



RECIRCULATE Update

April Newsletter

Welcome to the April update from RECIRCULATE.

This month we've been reflecting on the value of international partnerships which are core to the RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE projects. In our monthly webinar and a short series of spotlight interviews we've collected reflections from research leaders in the UK and Africa on the importance of building strong international partnerships, hopefully you'll find learning from their experience useful. We've also got updates from the *power from waste* work at the University of Benin and the latest highly-commended entries from our blog-writing competition.

If you'd like to be put in touch with any RECIRCULATE researcher please contact recirculate@lancaster.ac.uk and we'll pass on your message.

So, please, enjoy reading the newsletter and if you have any feedback, contact our Project Officer [Dian Velkov.](#)

International Partnerships Webinar

On 28th April our [International Partnerships Webinar](#) posed the question "***Why are international/African research and innovation partnerships challenging and can it be made better?***" and explored challenges and opportunities for research & business partnerships in Africa. Moderated by Dr Akan Odon and the RECIRCULATE team, the webinar featured specialists from Uganda, Nigeria and the UK. Each guest speaker

shared their expertise in managing strategic partnerships followed by questions and interaction with the attendees.

[Watch the full webinar](#)



Research Highlights

Spotlight interview with Dr Joanne Larty

[Dr Joanne Larty](#), RECIRCULATE work package co-leader, researcher & senior lecturer at [Lancaster University Management School](#), describes how a place-based approach to entrepreneurship can help partner institutions create value for communities.



[Read more](#)



[Read more](#)

If you build it, they will understand

Dr Mike Ajieh describes how the ACTUATE power-from-waste plant at University of Benin is translating RECIRCULATE research into real benefits for energy supply, the environment and student experience

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Capacity Building



Water, community and networks

In her highly commended entry to the [FLOW](#) "Write a Blog" competition, Kathleen Burke, a PhD student at the House of Innovation within [Stockholm School of Economics](#), reflects on her story with RECIRCULATE and highlights how it is connected to her research into sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems.

[Read more](#)

Communication between research & business

Chibuike Utaka, a development journalist, media trainer, lawyer and media administrator, finds parallels between his childhood experience and the challenge of science communication with business and claims that effective communication connects the researcher and the business.

[Read more](#)

Two more spotlight interviews with partnerships experts

In the second spotlight interview, [Dr Emmanuel Tseklevs](#), senior lecturer & research lead in "Design for health and wellbeing", shares his experience in developing and managing strategic partnerships at [ImaginationLancaster](#) & highlights key projects concerning Africa.

[Read more](#)

In our final spotlight interview, [Prof. Jess Davies](#), lecturer in sustainability at [Lancaster Environment Centre](#) & director of [Centre for Global Eco-Innovation](#) (CGE), shares her expertise in managing strategic collaborations & identifies the biggest challenges to equitable and sustainable partnerships.

[Read more](#)

ACTUATE progress

The UNIBEN team has visited the University Staff School and the University Demonstration Secondary School to strengthen the relationship with stakeholders and drive home the project's agenda of

cultural change, capacity building, sustainability, investment opportunities and policy formulation.

During the visit, the staff and students of both schools were given updates about the project and information about the two activities which will be run by CGE-Nigeria through the ACTUATE project: the establishment of the ACTUATE Clubs and the ACTUATE Day in October this year, to coincide with the month the ACTUATE project was launched in UNIBEN. The biodigester would soon be completed and the staff and students of both schools will be invited to attend the formal commissioning.



[Read more](#)

Meet the researchers

Dr Priscilla Otuo is a post-doctoral researcher within the RECIRCULATE "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" workpackage team based at Lancaster University Ghana. Her role involves exploring issues regarding the optimum entrepreneurial ecosystem for African researchers to work with, in and for their communities and engaging key stakeholders from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Botswana in knowledge exchange and capacity building activities. Before RECIRCULATE, she completed her PhD at the University of Hull focused on entrepreneurship in Africa.

