



Remarks by Prof. Mabel Imbuga, PhD, EBS,

Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

during

the closing ceremony

Training on Data Collection, Analysis and Presentation

Friday, September 23, 2011

JKUAT

Course Participants,

Trainers,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

It is a pleasure for me to join you this evening to preside over the closing ceremony of the basic statistics training. As a University, we are glad to have hosted you for the last two weeks during which you received the vital training in data collection, analysis and presentation. It is my sincere hope that you found your stay here beneficial to the extent that you are now our partners as individuals, your institutions and your communities in setting trends in training, research and innovation.

I am informed that the Basic statistics training which was launched two weeks ago has been a great success. Over these remarkable days, we have together demonstrated the importance and use of statistics in our day to day roles. The general perception that mathematics is anathema has also been demystified by our trainers through many practical real life examples that they offered during your training. We hope that the practical examples and class exercises during the training has improved your understanding of statistics by relating it to the work environment.

Data collection has been defined from the methods of collecting, editing, sampling and the tools used to collect the data. As you are now aware, once data has been collected, it has to be summarized, analyzed and interpreted to help in providing information crucial in decision making. The methods used in data analysis are dependent on how the data is collected. So if tools for data collection are chosen badly then the final interpretation will be erroneous. Summarization of the data can be either graphical or numerical. I gather that you were as well introduced to the concept of probabilities and their probability distributions which is instrumental in data analysis. Finally, you are now well versed with statistical reporting which will enable you to present data in a manner that is easily and well understood.

You were also given an opportunity to interact with a computer on a one trainee per computer basis. Knowledge and practice in the use of computers is an important precursor to effective handling of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for data analysis. This is crucial because when it comes to handling enormous data sets, computing accuracy is vital in bringing out the desired reliable results that will be used in decision making. Computer usage in data processing takes advantage of the many benefits of computing such as security, distribution using electronic mail, compact storage and retrieval, ease of making amendments and saving on resources such as paper which could be used if data collection and analysis was to be done manually.

In view of this, I would like to urge each and every one of you to go and apply the knowledge gained in this training in your working departments and also share the knowledge with your colleagues who did not have the privilege of attending this training. I am aware that the trainers may have not covered the entire course in two weeks. It is my hope that what you have learned will trigger your individual and institution's passion to learn more so that you will be able to implement and customize the scenarios in your places of work. If you encounter any difficulty in the implementation, please do not hesitate to contact our trainers who will be more than willing to assist and learn from you as well.

You graduate from the training as a team of 66 trainees. This might statistically be perceived as an insignificant number compared to the total population of Kenya. However, your role in the collection, analysis and presentation of data and its impact in decision making means a lot to the people of Kenya and the whole world, especially as we strive to accomplish our national dream under the Vision 2030.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. I would like to thank the trainers for their hard work and excellent advice. In particular, I would like to thank the Head of Research, Consultancy and Training in the ICT Directorate; the Chairman, Statistics and Actuarial Science (STACS) Department and the Director,

Directorate of Information and Communication Technology and their teams for their personal commitment to this training.

It is now my pleasant duty to declare the training on data collection, analysis, and presentation officially closed.

Thank you.