



Pro-RUWA NEWS

The West African-German network „Promoting Academic Capacities for Sustainable Agricultural Resources Use in West Africa" - Pro-RUWA (Ruwa means „water" in Hausa language) aims to train a new generation of regionally and internationally educated young scientists, entrepreneurs, and administrators. Future decision makers in francophone West Africa will be capacitated to jointly overcome bottlenecks in resource overuse and food insecurity at the national and regional level by fostering university education, international relations, regional development, and operational links between the academic, public and private sector. Pro-RUWA builds on existing structures of three young universities in West Africa that have recently decided to overcome the language barriers and internationalize their graduate education.



Two New Projects in 2025 and 2026

Pro-RUWA

Before you continue reading: **P r o - R U W A** is pleased to announce that the optional second funding phase 2026-2030 has been confirmed by the DAAD, starting on January 1, 2026! With "Pro-RUWA 2.0," we will continue the spirit, momentum, and your ongoing input to achieve the excellence we have been committed to since 2021.

PREPARE

P R E P A R E enters a new implementation phase in collaboration with the University of Kassel and partner institutions in Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Germany. With PREPARE we will expand our efforts to prepare young professionals for entrepreneurial and agricultural careers in francophone West Africa, leveraging student–researcher linkages, public-private partnerships and high-quality higher education.

Stay tuned for more details on activities, application rounds and partner engagement!

Pro-RUWA Activities and Course Updates

E-learning courses

There has been a high demand for Pro-RUWA e-learning courses such as R-Statistics, GIS, Transdisciplinarity, and Agent-Based Modeling (ABM).

We thank all participants for their active engagement and valuable feedback!

We have successfully completed three courses:

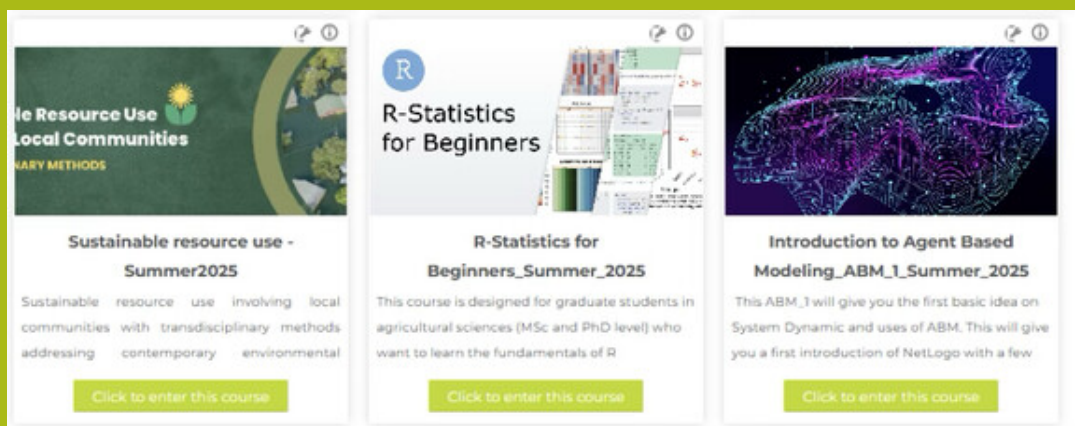
- Sustainable Resource Use Involving Local Communities through Transdisciplinarity
- Introduction to Agent-Based Modeling (ABM)
- GIS for Beginners

📅 Coming Soon (Nov–Dec 2025)

Two new courses will be offered:

- R-Statistics
- Agent-Based Modeling (ABM), Part 2

Stay tuned for updates on the DIGI-FACE blog.



Upcoming Training:

Academic Writing: Written and Graphic Presentation

- Organized by Pro-RUWA with the support of DigiFace
- Dates: Nov 08 – Dec 20, 2025
- Time: Every Saturday, 5 p.m.–7 p.m. (online)
- Open to: Master's and PhD students motivated to publish
- Fee: Free training and already running

On-site Activities

In October 2025, Pro-RUWA conducted a hands-on KoboCollect course at Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey (Niger).

