

COMMISSION ON OUTREACH AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Minutes

March 21, 2024; 3:30-4:30 p.m.

120 Gateway/ZOOM

Attendance (in person): Guru Ghosh

Attendance (via Zoom): Dave Close (Presiding), Jan Helge Bøhn, Francisco Carvallo, Terry Clements, Kristin Lamoureux, Paul Knox, Kenner Love, Katalin Parti, Lynn Resler, John Richey, Megan Seibel, Richard Shryock

Absent with Notice: Mike Gutter, Charles Lowery, Lauren Maghak, Penny Muelenaer, Jennifer Nardine, Angela Scarpa, Susan Short

Absent without Notice: Martin Ochoa, Judy Taylor

Guests: Kathy Hager, Mary Michael Lipford (presenter), Rich Mathieson, April Myers

Welcome and Self-Introductions: The meeting was called to order 3:32 p.m. Dave Close welcomed the group. Self-introductions were made.

[NOTE: Adoption of the Agenda and Announcement of Approved Minutes was delayed until after the presentation below, when quorum was reached].

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Dave asked for a motion to approve the Agenda, A motion was made; seconded; there was no opposition; the Agenda was approved.
2. **Announcement of Approval of Minutes, February 15, 2024:** Minutes from the February 15, 2024 meeting were sent out electronically for edits and were approved electronically. The minutes were sent to the Governance Information System; and can be found on the web (<http://www.governance.vt.edu/>).
3. **Experiences in Ghana:** Mary Michael Lipford provided a slide presentation of her background and work in Ghana (**ATTACHMENT A**). Overview included curriculum development, cooperative extension partnerships, modernizing cooperative extension and youth in agriculture programs.
4. **Acceptance of Constituent Reports and/or Minutes:**
 - a. **Chairman's Report:** Dave gave the update on the University Council meeting of February 19, 2024 and indicated there was one (1) resolution that was presented for second reading and voting: University Council-Resolution UC 2023-24A to Revise the University Council Bylaws. The update for the March 18, 2024 meeting included first reading for three (3) resolutions: Commission on Faculty Affairs-Resolution CFA 2023-24B-Resolution to Approve Revised Extension Faculty Tracks; Resolution CFA 2023-24C-Resolution to Form a Task Force to Study Instructor Workloads and Salaries; and University Council-Resolution UC 2023-24B-Resolution to Revise the University Council Constitution.
 - b. **Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE):** Megan Seibel spoke of the Agriculture Summits in Richmond this April; CNRE and CALS faculty will meet with industry stakeholders.
 - c. **Engagement Leadership Council:** Dave announced that Virginia Tech will host the Engagement Scholarship Consortium annual meeting in 2025. *[Susan Short indicated that the update will be given at the April 18, 2024 COIA meeting].*
 - d. **University Committee on International Affairs (UCIA):** Kim indicated a summary would be provided in the minutes. *Summary: Tom Archibald announced that the committee for the Alumni Awards for International Education, Outreach and Research reviewed the three applications that were submitted for the Research award; Robert Emmett discussed the need to begin planning for International Education Week to include selection of volunteers as well as a Chair. Rachel Fitzgerald discussed the continued work on the global learning badge and work on the Canvas site. Theresa Johansson announced the ending timeline of the Global Learning Grant; and discussed the COIL*

