



Sewerage Systems Ghana Limited
clean environment . green energy

**REPORT ON HATOF'S MEDIA ENGAGEMENT OF ACTUATE PLATFORM IN
GHANA
ACCRA, STEPRI CSIR
JANUARY 28, 2021**



**PREPARED BY
MS. WYNNY ESI ADDISON
JANUARY 29, 2021**

Table of Contents

1. Background and Introduction	1
1.1 Welcome Address by Chairman	2
2. Presentations at HATOF ACTUATE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT	3
2.1. Overview of the ACTUATE Project.....	3
2.2 ACTUATE Implementation Plan in Ghana	3
2.3 Presentation on Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System/Recirculate	4
2.4 Presentation of the ShowLab	5
3 Questions and comments	6
4 Closing Remarks	7
4.1 Field Visit to the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System.....	7
5 Conclusion	9
ANNEX 1: Questions and Comments Received	10
ANNEX 2: AGENDA.....	11
ANNEX 3: PARTICIPANT LIST	12

1. Background and Introduction

The media engagement of ACTUATE Platform in Ghana took place on January 28, 2020. The meeting, organized by HATOF Foundation took place in the Conference Room of STEPRI-CSIR, Accra. The purpose of the meeting is to engage identified media houses, social media experts and personnel on the ACTUATE project Platform for an enhanced communication and for wider information sharing on the uptake of a safe circular water economy connecting waste, human health and energy, food and soil security in Ghana .

The ACTUATE project, “*Accelerating the Adoption of Circular Sanitation Demonstration Systems for Improved Health Outcomes (ACTUATE)*” is funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund through UK Research and Innovation seeks to tackle these major global development issues and improve lives in communities in Ghana and Nigeria. The ACTUATE project promises to generate electricity, sustainable fertilizer for crops and sanitation improvements through the development of anaerobic digestion demonstrator systems in community schools. These bioenergy outputs, which use organic waste to produce biogas, will demonstrate the effectiveness of this key technology to deliver energy while working with, and inspiring confidence in, local communities.

As a collaborating partner of the ACTUATE Project; HATOF’s role is to support cultural and generational changes in thinking and understanding around the paradigm of a safe circular economy through awareness creation, social mobilization and environmental campaigns.

Paramount to the activities of HATOF Foundation is to organize a media engagement of the ACTUATE project Platform, which seeks to engage identified media houses, social media experts and personnel on the ACTUATE project Platform for an enhanced communication and for wider information sharing on the uptake of a safe circular water economy connecting waste, human health and energy, food and soil security in Ghana via media interviews and video documentary of activities.

This media engagement brought together about 40 participants which includes reporters from selected media houses, the project partners, a representative from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation (MESTI). The guest of honor was Prof. F.K.E Nunoo Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana.

This report provides summaries of engagement sessions along with key meeting documents (including comments and questions from the participants) available presentations and the list of participants.

1.1 Welcome Address by Chairman



Chairman, Prof. F.K.E Nunoo Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana giving the welcome address

The Chairman Professor F.K.E Nunoo who chaired the meeting gave a welcome speech. In his opening speech, he expressed his profound gratitude for being involved in the ACTUATE Platform and hope to benefit immensely from the engagement. He urged the participants and media to ardently engage the partners to better make informed broadcasts about the project to get the attention of the public. He further entreated the participants to be agents of change in the various communities to be mindful of the waste generated into the environment. Finally, he advocated that, Ghana must be a nation to be reckoned for its good work in protecting the environment for the good wellbeing of its citizens.

2. Presentations at HATOF ACTUATE MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

2.1. Overview of the ACTUATE Project

Professor Kirk T. Semple, Director of RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE projects/Director of International Engagement, Lancaster University, introduced the Actuate Project and what it seeks to achieve. He also addresses the importance of deliberating on the major waste challenges faced by developing countries including Ghana and Nigeria and how this pilot demonstrational project will enhance waste management systems in both countries. He further delved into how ACTUATE was conceived out of an already existing project, RECIRCULATE and how these two projects promise to improve sanitation through a circular economy system. Prof. Kirk touched on how waste can be recycled and reused in different forms such as energy for light, gas for cooking and fertilizer for farming.

