

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVES IN GHANA



The University of Ghana, McGill University, and World Vision are working with the local District Assembly, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Ghana Health Service, and the Ghana Education Service in the Upper Manya Krobo District (UMKD) of Ghana to strengthen local resources and services that will help improve health, nutrition, economic well-being, and food security in rural communities.

JULY 2015

NUTRITION LINKS

Institutional Capacity Building

- Nutrition intersects many disciplines including health, education, and agriculture.
- Understanding and attending to these links helps to achieve the goals of the different sectors (for example, improving child nutrition enhances school performance).
- Nutrition is inseparable from the goals of most agricultural programs and policies (food security and poverty reduction), and actions to improve nutrition help to remove constraints to productivity and income-generation.⁽¹⁾
- Nutrition-sensitive⁽²⁾ programs contribute to achieving nutrition goals (for example, promotion of orange-flesh sweet potatoes by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) enhances vitamin A status).
- Human resource capacity is needed to keep nutrition as an important component within all sectors.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization's Regional Office for Africa indicated that there was limited nutrition personnel and coverage of nutrition topics in the curricula of agriculture training programs.⁽³⁾
- To strengthen local capacity for integrated programming and expanded institutional collaboration, training in analysis of data by nutrition-sensitive sectors is needed.

References:

⁽¹⁾The Synthesis of Guiding Principles on Agriculture Programming for Nutrition (<http://fao.org/docrep/017/aq194e/aq194e.pdf>).

⁽²⁾Ruel RT et al. Nutrition-sensitive interventions and programmes. *Lancet* 2013;382:536-51.

⁽³⁾EK Colecraft, A Lartey (March 2012). Assessing Nutrition Capacity in the Agriculture Sector:Ghana Case Study. Report on findings. Submitted to FAO-RAF.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

In 2014, district staff were interviewed about their ability to analyze district data on nutrition/health, agriculture, business, and education. The majority of the interviewed staff (14 out of 19) said they had not received any formal training in district data analysis. Only 4 out of 19 were confident in their ability to analyze data. The results suggested that their analysis skills were limited.

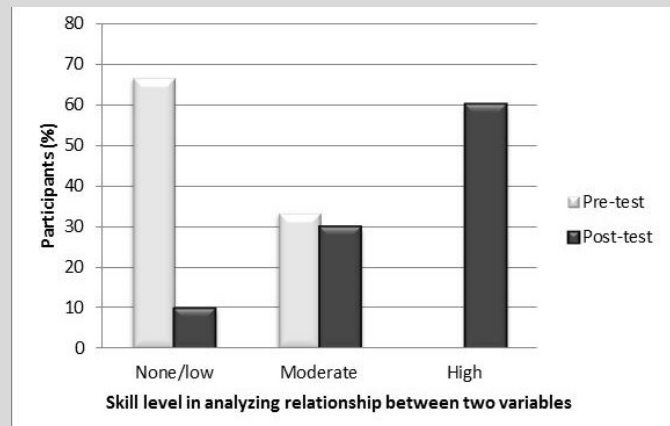
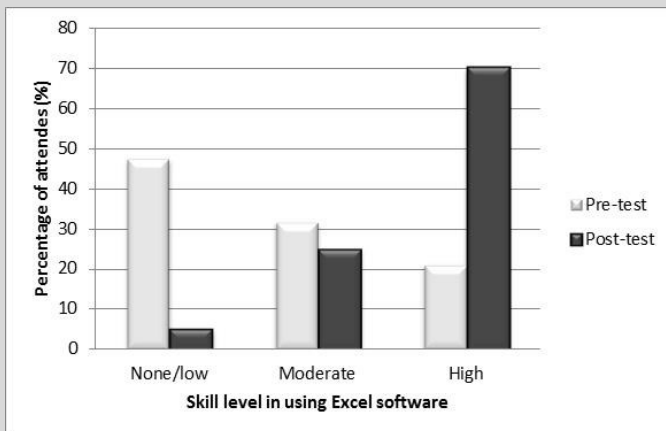
"There should be this kind of capacity building in the various sectors. You see, if they train the officers they will be able to provide very good reports which will also help at my level".
(Quote by UMKD staff)

Employees from local institutions, staff, and faculty from the University of Ghana and McGill University attending the Data Analysis Workshop in Asesewa in April 2015.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Level of skills in data analysis among 19 staff from diverse UMKD institutions ($p < 0.01$, pre-post comparison)



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The *Nutrition Links* project organized a data analysis workshop at the University of Ghana's Nutrition Research and Training Centre in Asesewa from April 27- 30, 2015. Employees from the local District Assembly, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Ghana Health Service, the Ghana Education Service, the Upper Manya Krobo Rural Bank, and National Commission for Civic Education attended the 4-day training session. Sessions included research ethics, characteristics and use of a survey, introduction to the infant cohort survey baseline data, how to enter data, how to calculate descriptive statistics using Excel, and how to select a research question, select variables for analyses, and report numbers and results using tables and graphs. As a final exercise, participants formed working groups, developed a nutrition-related question, conducted the analyses, and presented the results. Individual News Briefs are being prepared to share these results with all stakeholders.



Data Analysis Workshop in Asesewa, April 2015



Photos were provided by Project staff and students.



The Project is funded by the Government of Canada, through Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada.



Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

Affaires étrangères, Commerce et Développement Canada



Additional funding is provided by:
McGill University, World Vision Canada, Population Council

Website:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/cine/research/building-capacity-sustainable-livelihoods-and-health-ghana>

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Esi Colecraft, Local Project Leader
Department of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Ghana
P.O. Box LG 134, Legon, Ghana