leadership institute in Florida late spring. Amanda Broome reported her connection with an International Working group including stakeholders from the Controller's Office, Research Compliance and Safety and the development of a global website. Discussions included engaging others across campus to engage in the planning and collaboration of multiple websites. Amanda announced that the global newsletter should be going out shortly. All members on UCIA have been subscribed. As a reminder, the email address for articles is globalnews@vt.edu. Guru Ghosh spoke about getting Dean and VP support for International Education Week and to build on the tripartite mission of education/learning, discovery/research and engagement/outreach. Guru also spoke about the Global Engagement Working Group and formation of Global Distinction. He thanked Tom Archibald, Juan Espinoza and Theresa Johansson for their work on the presentation to the Academic Affairs Council which highlighted Global Strategy in the context of mission, vision, research, education and international student enrollment; as well as recognized Janell Watson and her colleagues on the contribution of information for the Global Engagement Working Group white paper. The Global Engagement Working Group identified gaps and provided suggestions regarding comprehensive education using the American Council on Education (ACE) as a guideline. The draft report is with the Provost. The formation of the Global Distinction group is to achieve distinction for centers and serve as beacons to become a top Global 100 University. Guru also announced that areas across campus will need to give back resources to the University for reinvestments. Farida announced a Workshop Day-Empowering Voices with the Embassy of Switzerland on March 16, 2024. International Student Career Week is this week and will have hybrid sessions, some of which are located in the library (https://international.vt.edu/student_experience/international-student-career-week.html). Jeff Van Doren highlighted the progress his department, Global Strategic Services (GSS), has made with improving processes. The H-1B process is set to go live today; there is a new electronic posting for labor conditions to make it easier for departments to post with a QR code to be scanned as opposed to a physical posting; the new process for GSS to pay fees through P-cards which will expedite processing time used for check issuance and departments will process payments electronically to GSS; changes to the J-1 process; and systems updates for Sunapsis where department heads can approve a process. Discussions also included the VT-TANUVAS partnership with the Vet School; including the need for additional faculty to take on the partnership where previous faculty are no longer at Virginia Tech. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 25, 2024.**

5. **Announcements/Commission Board Member Comments:** Lynn Resler asked for recommendations to solicit feedback from individual colleges and the information that would be helpful to the Commission. Guru Ghosh discussed the recognition of the tripartite mission of the University and the importance of University policies are structured to engage student involvement. UCIA and the Engagement Leadership Council are the two bodies that bring focus and resolutions to COIA for recommendations and may include policies for University Council to consider. COIA members recognize colleagues that are doing international work and should bring those discussions to commission meetings. The purpose is to provide two-way information sharing.
6. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Megan Seibel, seconded by Francisco Carvallo and Jan Helge Bøhn; the meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

The next meeting will be **April 18, 2024 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.; 120 Gateway/Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Rhodes, Recording Secretary

PROPOSED DATES FOR 2023-2024 (Meetings 3:30-4:30 p.m. unless indicated otherwise)

April 18, 2024
May 2, 2024

Commission on Outreach and International Affairs (COIA)

Mary Michael Lipford Zahed
March 21st, 2024

Outline:



Background on me



IAEFP Fellowship, Ghana (2022)



Dr. Ackah Study Tour, Virginia (2023)



Exchange Program and G4A, Ghana (2024)

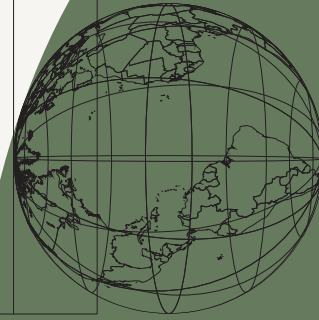
Who am I?

- Surfer, dancer, musician, wife, dog mom, snowboarder, explorer, environmentalist, grower, cook, teacher, etc.
- VT CSES '21, GFSSH & SPA
- How did I get into Agriculture
- Why international?
- Mungbean research and Senegal



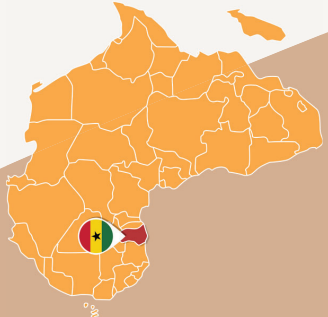
How did I get involved with Ghana?

- International Agriculture Education Fellowship Program (2021-2022)
 - Inaugural cohort
 - 10-month fellowship
- 4-H Advisor, Extension Agent, Middle School Agriculture Teacher