2.2 ACTUATE Implementation Plan in Ghana



Mr. Samuel Dotse, CEO HATOF Foundation presenting on the ACTUATE Implementation plan in Ghana

The Chief Executive Officer of HATOF Foundation, Mr. Samuel Dotse, addressed the Implementation Plan of ACTUATE in Ghana. He explained the activities undertaken by each

partner (from Lancaster University in the UK, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Umar Bun Hatab Islamic school, Green Advocacy and Sewage Systems Ghana Ltd here in Ghana) under the four stages of the entire project timeframe. He further highlighted on HATOF's activities one of which was media engagement of the ACTUATE Platform that was organized. He explained that with the engagement with the media, the media houses would aid in sharing and presenting information on the project to the public and the nation as a whole and subsequently, the social media experts would also assist in sharing the process and outcomes through the various online and social media handles- Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram for the majority of the online users to have the opportunity to give feedbacks and suggestions to enhance the project in the present and future deployments. He finally commented that, other activities such as the media field visit is geared towards providing a view of reality of the constructed Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System as pictorially designed; vividly explaining the processes the various waste would be fed to the demonstrator system to process into gas for the show lab as well as the opportunity for the media to speak with the partners and students to ascertain their enlightenment and readiness for the ACTUATE project.

2.3 Presentation on Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System/Recirculate



Dr. Richard Bayitse, ACTUATE Project Coordinator, CSIR- IIR presenting on the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration System.

The ACTUATE Project Coordinator in Ghana, Dr. Richard Bayitse, followed up with a detailed presentation on the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration System. He explained how the biodigester was constructed, its components and functions, and how the CSIR is using new technologies such as solar panel to power the biodigester in the new design. According to Dr. Bayitse, the initial plan was to involve the students of Umar Bun Hatab throughout the design process however, this plan was distorted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Notwithstanding, he acknowledged the fact that the CSIR has documented the whole construction process in a form of a documentary which will be played for the students when the demonstrator is ready to be operated so they do not miss out on the experience. He then added that the demonstrator is 90 percent complete and will soon start operation. “Initiating students and the young ones at an early stage to practical science and technology such as this will enlighten them to develop interests and passion for science and innovative technology”, he remarked.

2.4 Presentation of the ShowLab



A pictorial design of the show lab

The representative from the Green Advocacy Ghana, Mr. Kojo Amoyaw-Osei finally took the participants through its role of building a Show Lab in the Umar Bun Hatab School as a partner on the ACTUATE Project. He added that, the project through Green Advocacy will engage and train the students in waste collection, segregation and other environmental related issues

surrounding the effective operation of the Biodigester system as well as see to the sustainability of the environmental knowledge and attitudes instilled in the students by setting up school clubs. He further unveiled a pictorial setting of the final outlook of the ShowLab which will have all the necessary equipment and utilities to aid teaching and learning through practical experiments using the biogas to be produced by the Biodigester system. “Teaching and learning the old way must change, students must learn the essence of science the practical way so it does not depart from them”, he added.

3 Questions and comments

Following the presentations was the time for questions and comments. Moderated by Mr. Samuel Dotse, the discussion begun with questions, clarifications, contributions and reactions from the media personnel and social media experts on the presentations made by the project coordinator and partners. Questions were answered and comments clarified appropriately by project partners (CSIR, Green Advocacy and HATOF Foundation) as well as virtually by the project coordinator (Lancaster University).



A section of the participants during the ACTUATE Media Engagemen

4 Closing Remarks

The Chairman, Professor F.K.E Nunoo gave his last remarks by acknowledging that the ACTUATE project is an innovative and enhanced sanitation platform which will engage the youth and children to enlighten and orient their minds to keeping the environment at heart at their young ages and tune their behavior towards responsible environmental attitudes and improved sanitation. He further suggested that, the CSIR should continually indoctrinate and update the public on major projects and improvements made on the existing biodigester technologies to enlighten homes and communities to adopt the technology. Finally, the chair entreated project partners and media to help spread the learning experience to address behavioral changes in order for the public and country as a whole to come to accept the relevance of these technologies to the country, and our health and wellbeing. He expressed his gratitude to all partners and wished safe journey to the media houses and other participants.

The program ended at 12:20 noon as the participants came together to take a group photo which was followed by packed lunch and afterwards, journeying to the Biodigester Demonstrator site.

4.1 Field Visit to the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System

The partners together with the media houses and participants after the indoor engagement went on a field visit to the Biodigester site. Dr. Kofi Ampomah-Benefo, CSIR took the media and participants through the processes to be undertaken by the demonstrator system as followed with questions from the media personnel. School had reopened hence the media had the privilege to interview some students of the Umar Bun Hatab on their thoughts and enlightenment about the project and the demonstrator system constructed.



