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**UN University Hails Ghana for Supporting Natural Resources Management Research in Africa**



*UNU-INRA Director, Dr. Elias T. Ayuk (left) presenting the institute's latest research reports on Climate Change and other related areas to Former President John Agyekum Kufuor (right).*

**Accra, 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014** - The Director of the United Nations University - Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), Dr. Elias T. Ayuk has commended Ghana for its commitment in supporting research on natural resources management in Africa.

Dr. Ayuk, praised the country when he and a Board Member of UNU-INRA, Professor Emmanuel Owusu-Bennoah paid a courtesy call on the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, Former President John Agyekum Kufuor in Accra.

The UNU-INRA Director used the occasion to congratulate Former President Kufuor on his appointment as the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change. He stated that Ghana is one of the few African countries that is committed to contributing to the UNU-INRA's endowment fund through its Ministry of Education. He indicated that the fund is meant to support research on natural resources management in Africa, to inform policy formulation and implementation.

He therefore appealed to the Former President to use his new position to influence other African leaders to emulate Ghana government's example by contributing to the fund to support the institute to achieve its mandate.

Dr. Ayuk also seized the opportunity to reiterate UNU-INRA's commitment to support the country and other Africa countries to tackle the menaces of climate change and other natural resources related issues that are affecting development.

“We are committed to achieving our mission to empower African researchers to carry out quality studies to provide evidence-based recommendations to African leaders to improve the management of natural resources in order to alleviate poverty on the continent,”, said Dr. Ayuk.

He noted that UNU-INRA's current focus is on harnessing land and water resources including the effects of climate change, promoting biodiversity and developing a green economy, as well as the governance and management of the extractive industries. He emphasised the institute's readiness to continue to make research reports and policy briefs available so as to inform African leaders on the need for the judicious use of natural resources to help improve livelihoods.

On his part, Former President Kufuor applauded UNU-INRA for its contribution to improving scientific knowledge on natural resources management in Africa. He urged the institute to continue to enhance the capacity of African researchers to undertake studies on climate change and other issues that are impacting negatively on the growth of the continent.

UNU-INRA presented some of its latest research reports on climate change and related natural resources management issues to facilitate the Former President's UN assignment.

The Institute currently, is the only institution of the United Nations University, in Africa, set up purposely to enhance the capacity of African Universities and individuals to produce scientific information to improve the sustainable use of the continent's natural resources.

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## **About UNU-INRA**

UNU-INRA's work centres on Africa's two most important endowments — its human and natural resources. It aims at strengthening capacities at universities and other national institutions to conduct research and produce well-trained individuals with the ability to develop, adapt and disseminate technologies that promote the sustainable use of the continent's natural resources. UNU-INRA operates out of its main office at the University of Ghana. It has also established operating units (OUs) at the University of Cocody, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, University of Yaoundé I, Yaoundé, Cameroon, University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia, University of Namibia, Windhoek, Namibia, and Institute for Food Technology (ITA) of the Ministry of Mines and Industry in Dakar, Senegal, through which some of its major activities are carried.

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