IAEFP



Patrick and Dr. Ackah, UCC

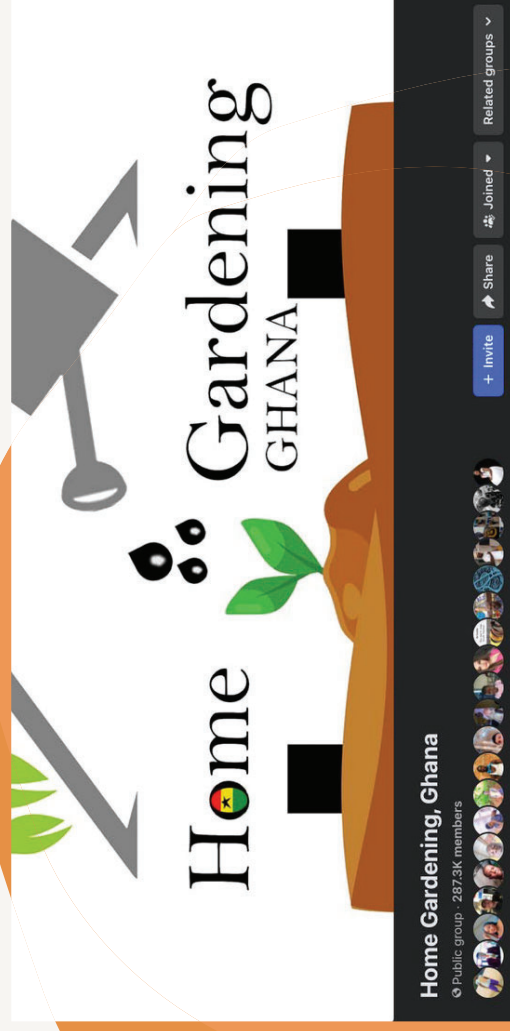


How do I make 10 months sustainable?



But Dr. Ackah is not just a plant pathology professor...

- He saw a need for increased food security within Ghana
- No university extension
- Creation of Home Gardening, Ghana (HGG) Facebook page
- 287.5K members
- Free trainings, advice, consulting
- Utilization of rooftops at UCC



Dr. Ackah Study Tour to VA, 2023



Upon Return to Ghana....

- Establishment of NGO, Garden for All (G4A)
- Establishment of Ghana's first community garden (Cape Coast, near UCC)



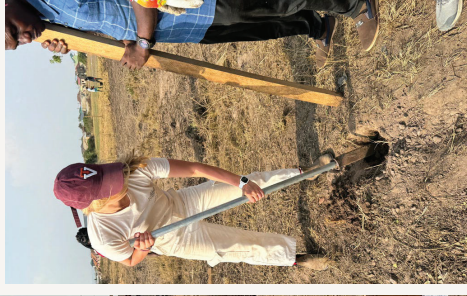
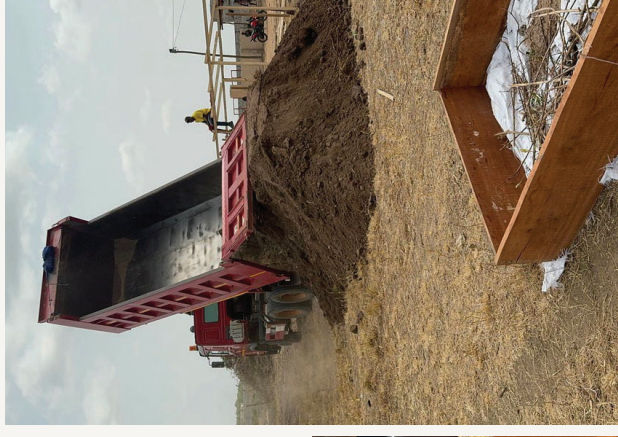
Virginia Tech & University of Cape Coast Collaboration, 2022

- 1 CALS VT student, 4 UCC students
- Establishment of Katamanso community garden (greater Accra region)
- Land donated by chief
- Spring 2024, establishment March 1-10
- Prior to establishment:
- Worked with VT HORT alum, Jeanette Ankoma-Sey, landscape architect on community garden design
- Developed surveys, rules and regulations, obtained seeds from VCE, membership agreements



Virginia Tech & University of Cape Coast Collaboration, 2022

- 17 beds, 1 bed per household
- 15 women, 2 men
- Many more members wanting to expand the beds, plenty of room in fence
- Tool shed, stocked
- Water source
- Compost source
- Extra soil
- Training area
- Two entrances in metal mesh fence
- Nursery + herb garden



