

Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project Highlights

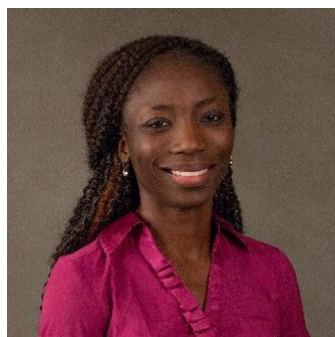
February 2017

Scholar Program 1

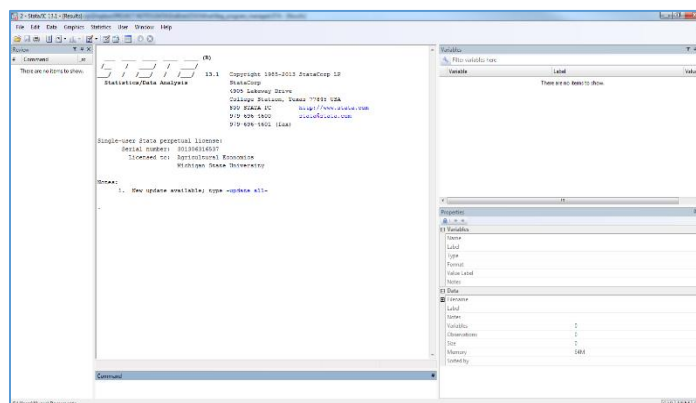
TRAINING ONE TO TRAIN OTHERS: LEVERAGING ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO ADDRESS THE DISTANCE PROBLEM AND ACHIEVE MULTIPLE PROJECT GOALS

Training one to train others is the operational strategy of the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project. In 2016, the climate change research team noticed its graduate students did not possess adequate technical skills for empirical analysis. These skills were absolutely necessary to conduct the climate change analysis involved in the project. The team used information and communication technology to organize a series of virtual training sessions for its members in Nigeria.

The training was organized and facilitated by Dr. Saweda Liverpool-Tasie and her PhD student at Michigan State University, Awa Sanou. The primary objective of this capacity-building activity was to teach students to use the statistical software STATA for panel data analysis. STATA is one of the main software packages used for agricultural household survey data analysis. The training sessions were geared towards empowering participants to use the World Bank LSMS ISA data publicly available for Nigeria.



Trainer Awa Sanou



Stata interface

coached on while at MSU) under the Feed the Future Nigeria Agricultural Policy Project.

At the end of the training, participants were familiar with basic STATA commands to extract relevant data files, construct data files at the plot and household levels with a panel structure (i.e. information on the same household over multiple time periods). They also learned where to find additional STATA help through online resources.

Participants were better able to generate basic descriptive statistics using tables and graphs and to conduct empirical analysis using panel data techniques. Given that this training falls under the overarching project on climate change, it focused on understanding the relationships between key climate variables such as rainfall covariance and outcomes on agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

by Awa Sanou and Saweda Liverpool-Tasie



Communication Possible Through Skype

The training was a set of virtual sessions coordinated from East Lansing, Michigan using Skype. It took place between June and July 2016 and was primarily for two students from the University of Ibadan working on the climate change team. One of the training participants was a visiting scholar at MSU during Fall 2016, where she built on those training skills. She successfully conducted her Master's thesis analysis using STATA, which she was trained to use (and continually

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