

Nigeria Agriculture Policy Activity

September 2021

NAPA Highlights #11

R statistical language training workshop for IFPRI and FMARD personnel

An R programming language training for statistical analysis was conducted for personnel of the International Food and Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Ministry staff of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and rural development (FMARD). It took place from the 27th to 29th of September 2021 at the conference room of the Fadama III House Wuse II FCT, Abuja.

The participants were drawn from various departments (17 persons, 13 males, 4 females) were in attendance. The facilitators were Alumni of The Nigerian Feed Future Agricultural Policy project (NAPP), Dr. Blessing Iveren Agada of the Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State and Mr. Philip Hegarty of the Federal University Gashua, Yobe state.

The training started with opening remarks by the Country Manager Mr. Hyacinth Edeh, IFPRI who advised the participants to give there all in learning the software as it will aid data analysis and policy work. He further enjoined the participants to maximize the time as it was short and to ask questions stating a full stepdown would take place at a later date.

Beginning the sessions, Dr. Agada, assisted by Mr. Philip, ensured that the R software was installed on participants' laptops with the folders containing the modules structured into days and labs and having several topics spanning importing/exporting data, statistics refresher, data management and wrangling, data visualization, regression (linear/nonlinear) and correlation analysis, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and mean separation. Following participants requests, they were also taught how to generate random numbers from a random or uniform distribution in R, how to perform analysis on categorical data (from survey tools) and trend analysis. All sessions were hands-on with syntax and scripts introduced to participants for easier grasp of the software. External links to sites like stack overflow (<https://stackoverflow.com/>), and RPUBS (<https://rpubs.com/>) were also introduced to participants so they could be part in the larger R community.



DR. AGADA FACILITATING AN R SESSION



DR. AGADA ATTENDING TO A GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS TO EXPLAIN R SYNTAX SEQUENCING

Participants were given a quiz at the end of the training to be sure they had a grasp of the sequencing to any data analysis and how to start creating their own script for individual/peculiar statical analysis. Certificates

would be presented to the participants at a later date by the organizers - IFPRI.

The training ended with appreciation from the participants for the facilitators and the organizers saying the need to worry about cracked versions of other software packages for analysis was over and pledged to put the knowledge to good use.

A WhatsApp group was also created to ensure that the facilitators could continuously support participants.



PARTICIPANTS AND FACILITATORS.

By Dr. Agada Iveren Blessing and Mr. Philip Hegarty

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