Virginia Tech & University of Cape Coast Collaboration, 2022



- Training conducted in local language
- Pre-survey for all members
- UCC doing monthly check-ins and reports
- 6 month survey
- 1 year survey
- Continual trainings



Virginia Tech & University of Cape Coast Collaboration, 2022



Handing over the keys



What's next? : Volta

Ghana

IOM Ghana | Rapid Needs Assessment in Volta Region: District of Central Tongu – South Tongu (Evaluation : 19-22 October 2023)

Assessment • Source: [IOM](#) • Posted: 27 Nov 2023 • Originally published: 27 Nov 2023 • Origin: [View original](#)

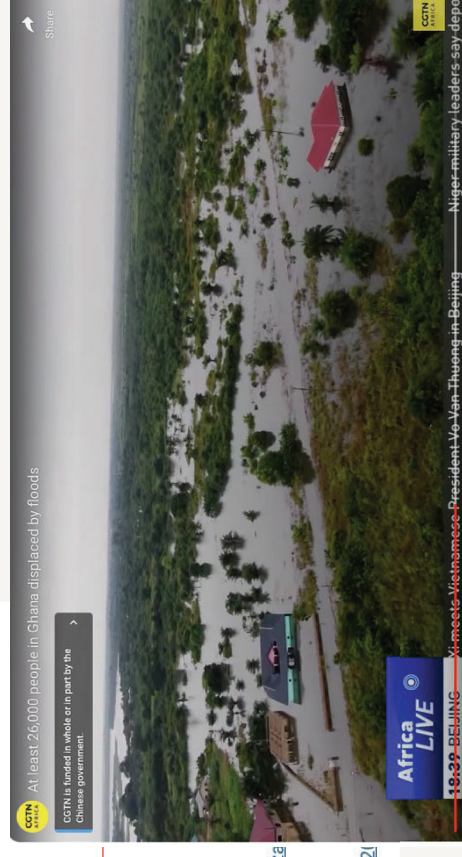
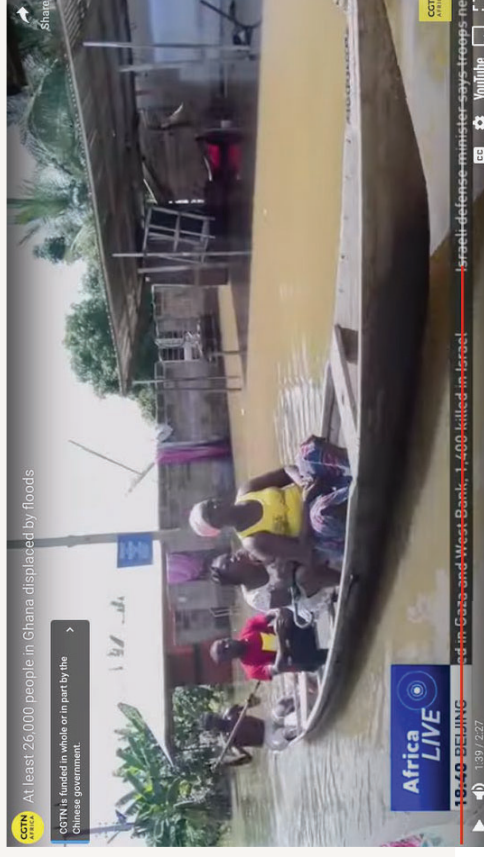
The Volta Region in Ghana has experienced heavy rains and high inflows of water to the Akosombo and Kpong dam reservoir, leading to severe flooding that has displaced 30,000 people in 8 districts. Infrastructure, crops, and shelters have been damaged, and access to essential services has been disrupted. Between 19th and 22nd October 2023, the Inter-Agency Emergencies Working Group in Ghana (IAEWG) conducted a rapid needs assessments due to the floods in collaboration with the National

Download Report
(PDF | 313.43 KB)

Primary country:
[Ghana](#)

Source:
[International Organize](#)

Disaster:
[Ghana: Floods - Oct 21](#)





Some Full Circle Moments...

Dr. Ackah visiting Ayeldu 2022



Dr. Ackah visiting Ayeldu 2024



Ayeldu students 2024



Megan starting
IAEFP fellowship
2024-2025



Questions?