Enhancing Sustainability and Resilience of African Cities through a Water-Energy-Food Nexus (WEF) Approach (EnsureWEF)

A three-day scenario development workshop was organized from 6th – 8th July 2021 at CSIR-STEPRI Conference Room, as part of the implementation of the *Enhancing Sustainability and Resilience of African Cities through a Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approach (EnsureWEF) project.* EnsureWEF is one of several projects supported by Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa (LIRA 2030) Programme, which is run by the International Science Council in partnership with the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC) and supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

In his welcome address at the workshop, the Director of CSIR-Water Research Institute, Prof. Mike Y. Osei-Atweneboana indicated that the aim of the workshop was to co-develop scenarios with stakeholders in the water, energy and food sectors including government ministries and agencies, NGOs and stakeholders from the private sector. "We cannot discount the significance of water, energy and food resources to our very existence, well-being and the sustainable development of our nations", he commented, and noted that analysing water, energy and food through the nexus approach is very relevant to the sustainable development of the country. He further recounted how the poor and vulnerable are challenged in terms of access to WEF resources, pointing out also that the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the inequitable access to water, energy and food in our societies, especially among the underprivileged. He underscored the need to switch from the 'silos' approach to a nexus approach in addressing WEF security challenges in the city. Ending his address, Prof. Osei-Atweneboana called for more collaborations to make significant progress on the project.



Osei-Atweneboana delivering the welcome address

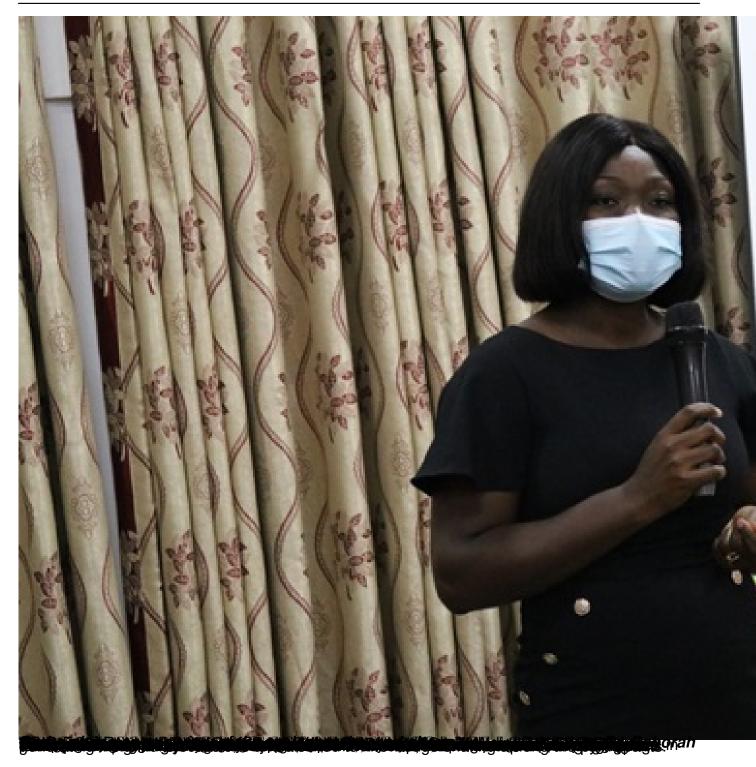
Prof. Mike

Dr. Emmanuel Obuobie, Head of Surface Water Division at CSIR-WRI and Project Supervisor for the EnsureWEF Project, in his remarks stated that even though the nexus approach is not well-established in developing countries, it is the current trend of doing things the world over. He noted that some infrastructure, particularly water infrastructure systems,

were initially built for irrigation but eventually had to add on domestic water supply as communities developed and populations increased. This he said results in shortfalls in the operation of the schemes owing to the different operational requirements of the competing systems. "The nexus perspective is therefore necessary at the very beginning of various projects, including the designing of the various systems to allow for effective and efficient management", he noted.



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Group photograph of Participants and Research Partners at the workshop



(first left)

I Group photograph of Research Partners with Project Supervisor