



ProGREEN Webinar on Renewable Energy and Education : Improving Training, and Research to support Renewable Energy transitions in West Africa

Webinar Information

Date: May 5, 2021 **Time:** 3:00 PM GMT **Venue:** Online (Zoom Platform)

Organizers: START International **Language:** French

Audience: START invites all interested parties to this webinar, including students, researchers, practitioners, policy makers, government officials, and members of civil society. Early career researchers and practitioners are highly encouraged to attend.

Background

West Africa faces numerous challenges, including severe limits on access to energy, especially in rural areas where people mainly depend on firewood for cooking and lighting. The region is, however, rich in largely untapped renewable energy sources, including solar energy and bioenergy, which can provide viable alternatives to traditional fossil fuel and wood energy sources and that can contribute to strengthening economic growth and well-being of the population. Governments are now putting substantial investment toward accelerating clean energy transitions for meeting regional and international sustainability agendas including "[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda](#)" and "[Agenda 2063, The Africa we want](#)". Currently, falling prices of equipment makes solar energy an attractive option for many governments, however there is a lack of qualified and skilled professionals that can foster its widespread application and maintenance. These technical capacities need widespread strengthening but need to occur concomitantly with strengthening capacities of early career researchers to identify and address current and coming opportunities and challenges, and to work proactively with communities to bolster the renewable energy transition in West Africa.

[START](#) with support from the [Research Fund of Quebec \(FRQ\)](#), is implementing the Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy ([ProGREEN](#)) – West Africa project which aims to strengthen understanding of transitions to renewable energy and related development impacts. In Phase 1, ProGREEN teams conducted in-depth assessments of key enabling and constraining factors for advancing renewable energy transitions in Burkina Faso and Senegal as well as on development outcomes related to this transition. Phase 2 of the project will emphasize putting learning from Phase 1 into action and enhancing our capacity strengthening endeavors with early career scientists and professionals. A key part of this effort will be a virtual [Advanced Institute \(AI\)](#) to be held in June of this year with follow-on opportunities for Action Awards in Burkina Faso and Senegal. The AI call for application is open until the end of April.

This webinar will feature key regional experts who will provide insights and reflection on the current landscape of renewable energy, education and research innovation in West Africa. Special attention will be given to the challenges and solutions for addressing capacity development gaps. The webinar will also include a Q&A session where participants can interact with the guest speakers around these issues.



Objectives of the webinar

- Strengthen knowledge around linkages between renewable energy, education, and energy transitions in West Africa.
- Spotlight capacity development gaps that exist in the renewable energy landscape in the region as well as potential solutions.
- Share learning from the ProGREEN West Africa assessments in Burkina Faso and Senegal.
- Share information about the phase 2 of ProGREEN and upcoming capacity development opportunities for young researchers and professionals.

How to participate

To participate please register at [zoom.us/meeting/START/ProGREEN Webinar Registration](https://zoom.us/meeting/START/ProGREEN%20Webinar%20Registration)

After the event, please find insights from the webinar via:

- a. The session recording on START's YouTube channel
- b. START social media (LinkedIn/ Facebook /Twitter)

Send your questions prior to the webinar to Dr. Mariama Camara at mcamara@start.org.

For further information regarding the Promoting Gains in Renewable Energy (ProGREEN) – West Africa project, and webinar materials please visit <https://start.org/programs/progreen>.

Themes and Speakers

The table below shows subtopics to cover as well the guest Speakers.

Subtopics
<p>1. Education and Research in Renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the links between research/education and renewable energy transitions in West Africa?- Why these connections are important to strengthen the renewable energy transitions. <p>by Prof. Issakha YOUM Department of Physics, Faculty of Science and Technology, Cheikh Anta DIOP University of Dakar</p>
<p>2. Education/Research gaps and solutions in Renewable Energy in West Africa:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the key gaps, what is missing, what can be done/where are opportunities for growth?- Experience of the Regional Master in Applied Solar Technologies from Ouaga 1 University, Burkina Faso. <p>by Prof. Oumarou SAWADO UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Engineering and Applied Solar Technologies Director of the New Materials for Energy Laboratory Initiator and Director of the project: Institute for Training in Applied Solar Technologies Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso</p>
<p>3. Renewable energy as an engine of development: Impact on improving the living conditions of rural communities and Training needed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Experience of Progrelait project, ENDA Senegalb. Experience of the Center Ecologique Albert Schweitzer (CEAS) Burkina Faso <p>by Mr. Abdou NDOUR</p>



Coordinator of Enda Energie - South zone

and, **Dr. Charles D. KONSEIBO**

Responsible of the Resource Mobilization and Technical Support Unit, CEAS Burkina Faso

4. Capacity development Opportunities: Presentation of the ProGREEN project and Assessment Report What the ProGREEN Advanced Institute offers to early career researchers and professionals?

by **Dr. Mariama CAMARA**

Program Specialist, START International/Senegal

Moderator of the session

by **Mr. Kader DIOP**

Technical Advisor to the Director General of the National Agency Renewable Energies of Senegal