Dr. Kofi Ampomah-Benefo, CSIR taking the media and participants through the processes of the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System



Dr. Richard Bayitse, CSIR interviewed by the media

5 Conclusion

The delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in some obstructions of HATOF's activities under the ACTUATE project. However, due to the easing of restrictions, activities have picked up and HATOF is currently deploying its second category of activities on the Project; media engagement. The programme was organized under strict adherence to the COVID-19 protocols; limited number of persons in the auditorium, social distancing, wearing of nose masks, use of hand sanitizers and many more to prevent the spread of the virus. The successful engagement with the media has empowered the media to perform their duties of reporting on the ACTUATE project to sensitize the public about the essence of good sanitation and processing of waste into other profitable energy and outputs.

We hereby thank all our partners, media houses and participants including, Prof. F.K.E Nunoo for facilitating the smooth media engagement of the ACTUATE Platform.

ANNEX 1: Questions Received

- How much funding is apportioned for Ghana for the ACTUATE project?
- How will the project be adopted and promoted for it to be national accepted in Ghana looking at the fact that the Ghanaian society is very resistant to change and technologies that eliminate the traditional ways of doing things?
- What type of waste can be fed to the digester for processing?
- How sustainable and different is the digester from the few seen in other countries and some state institutions?
- How safe is it for students to be in contact with gas to be produced as output by the digester?
- What is the completion stage of the digester system?
- Is the system going to be used by the community or it is purposely meant for the school's use only; how safe is the digester at its location?

ANNEX 2: AGENDA

Agenda

ACTUATE Project

Media Engagement

Date: January 28, 2021

Venue: CSIR-STEPRI

Time: 9:00am

9:00 - 9:30am	Arrival and Registration
9:30 - 9:35am	Opening prayer <i>Mr. Sulemana Imoro</i>
9:35 - 9:40am	Welcome Address by Chairman <i>Prof. F.K.E Nunoo, Board Chairman, HATOF & Professor, Department of Marine and Fisheries Sciences, University of Ghana</i>
9:40 - 9:55am	Overview of ACTUATE Project <i>Professor Kirk T. Semple: Director of RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE projects/Director of International Engagement, Lancaster University (Virtual)</i>
9:55 - 10:10am	ACTUATE Implementation Plan in Ghana <i>Mr. Samuel Dotse, CEO, HATOF Foundation</i>
10:10 -10:25am	Presentation of the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstrator System/Recirculate <i>Dr. Richard Bayitse, ACTUATE Project Coordinator, CSIR-IIR</i>
10:00 -10:15am	Presentation of the ShowLab <i>Bennett Akuffo, CEO, Green Advocacy</i>
10: 15-11:00am	Questions/Comments
11:00 -11:05am	Closing Remarks by Chairman
11:05 -11:10am	Group Photo
11:10 -12:20pm	Packed launch/Field Visit (presentation by Dr. Kofi Ampomah- Benefo, CSIR)

ANNEX 3: PARTICIPANT LIST
ACTUATE PROJECT- MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

JANUARY 28, 2021

CSIR-STEPRI @ 9:00AM

NO.	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT RECEIVED (GH¢)
MEDIA HOUSES		
1.	Ghana News Agency	150.00
2.	The Ghana Report	150.00
3.	Ghanaian Times	300.00
4.	Daily Graphic	200.00
5.	Daily Guide	150.00
6.	GBC Radio	150.00
7.	Joy News	400.00
8.	Oman FM	150.00
9.	Citi Newsroom	150.00
10.	GTV	400.00
11.	TV3 Network Limited	300.00
12.	GH One TV	300.00
13.	Metro TV	300.00
14.	Atinka TV	350.00
15.	UTV	300.00
OTHER PARTNERS		
NO.	ORGANISATION	AMOUNT RECEIVED (GH¢)
16.	Ministry of Finance	200.00
17.	University of Ghana	300.00
18.	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation (MESTI)	200.00

PROJECT PARTNERS

NO.	NAME	ORGANIZATION
19.	Dr. Richard Bayitse	CSIR-Institute of Industrial Research
20.	Dr. Kofi Ampomah-Benefo	CSIR-Institute of Industrial Research
21.	Bennett N. Akuffo	Green Advocacy
22.	Kojo Amoyaw-Osei	Green Advocacy
23.	Mr. Sulemana Imoro	Umar Bun Hatab Islamic Basic School
24.	Joyce Tuakly	Blue Skies
25.	Ing. Jacob K. Nkunu	Sewage Systems Ghana Ltd.
26.	Samuel Dotse	HATOF Foundation
27.	MaryJane Enchill	HATOF Foundation
28.	Wynny Esi Addison	HATOF Foundation
29.	Sandra Hedornu	HATOF Foundation