Her work contributes directly to the achievement of UN-SDGs – Decent work and economic growth (8), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (9), Partnerships for the goals (17) and indirectly to Clean water and sanitation (6), Affordable and clean energy (7) and Decent work and economic growth (8). The "Entrepreneurship and Innovation" work package organises capacity-building workshops aimed at building participants' capacity to enable them to adopt innovative approaches to solving challenges (energy, sanitation, waste) within their communities.

"It has been a delight and learning experience working with a large international interdisciplinary team. Essentially, working on the RECIRCULATE project has shown that we can solve critical real-world challenges by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds. Thus, we live in a global village and therefore we need to come together to solve the challenge with water. Again, being part of this team has increased my cultural awareness and appreciation of other cultures.

What makes me tick about my job is the impact that the project has made and is making in the lives of individuals and organisations. The outcomes of our job in dealing with water challenges in Africa communities are always worthwhile. Therefore, it is fulfilling to work on RECIRCULATE activities as they have meaning to myself, and to others. Overall, I am confident in the RECIRCULATE approach to contributing towards the attainment of the SDGs."





Dr Emmanuel Bekoe is a senior researcher within the RECIRCULATE "Water for Food Production" workpackage team. He is a water resources engineer at CSIR-Water Research Institute, Accra, Ghana and is experienced in the areas of agricultural water management and ICT and water resources management and climate change. He was involved in the CGIAR "Water Infrastructure Solutions from Ecosystem Services underpinning Climate Resilience Policies and Programmes (WISE-UP to Climate" project and the DANIDA-funded project "Building climate-resilience into basin water management (CREAM)".

His work contributes to the achievement of UN-SDG – Clean water and sanitation (6). His research falls specifically under SDG 6.4 "Water use and scarcity" and aims to find a solution to harness peri-urban wastewater and other sources of water to improve vegetable and maize cropping experimentation on the use of partial rootzone drying (PRD) and continuous flood irrigation (CFI) irrigation technologies in addition to nutrient trials to solve agriculture water shortage problems in dry season farming under changing climates.

"Being part of a large interdisciplinary team has transformed my perception on how to find solutions using diverse disciplines to achieve the same goal. It is new and a bit challenging with all the different angles to the problems, but it's been worth it. One good thing in working with partners in other countries is improving scientific knowledge and networking with people in the same discipline, enhancing a better understanding of the same issues from different perspectives.

The PRD technology and the use of digestates as nutrients are exciting features most local farmers are getting enthused about and likely to be accepted by Ghanaian farmers when the project dissemination and workshops have been fully undertaken."

Capacity Building Month May - upcoming events

- Thursday 6th 10:00am - 12:00pm - A Waste to Wealth webinar hosted on Microsoft Teams, to register your interest click [HERE](#)
- Tuesday 11th - Stimulating Entrepreneurial Thinking in Scientists (SETS) online training, watch out this [SPACE](#) for further details

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Useful resources

The [African Circular Economy Alliance](#) was conceived in 2016 during the World Economic Forum to develop Africa's circular economy ecosystem and capitalise on its development opportunities. One of the ACEA's [five big bets for Africa's path to circularity](#) is the food waste conversion industry which highlights the importance of converting waste into compost/soil enhancer, this is exactly what some RECIRCULATE researchers are doing. For more information read [The Circular Economy: Our Journey in Africa So Far.](#)

The last drop...

April 22nd was Earth Day, we'd like to congratulate all within the RECIRCULATE family who chose to support the event by making commitments to reduce the impact of the food they eat, contribute to the global climate literacy campaign or tree planting projects. Thank you!



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We send information about funding opportunities, news, and events to our contacts to foster collaboration. We hope this has been of interest to you, if so please add us to your contact list. However, if you do not want to receive our monthly RECIRCULATE Newsletter, just click "unsubscribe" below and we will remove you from our newsletter subscription list, or if there is someone else within your organisation you can recommend that we liaise with, just let us know and we will update our database, thank you.

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