

# **NETSSAF strategy and results in academic capacity building**

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# The challenge – knowledge and skills for sustainable sanitation

- Professional roles: Workers, managers, experts, researchers, trainers
- Subjects: Technology, economics, business, social, agriculture, hygiene
- Tools: planning, financing, construction, operation & maintenance



# It is not just about filling gaps

- Paradigm shift – sustainable sanitation is not simply
  - Wastewater treatment
  - Building toilets
  - Hygiene education
- Sustainable sanitation is about
  - Building a socio-technical system that is sustained after the project is finished
- This requires a change of mindset
  - Among professionals
  - Among decisionmakers
  - Among people in general

# NETSSAF – activities and results

- Bringing people together, learning from each other – learning by working in NETSSAF
- Workshops for university lecturers
- Development of strategies for academic capacity building

# NETSSAF results: university workshops



# NETSSAF results: university workshops

- Ghana: KNUST
- Burkina Faso: CEPAPE
- Côte d'Ivoire: University of Abobo-Adjamé
- With invited experts
- Aimed at university lecturers
- First step – introducing concepts of sustainable sanitation, opening up for paradigm shift.

# NETSSAF results: Bringing Sustainable sanitation into the University curriculum

- Lecturers can act locally:
  - Introducing sustainable sanitation to syllabus, within given curriculum
  - Students projects!
- Change at university level:
  - In French-speaking countries: Opportunity to introduce Sustainable sanitation programmes when universities are transformed to Bachelor-Master-Doctorate system

# Research and development

- Focus on development:
  - Bring in research results from elsewhere
  - Adapt to local conditions
  - Create learning organisations
  - Put NETSSAF tools into practice





# NETSSAF strategy:

## Training of trainers

- Local champions needed – enthusiastic experts – knowledge sharing and growing
  - Bring in international knowledge, adopt and spread it locally
  - Send to international training courses
  - Engage in international networks
- Strengthen existing water and sanitation training institutions
- Make sanitation careers attractive!



# NETSSAF strategy: Knowledge transfer

- Teaching materials
  - Translations needed from English to French
- Improve Internet access
  - Abundant information freely available



**NETSSAF strategy:**

# **Need for demonstration sites!**

- Seeing is believing
  - show how systems can work
- Place for hands-on training
- Place for discussion and development



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