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Public attitudinal change towards environment urged

By Lawrence Vomafa-Akpalu

and health among the people.

PARTICIPANTS at a day's workshop on climate change adaptation research and capacity development, have called for attitudinal change towards the environment.

That, they said, was the only way to mitigate the impact of climate change on food security

The call followed a presentation of a three-year research findings on affects of climate change by research scientists of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) of the University of Ghana, Legon.

The findings bordered on climate change and malaria prevalence at the coastal zones of

the country, climate change and artisanal fishing in coastal communities, climate variability, floods and diarrhoea, building environment and the risk of obesity among the urban poor in Accra.

The rest are on climate change interventions at James Town, Agbogbloshie and Ussher Town testimonies from the three towns, and effects of environmental projects being undertaken in those communities.

The findings further revealed a

new breed of mosquito in stagnant drains, which were not previously found.

According to the participants, drawn from the assemblies, the Ghana Health Service, educational institutions and religious bodies, the numerous communicable diseases contracted due to poor human attitudes would continue until there was a change of behaviour.

They urged government to, as a matter of urgency, cover all open drains to avert them being

breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

The group called for strict enforcement of sanitation laws to prevent people from dumping refuse in drains.

Prof. Samuel Nii Ardey Cudjoe, Director of the RIPS, in an opening remark said, the Climate Change Adaptation Research and Training Capacity for Development (CCARTCD) project had made it possible for faculty and students at the institute to work extra hard on the research themes, which resulted in numerous publications.

He mentioned some of the publications as perceptions and experience and indigenous knowledge of climate changes food systems and food security, malaria, diarrhoea, schistosomiasis and cerebrospinal meningitis.

Prof. Cudjoe said the Institute had trained two PHD holders and four undergoing training, while 12 M Phils had already graduated adding that, "The recent breakthrough in the new anopheles larvae would greatly help understand the need to have major drains in the cities and regions covered".

The Provost, College of Humanities of the University, Prof. Samuel Agyei-Mensah, commended the institute for raising the awareness on climate change, and for more in-depth research into causes of most health problems facing the country.

He urged them to intensify the raising of the awareness through their investigations to ensure that, the ordinary people on the street understood the happenings in their surroundings.



A group photograph of the participants after the session.

Photo: Victor Buxton