MPhil Agricultural Economics Programme for the 2023/2024 Academic Year under the West African Centre for Sustainable Rural Transformation (WAC-SRT) at the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Tamale, Ghana. [More information here](#)

+++ ATSAF MSc Career Scholarship - Junior Scientists Tandems (JST) +++

ATSAF's new "Junior Scientists Tandem (JST)" program gives students at MSc level the opportunity to get hands-on experience in research for development in collaborative projects between CGIAR++ centers and German research institutions in form of for a 6 months internship at a CGIAR++ center. [More information here](#)



Deutsch Welle visits Pro-RUWA Niger

Our Pro-RUWA team in Niger welcomed Ms. Bettina Rühl, Africa correspondent at Deutsche Welle (DW), to collect audio inputs from UAC campus. The content will be published at DW in autumn of this year. Until then, learn more about DW as major German foreign broadcaster [here](#).



Launch of the Max Planck Humboldt Programme in Africa: Support for research locations in African countries

The Max Planck Society and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation are planning to establish three Max Planck Humboldt Research Units in Africa. Three research group leaders at African research institutions will be announced, each of whom will be endowed with research funds from the Max Planck Society amounting to 150,000 euros annually for five years. The research groups are to collaborate scientifically with a Max Planck Institute of their choice and jointly train young researchers. [Read more here](#)

Outlook

DAAD has invited all African Centers of Excellence to a conference in September 2023. We look forward to networking and sharing with our partners and fellow Center's coordinators from across Africa and Germany.

Stay updated through [twitter](#) and on our [homepage](#).

The West African-German network "Promoting Academic Capacities for Sustainable Agricultural Resources Use in West Africa" - **Pro-RUWA*** aims to train a new generation of regionally and internationally educated young scientists, entrepreneurs, and administrators. Future decision makers in francophone West Africa will be capacitated to jointly overcome bottlenecks in resource overuse and food insecurity at the national and regional level by fostering university education, international relations, regional development, and operational links between the academic, public and private sector. Pro-RUWA builds on existing structures of three young universities in West Africa that have recently decided to overcome the language barriers and internationalize their graduate education.

(*Ruwa means "water" in Hausa language)



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