We are also looking forward to the Writing Week hosted by Université Daniel Ouézzin Coulibaly (UDOC), Burkina Faso, in December 2025.

Pro-RUWA

📅 November 8, 2025 — Practical Microsoft Word and Excel Training for second-year Agricultural Students at the University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin).

As a spin-off of Pro-RUWA, we also streamline now our PREPARE Project

📅 November 8, 22 & 28, 2025 — Activities include a permaculture and micro-farming workshop, plus two communication sessions during the “Salon de l'Emploi” hosted by DIPRD/FSA, covering:

- Legal status of agricultural enterprises
- Clusters and professional integration opportunities



Pro-RUWA Writing Week 2025

■ 1–6 December 2025, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Facilitated by Dr. Thanh Nguyen

To strengthen scientific publication in an international environment and foster collaboration between supervisors and students, Pro-RUWA will host a Writing Week in Ouagadougou.

The event will focus on finalizing manuscripts, refining data analysis, and accelerating publication in reputable international journals.

Participants include supervisors and Master's/PhD students from Pro-RUWA partner universities and the African Centres of Excellence.

Pro-RUWA 2.0 PhD intake from 2026 onwards

The call for PhD applications has attracted a large number of promising candidates. Applications are now being screened and will be sent to external reviewers, while interviews with shortlisted candidates are upcoming.

We are also delighted to welcome our new partner, Institut Polytechnique Rural de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée (IPR / IFRA), from Mali in the next phase — Pro-RUWA 2.0.

Building a Sustainable Model

During the recent Learning Dialogue with the DIGI-FACE team and Clemens, we discussed strategies for financial sustainability to be developed during the 2nd phase and implemented from 2030 onwards.

Interested participants can strengthen their skills on project and financial sustainability through the following self-paced online courses (available in English and French):

Financial Sustainability I – EN

Financial Sustainability II – EN

Sustainability Financière I – FR

Sustainability Financière II – FR



Tropentag 2025 in Bonn

Our small Pro-RUWA community gathered at Tropentag 2025 in Bonn, where several of our scholars — together with DecLaRe scholars — presented inspiring poster and oral contributions. It was an excellent opportunity to share results and network with other international research initiatives.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) for more updates and information!

PREPARE Project Kickoffs at all three partners (UAC, UAM, UDOC)

The project, implemented with all three partners in Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Germany, aims to strengthen students' professional and entrepreneurial skills and promote innovative, career-oriented higher education.





On October 20, 2025, the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (FSA-UAC) hosted the PREPARE Project kickoff, ...

...bringing together students, academics, researchers, NGOs, and entrepreneurs.



Also at UDOC (Nov 10) and UAM (Nov 11) kickoff workshops were officially launched including guest speakers from the entrepreneurial background

CONFÉRENCE PANEL

Thème 1:
Chaîne de valeur agricoles porteuses au Niger

Thème 2:
Dynamique d'agriprenariat et renouveau agricole au Niger : Rôles des SAE et des UPN

Thème 3:
Le soutien à l'initiative entrepreneuriale à l'UAM : Rôle des acteurs internes

11 NOVEMBRE 2025 À PARTIR DE 9H 00MN

Centre Incubateur de l'université Abdou Moumouni sur la voie menant à l'hôpital Lamordé

Recent Publications of Pro-RUWA scholars

- Guiatin, E. Comparative analysis of common and specific driving factors of forest ecosystem dynamics in West Africa. *Discov. For.* 1, 36 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44415-025-00034-z>
- Guiatin, E., Lompo, D.J.P. Farmer dependency on synthetic inputs threatens agroforestry sustainability in forest-adjacent lands of Burkina Faso (West Africa). *Discov Sustain* 6, 1177 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-025-01862-x>
- Medenou, C.M.E.H., Schlecht, E. & Dossa, L.H. Characterization of urban and peri-urban sheep farming in Southern Benin: implications for food security and sustainability. *Discov Sustain* 6, 1129 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-025-02030-x>

Stay Updated

For updates on upcoming courses, events, and collaborations, visit our website:
www.uni-kassel.de/pro-ruwa
 Or follow us on DIGI-FACE: www.digiface.org

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