Training Course Announcement

Integrated Decision Support System (IDSS)
24 – 28 July, 2017

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
Kumasi, Ghana

The Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) will be hosting an international training workshop on the "Integrated Decision Support System (IDSS) from 24 – 28 July, 2017 at the KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana. The training is conducted under the Feed the Future USAID Innovation Laboratory for Small Scale Irrigation which is being implemented in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Ghana. Texas A&M is the lead institution for this project. The IDSS is part of the overall research conducted under this laboratory in Ghana in collaboration with Texas A&M, North Carolina A&T State University, and the three CGIAR centers: the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

This training will be conducted by a team of practicing scientists from Texas A&M University from the United States of America. The training will target graduate students and young scientists with background in economics, agronomy, animal science, water resources, hydrology and engineering. Trainees will learn about three component models and their integrated use to provide a holistic assessment of the impact of alternative interventions in food and agriculture. The models are:

- **Agricultural Policy/Environmental eXtender Model (APEX)** is a farm/field scale model for agronomists, animal scientists, soil scientists, crop production, environmental impacts;
- **Farming Simulator (FarmSIM)** is a soocio-economic model for agricultural economists or people with economic understanding; and
- **Soil Water Assessment Tool (SWAT)** is a watershed model for hydrologists, agricultural engineers, water resource professionals.

The training of each model will be conducted in parallel, except on the first and last days of the event, where all participants will be together to experience the integrated modeling approach and learn from case studies. Thus, each participant has to choose any of the models. **There are limited seats for each model: APEX (25 participants); FarmSIM (20 participants); SWAT (35 participants).**

We hereby invite faculty, graduate students and other practitioners from the Ministries responsible for agriculture, water resources, irrigation and environment in addition to research institutions and other organizations to apply for the course by writing an e-mail to Prof. Sampson Agodzo via skagodzo7@usa.net. The deadline for application is Friday, 30 June 2017. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, 07 July 2017. Female candidates are encouraged to apply. In case of any further information, please contact us via skagodzo7@usa.net or call +233208165505. The course facilitators will provide course materials, lunch and other refreshments but **participants are expected to cover their own transport costs and other costs of living in Kumasi**. Candidates must come with laptops. Further details will be provided after finalizing the participants list. The **advanced SWAT workshop** will also be provided at KNUST. Interested participants for the Advanced SWAT workshop should have sufficient SWAT experience, or must have attended previous SWAT workshops. The participants can come with their specific projects to get sufficient supervision.