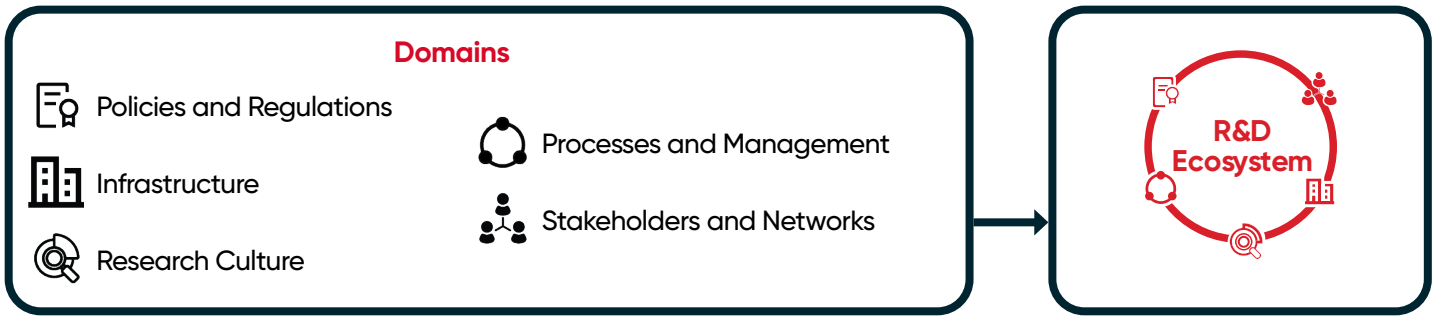
West African Research & Development Ecosystem Scorecards

institute of development studies

Expert Perceptions on Regenerative Agriculture in Ghana



R&D expenditure (% of GDP): 0.38%[1] | R&D expenditure in agriculture (% of agriculture GDP): 0.4%[2] | Researchers in forestry and agroforestry (% of total FTEs of agricultural researchers): 0.8%[3]

[1]World Bank databank (last year data 2010): accessed on 28 November 2025. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS?locations=GH; [2]ASTI dataset (2021): accessed on 28 November 2025. https://www.asti.cgiar.org/data-graphics; [3]ASTI dataset (2021): accessed on 28 November 2025. https://www.asti.cgiar.org/data-graphics

Experts consider that public policy -to some extent- prioritises and promotes. R&D in regenerative agriculture (RA) and supports product certification schemes that stimulate consumer markets. National procurement and import policies are slightly supportive. To some extent, government bodies coordinate towards a common R&D agenda, and diverse stakeholders including civil society participate in and influence policy processes. Regulatory barriers hinder innovation and intellectual property regulations acknowledge the need to protect farmers' knowledge to a small extent. A public investment agenda for RA R&D is to a small extent delivered on, with budget processes as well as financial instruments to support RA input procurement weakly developed.

Research institutions are moderately able to independently maintain physical infrastructure (i.e., labs, equipment etc.) and employ well-trained staff for R&D in RA. Yet, physical as well as ICT infrastructure for R&D in RA is deemed poor and not well spread across the country. Likewise, innovation hubs for processing and product improvement are weakly developed. While farmers can access RA demonstration farms reasonably well, coverage by extension agents is poor.

Experts consider that the private sector is important in promoting RA practices and R&D in the country. Formal mechanisms fairly well enable collaboration between public and private sector actors, and R&D actors engage moderately well in networks or knowledge platforms. However, the latter are poorly able to sustain themselves, and dependent on continued external support. Researchers disseminate RA research findings to relevant stakeholders moderately well. National political leadership however weakly motivates strategic action by RA R&D networks.

To some extent, civil society is recognised as a legitimate stakeholder informing RA R&D agendas. National platforms enable knowledge sharing between various actors and joint sensemaking of new RA evidence occurs to some extent. University curricula and regional/national capacity-building efforts to strengthen the RA human resource base are moderately well developed. R&D priorities fairly well adjust when new needs/evidence emerges, however poor institutional coordination holds back information flows. Certification schemes for regenerative agriculture (RA) consumer products are poorly developed.

