

## Achieving SDGs 2 & 3 in Ghana: The role of academic libraries in ensuring and promoting Zero Hunger and healthy sustainable life among the citizenry.



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## Motivation for Research

- Ghana's bid to achieve zero hunger (SDGs2) and health for all (SDG3) like most African countries is on a crossroad.
- Malnutrition among some Ghanaian communities (eg. Northern Region) is rife.
- **Health** care delivery system in Ghana has been struggling with **malaria**, infectious disease like cholera due to poor sanitation over the years. Lately, the situation has been worsened by increase in hypertension, diabetes, and cancer (Dadzie, Martin-Yeboah, & Tachie-Donkor, 2016). **(May be due to lifestyle changes)**
- To improve the Ghanaian situation, the GoG through MOH has adopted the **Regenerative Health Programme (RgHP)** (ie Shifting the emphasis from **cure** to **prevention**)
- Implementation of RgHP needs a multiple nested approach from all stakeholders.
- **the role** academic institutions (KNUST) and their libraries play in the achievement of food security and health for all in Ghana is relevant and revolves around its **Core Mandate: Teaching, Research and Service to the Community/Outreach.**

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## Research method

- **Simple literature review methodology** was used to **review relevant literature** sourced from **IRs, Academic Databases, Websites** etc on universities' and librarians' role in achieving SDGs 2 & 3 as well as their contributions and challenges in the implementation of these goals.
- Personal observation and experience

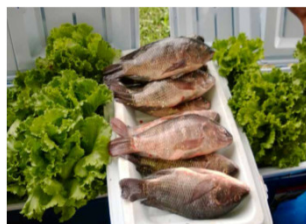
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## Implementation of SDGs 2 & 3 in KNUST and its Impact (Training/Teaching, Research and Outreach programmes)

**Teaching:** *KNUST, locally Trained emergency Nurses @ KATH-Accident and Emergency Center (CoHS)*



Integrated aquaculture system for fresh Tilapia and veggies



**Research:** Ensure zero hunger and Healthy lifestyle



**Safe Water For Food Project-** aims to **propose** means of **reducing health risks** of farmers, **consumers**, animals and **foods** exposed to low quality water

**Nutrients for Rural Children project** (Eggs **fortified** with **Omega 3 fatty acids** called Designer egg)-  
**Sch. Feeding Programme**



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## Service to the Community or Outreach Programme



**Library's Stand: SDI- Food fair Exhibition (14<sup>th</sup> February, 2019**

HIV Aids control education and promoting healthy eating



*Communicating Research findings to a community through drama*



## Challenges academic libraries encounter in the Implementation of SDGs 2 and 3 in Ghana



Inability of information on: *Agricultural production technologies, improved seeds varieties developed by research institutes* not packaged and delivered in the appropriate form to farmers either directly or indirectly through agricultural extension officers

- Insufficient number and quality of teachers, small size of libraries with outdated books, inadequate classrooms and accommodation affects delivery of quality personnel in the form of graduates to help in the achievement of quality agriculture to ensure food security



Who **validates** health information churned out from **librarians**

- Role conflict of stakeholders as well as the inherent issues related to the traditional role as information managers
- Funding, credibility of information, and community acceptance
- Client's understanding of certain medical terms used in health information

## Recommendation

- *“Librarians and information workers should participate actively in disseminating agricultural and health information to farmers and health workers in Ghana using audio-visual materials, Web 2.0 tools and Information Communication Technologies”.*
- Libraries could use marketing skills and modern technologies to reach out to their patrons as a means of providing evidence-based agricultural and health information and services in real time,
- The Ghana Library Association could ensure the inclusion of information on food security and health-related matters in all the seminars, conferences and continuous professional development programmes
- Universities running Librarianship courses in Ghana and elsewhere could revise their curriculum to incorporate the SDGs and how the new trainees could help in ensuring, promoting and achieving the SDGs in Ghana
- Information on degenerative health should be disseminated in varied format
- More advocacy on the consumption of healthy Ghanaian Dishes

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## Conclusion

- Information professionals and Academic libraries in Ghana are aware and have been supporting in traditional ways to enable Ghana achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2& 3 through:
  - Healthy consumption of locally grown agricultural produce,
  - Health and wellness promotion,
  - Preventive medicine education
  - Collaborate in diverse ways with other stakeholders through Technological advancement
- Ghanaian government must support financially and invest in librarians to motivate academic libraries since they are appropriate partners in the achievement of the SDGs
- **In a nutshell**, academic libraries as information repository play vital and leading roles in identifying, capturing, repackaging, preserving and proper dissemination of agriculture and health information to Ghanaians to achieve sustainable food security and health for all by 2030.

## Appreciation

- Carnegie Corporation of New York and the UP Team
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- The Niger State Public Library Board
- The State Primary Healthcare Development Agency
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology



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