

# RECIRCULATE Update

## October Newsletter

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Welcome to the October update from RECIRCULATE.

Our newsletter was landing in your inbox last month just as we were in the middle of our [2021 annual meeting](#), sharing technical updates across all areas of project research in three different locations simultaneously. Congratulations to all who contributed to a very engaging 3-day event, especially to those who overcame a fuel shortage across the UK!

In the run up to the UK hosting COP26 in Glasgow next month, many RECIRCULATERS have been getting involved in activities around the event including contributing to an exhibition and our own PARTICIPATE webinar. We'll be following the event with a panel session to reflect on what any outcomes could mean for Africa.

October usually marks the start of the new academic year and for our partners at Lancaster University Ghana this year marks a significant milestone with the [opening of the new campus](#). We wish great success to everyone involved.

As always, we're keen to hear from you with any ideas for building the RECIRCULATE network or feedback on this newsletter, so send your thoughts to [recirculate@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:recirculate@lancaster.ac.uk).

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## Research Highlights



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## The Queens of Change

RECIRCULATE researchers Afua, Cynthia, Priscilla & Anthony shine a light on the 'queens of change' - unseen, yet powerful women who oversee, protect, and promote informal markets in Ghana. (Part of [COP26: UK Universities' Climate Innovation Showcase](#))

## Water Saving Rice Irrigation

RECIRCULATE researcher Ryan, in collaboration with researcher from [CSIR-Crops](#), [CSIR-IIR](#) & [CSIR-WRI](#), reveals how rice plants growing in glass house at Lancaster University are helping to west Africa to grow rice using less water. (Part of [COP26: UK Universities' Climate Innovation Showcase](#))



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## Uniting against common invisible enemy

RECIRCULATE researcher Reuben, in collaboration with researchers from CSIR-IIR, Green Advocacy Ghana & Sewerage Systems Ghana Limited, showcase how community volunteers engaged in the construction of a drain in low-income urban settlements in Africa. (Part of [COP26: UK Universities' Climate Innovation Showcase](#))

## Achieving a sustainable Zongo: empowering children to decide where their waste ends up

Ekua Afrakoma Armoo, researcher on the [GCRF-funded ACTUATE project](#), explains the social dimension of establishing a demonstrator waste management system at Madina Zongo, in Accra (Ghana).



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[Read more](#)

## Biogas technology development in Ghana

As the world waits for COP26, Dr Richard Bayitse considers how solving the global challenge of the climate crisis can build on local solutions to the energy needs of communities.

## Capacity Building



[RECIRCULATE](#) leaders [present at UNGA76 Science Summit](#) - RECIRCULATE & ACTUATE leaders Prof. Kirk Semple, Prof. Lawrence Ezemonye & Dr Akan Odon were invited to present the projects at [UNGA76 Science Summit](#).



[COP26: Circular Solutions webinar](#) - on 21st October our COP26 webinar posed the question "*How can eco-innovation deliver sustainable development in Africa?*" exploring African perspectives on the potential for eco-innovation to address the challenges of climate change on the continent.



[RECIRCULATE researcher presents at GHM session](#) - RECIRCULATE "[Entrepreneurship & Innovation](#)" [workpackage](#) Senior Researcher Associate, [Dr Joana Pais Zózimo](#), was invited to deliver a talk under the [Global Health and Tropical Medicine Research Centre](#) sessions.



[ACTUATE making the news in Ghana](#) - built under ACTUATE project, CSIR & Hatof Foundation, the biogas digester now provides gas and electricity for the school while the residue is used as fertilizer.



[Zambia Independence Day](#) - As Zambia celebrated Independence Day, we took the opportunity to find out a little more about Herbert Tato Nyirenda, Public Health Lecturer & Researcher at [Copperbelt University](#) & RECIRCULATE network member.

## Meet the researchers

Dr Joana Pais Zózimo is a Senior Research Associate within the "Entrepreneurship & Innovation" workpackage team based at Lancaster University. Her main duties are to investigate, produce and apply high standard academic research to explore the optimum ecosystem for African research institutions to work with, in, and for their communities. Before this role, she worked as a Researcher for the Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning at the Department of Educational Research, FASS, Lancaster University.

