

BHEARD Program Country Summary

Reporting Period: May/2021 - September/2022

Project Title:

Higher Education Capacity Building for Research and Good Governance

Project Overview

The African higher education institutions capacity building at institutional level is still a challenge. Building capacity of an institution involves striving to enhance skills to staff and improving equipment that help to realign their activities to the set goals, and systems that would eventually lead to sustained economic growth and development. Higher education institutions have the goal of training and undertaking development oriented research, a role that requires continued upgrading with contemporary issues in the global arena, thus the rationale for the need for continued capacity building.

To address the above challenges, The Faculty of Agriculture at Egerton University embarked on a retooling program for its Faculty members. This retooling program proposed to enhance the capacity of faculty to help improve service delivery to and by extension effectively work with stakeholders, including industry. To actualize the above, the Faculty requested BHEARD for support towards capacity building of staff. The overall goal was enhancing University Capacity through skills enhancement for growth and development in education sector. The identified areas for retooling were;

1. Build capacity of faculty in research analytics, including skills to respond to fundable research calls and research/innovation with/for Industry
2. Enhance ability of faculty in Monitoring and Evaluation of projects
3. Upgrade University Managers skills in Leadership and Governance

Project Activities

The activities took place between July 2021 and September 2022.

Retooling in Leadership and Governance – The target group was the University Management Board as well as Faculty Deans and Directors.

1. Retooling on Project Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation (MLE): The participants were drawn predominantly from the Faculty of Agriculture.
2. Retooling in Research Analytics, and Fundable proposal writing: Participants were drawn predominantly from the Faculty of Agriculture.
3. Retooling in Postgraduate Students Supervision: Participants were predominantly from the Faculty of Agriculture with a few from associated faculties.
4. Retooling in Pedagogy: Participants were predominantly from the Faculty of Agriculture with a few from associated faculties.

Project Accomplishments/Progress

The retooling in Leadership and Governance was highly appreciated by members of the UMB. It particularly served as a good induction for newly appointed members including the Deans and Directors.

A majority of the Faculty of Agriculture staff benefitted from the trainings. All lecturers holding doctorate degrees participated in the Pedagogy, Postgraduate Supervision and Research Analytics retooling.

Project Challenges/Setbacks

No major challenges were encountered in running the retooling sessions. The funds provided by BHEARD could not support all staff in the faculty. However, additional funds were provided by the University through the CESAAM project.

Impact

Higher education institutions have the goal of training and undertaking development oriented teaching and research. This requires continued upgrading with contemporary issues in the global arena. Egerton University strategic plan 2018 -2023 sets out a number of strategic goals.

In the **Strategic Goal One (SG1)** one of the specific objectives is to improve the quality of teaching staff. **Strategic Goal Two (SG2)** aims at engaging in research, consultancy and community outreach. One of its specific objectives is to undertake monitoring and evaluation of research and extension projects and programs. **Strategic Goal Five (SG5)** is to enhance governance and resource mobilization. Two specific objectives of interest here are “Developing Quality Human Capital” and “Improving Efficiency of Service Provision”. The above areas of interest were addressed in the work packages in this capacity building project.

Notable outcomes resulting from this capacity building exercise include the following;

- Identification of a number of Egerton staff who can serve as in-house facilitators for a number of topics/subject areas.
- Need for regular induction and retooling in pedagogy.
- Development of a graduate students supervision manual for use by Faculty of Agriculture (awaiting validation by the Faculty staff).

SUMMARY OF STAFF TRAINED

S/No	TRAINING	GROUP	No TRAINED
1	Leadership & Governance	University Management Board, Deans & Directors	11
2	Econometrics	Faculty of Agriculture Staff	22
3	Biometrics	Faculty of Agriculture Staff	34
4	Monitoring & Evaluation	Faculty of Agriculture Staff	34
5	Pedagogy & Graduate Supervision	Faculty of Agriculture Staff	60
6	Graduate Supervision Manual Development	Faculty of Agriculture Staff	08
TOTAL			169