

Enhancing Research Skills: 2024 Policy Formulation and Translation using DHS Data Survey, A Three-Day Training on STATA and DHS Data Analysis for CMAAE Students

Post-Graduate students enrolled in the Collaborative Masters of Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) program participated in a three-day intensive training program titled "2024 Policy Formulation and Translation using DHS Data Survey." Led by esteemed visiting Professor Kennedy Machira from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Malawi, the program aimed to equip students with advanced skills in utilizing STATA and Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data for research and policy analysis.

The training offered a well-rounded learning experience. Day one focused on building a strong foundation. Students learned about DHS data, how to access it from the website, and advanced data cleaning techniques. They also practiced identifying research problems and formulating research questions relevant to the Kenyan context using the DHS Data Dashboard. Day two transitioned to practical applications. Professor Machira guided participants through formulating research objectives aligned with past studies and strategically adapting them to Kenya. Students then practiced conducting various regression analyses using STATA software.

The final day culminated in the practical application of the acquired skills. Participants presented their data analysis outputs, showcasing their ability to translate raw data into meaningful insights. Professor Machira further emphasized the importance of clear communication by guiding students in packaging their findings into impactful policy briefs. This intensive workshop is expected to significantly impact students throughout their academic journey, enabling them to conduct high-quality research, generate impactful publications, and contribute to evidence-based policy formulation in Kenya in their field of study.

The Department of Agricultural Economics extends its gratitude to Professor Machira for his invaluable expertise and leadership throughout the training program. We also acknowledge the enthusiastic participation of the CMAAE students and congratulate them on successfully completing the workshop and receiving the certificates.