In interpreting the social world, her theoretical social practice lens mainly draws on UN-SDGs Gender Equality (5), Economic Growth (8), Reduced Inequalities (10), Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (16) and Global Partnership (17). An empirical illustration of how her current research about RECIRCULATE collaborative model tackles SDG 5 is the realization that strong female leaders and change-makers do need to be supported through community-interaction capacity building initiatives to raise their profile as the role models for the young girls in the next generation.

"To have the possibility to experientially learn, to craft my intellectual identity, and to challenge some of my assumptions whilst working with partners in other countries, certainly shaped how I interpret the social reality. Thus, I am super grateful to the partners in Africa for all the dance vibe, delicious food, cultural heritage, laughter and social relationships - on top of the hard work for these almost four years.

The most rewarding aspect was to see my expertise as a social scientist explicitly valued across the interdisciplinary team. Fascinating learning, unique like-minded colleagues that made me so grateful for each day of my work. I know that the legacy will unfold much more, particularly on the social-relational aspect of RECIRCULATE as an interdisciplinary international collaboration."



Afua Owusu-Kwarteng is a Graduate Researcher within the "Entrepreneurship & Innovation" workpackage team and an Engagement Officer for the Women Innovators Network for Africa (WINA) programme. As a Graduate Researcher, she conducts research about gender-related issues, with a focus on understanding the role of gender on women's participation in university-industry collaborations in Africa. As a WINA Officer, she manages a women-focused and multi-cultural network that seeks to provide peer support, mentoring and leadership training for women, especially those in Africa.

Her work contributes to the achievement of UN-SDGs No Poverty (1), Gender Equality (5), Reduced Inequalities (10) and Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (10). For Gender Equality (5) specifically, her work supports the UN's ambition to empower women and girls to reach their full potential, by ensuring that they have equal opportunities to those of men and boys meaning that women have better access to paid employment, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and real decision-making power in public and private spheres to further ensure that development is equitable and sustainable.

"Working in a large interdisciplinary team is advantageous, but at the same time challenging. For instance, my PhD research requires that I conduct interviews with female academics and research scientists in the RECIRCULATE project. With the assistance of some colleagues in my work package, I have been successful at accessing some of these women for the interviews.

Being part of the RECIRCULATE team, I have found the practicality of the project to be enjoyable, rewarding, and fulfilling. Through my role within RECIRCULATE, I have had the opportunity to put my theoretical knowledge into real practice. This experience was an eye-opener and has since then shaped a lot of my thinking around the implementation of social innovation programmes, especially in the context of Africa."

## Upcoming events

- Thursday 25th November 10:00 - 12:00 - "What's next for Africa after COP26?" webinar, register free [HERE](#).
- Friday 12th November 10:30 - 11:45 - IPPR fringe event at COP26, register free [HERE](#).
- Friday 13th November 14:00 - 16:00 - "The power of African soils to mitigate climate change - a film screening of Project ReDEAL's work in Kenya", register free [HERE](#).

## To interact with us:

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## Useful resources



[UK COP26](#) - The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021.



[The 2021 Festival of Social Science](#) - The Festival of Social Science is an annual celebration of research and knowledge about humans and society. It's an

opportunity for anyone to explore topics relating to social science – from health and wellbeing to crime, equality, education and identity – through events run by researchers from UK universities.



[The Circular Lagos Challenge](#) - winners will move on to pilot their ideas and projects with the support of Circular Lagos Partners and LOOP Lab, an incubator designed to support long-lasting commercial and technical partnerships between young ventures and more established industry participants.



[Circular Economy in Africa Hub](#) - a collection of insights on the circular economy in Africa exploring key questions about accelerating the circular economy on the continent.



## **The last drop...**

We say goodbye to the RECIRCULATE Project Support Officer Dian Velkov on 12th November, as he leaves the project to take up a role in the Department of

Health Research at Lancaster University. He will be taking on the role of Programme Administrator for Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) North West Coast, a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programme covering the north west coast of England from Cumbria down to Cheshire. We would like to thank Dian for all his hard work on the project, particularly with regards social media and engagement and wish him all the best in his new role.



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