

Extending economic modeling capability into professional practice

ESSP has helped increase the skill levels in economic modeling of many researchers at universities across Ethiopia and in government offices. As advisors and mentors, ESSP's Ermias Engida and Seneshaw Tamru structured training interventions to enable students and economic experts to embed knowledge and to use newly acquired skills on real-life research applications.

More than 120 students have participated in four rounds of training events organized by ESSP over the last four years, specifically on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modeling, with more than 50 students benefitting from individual mentoring in modeling applications for projects or their theses.

IFPRI has supported learning institutions through:

i) Sharing knowledge and expertise in technical modelling techniques ii) Mentoring and advising on projects using economic modeling analyses iii) Raising skill levels in Ethiopia on economic modelling iv) Through the provision of small research grants, helping to finance the work conducted on their theses.



Photo: Delivering CGE training at Addis Ababa University
Source: ESSP photos

Training students in CGE modelling is not ESSP's ultimate goal. Rather, it seeks to use training as an intervention to enable and encourage students to use economic modeling in their research where they can independently apply these skills.

To maximize the impact of ESSP's knowledge transfer in this area, ESSP took the approach of working closely with Addis Ababa University (AAU), especially since many lecturers teaching in universities across Ethiopia had received their own education through AAU. Therefore, they are perfectly placed to disseminate economic modeling knowledge to a far reaching audience.

From students' feedback, the greatest benefits have come from understanding how to use modelling in research - gaining practical expertise in structuring models, understanding economic data, and manipulating the modeling language.

ESSP's support through training and mentoring, the ongoing use of training materials, the provision of small grants to economic researchers, as well as training on GAMs software and the provision of licences - all of this has contributed to raising the level of practical application and of understanding the enormous value these modeling techniques can have to gain greater insight into Ethiopia's economy.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2033 K Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA
T: +1.202.862.5600 • F: +1.202.467.4439
Skype: ifprihomeoffice • Email: ifpri@cgiar.org • www.ifpri.org

IFPRI-ESSP ADDIS ABABA

P.O. Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
T: +251.11.617.2000 • F: +251.11.646.2318
Email: mahlet.mekuria@cgiar.org • <http://essp.ifpri.info>