RA research culture is characterised by researchers adhering well to ethical standards. Researchers benefit from moderately well-developed incentives to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations; publish world class research; and research leadership.

KEY

= 0% - 20% | = 21% - 40% | = 41% - 60% | = 61% - 80% | = 81% - 100%

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Indicator	Score	Rank
RA a priority in national agricultural policies /strategies	43.42%	3
Intra-Government coordination to jointly advance the RA R&D agenda	44.52%	2
Deliver on a public investment agenda for RA R&D	39.69%	1
Use of financial instruments to incentivise procurement of RA inputs	35.09%	2
Supportive national procurement and import policies for RA R&D	36.62%	2
(Diverse) Stakeholders able to participate in RA policymaking processes	49.12%	2
Accountable and transparent budget allocation, release and spending processes to support RA R&D	33.77%	2
Progress towards development of a national RA R&D strategy or policy	42.11%	2
Public policy support for RA product certification to stimulate market maturation	41.23%	1
Regulatory barriers affect innovation in R&D	48.03%	2
Advocacy efforts from civil society and farmers associations influence RA policies	46.93%	2
IP regulations recognise farmers' traditional knowledge as a subject that may need legal protection	33.11%	1

INFRASTRUCTURE

Indicator	Score	Rank
Physical infrastructure for RA R&D	28.29%	2
Innovation hubs or incubation centres support RA processing and product development	36.40%	2
Research institutions and universities able to independently maintain physical infrastructure for RA R&D	47.37%	1
Research institutions and universities able to employ well-trained staff to maintain physical infrastructure for RA R&D	51.10%	1
ICT infrastructure for RA R&D	32.24%	3
Demonstration farms and training centres accessible for farmers and researchers in RA	42.54%	2
Coverage of extension agents or officers to transmit RA knowledge to farmers	39.47%	1
Geographic spread of physical infrastructure to support R&D in RA	31.80%	1

PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT

Indicator	Score	Rank
(Diverse) local stakeholder voices inform RA R&D agendas	42.11%	2
Community and civil society actors recognised as legitimate stakeholders in RA R&D planning and implementation	44.96%	2
National platforms enable knowledge-sharing, discussing and debating issues in RA R&D among diverse stakeholders	45.39%	3
Established certification schemes for RA consumer products	35.53%	1
Established processes for coordinating across institutions involved in RA R&D to enable synergy, facilitate information flow and avoid duplication	39.69%	2
Regional/national capacity-building strategies or initiatives to strengthen the human resource base for RA R&D	40.79%	2
University curricula to train the next generation of RA R&D researchers, scientists and practitioners	51.54%	2
RA R&D priorities updated in a coordinated manner in response to emerging evidence or needs	42.11%	1
(Diverse) local stakeholders involved in joint sensemaking of RA research results?	41.01%	2

STAKEHOLDERS AND NETWORKS

Indicator	Score	Rank
Barriers to interaction and communication among stakeholders within the RA R&D ecosystem	44.96%	2
National political leadership motivates strategic action by RA R&D networks	37.28%	2
National RA R&D actors able to engage in global networks, alliances, or knowledge platforms	45.39%	2
Formal mechanisms or frameworks enabling collaboration between public institutions and private-sector actors in RA R&D	44.08%	2
Importance of the private sector in promoting RA R&D	71.71%	3
RA research findings disseminated by researchers to relevant stakeholders	50.22%	1
Networks or platforms on RA R&D able to sustain themselves, without external support	39.25%	1

RESEARCH CULTURE

Indicator	Score	Rank
RA researchers incentivised to deliver world class research	43.20%	1
Leadership in research institutions/university champions RA R&D	52.41%	2
RA researchers adhere to ethical principles in fieldwork	61.62%	2
RA R&D systems promote interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers	54.39%	2

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