



Training Centre in Communication 2017 Annual Report

The following is an annual progress report on the activities of Training Centre in Communication from the first quarter (January-March), second quarter (April-June), and fourth quarter (October-December), 2017. Training centre in Communication (T.C.C) is the first African-based training centre with an aim to increase capacity for research output by training scientist on effective communication tools. T.C.C is in partnership with the University of Nairobi, through a direct link with the School of Biological Sciences (SBS). Additionally, T.C.C is in consortium with Kenyatta University (Kenya) through their Research Capacity Building and Development Programme (KU-RCD), Obafemi Awolowo University Ile Ife (Nigeria) through the Directorate of Linkages and Sponsored Research of the University (West Africa Office), and The Innovation Hub South Africa (South Africa Office).

T.C.C's Activities within the University of Nairobi.

- i. A training on Science Communication; Communicating to Non-Scientists, Policy makers, and the Media was conducted from 16th January, 2017 to 20th January, 2017. The training, was conducted at the college of Biological and Physical Sciences (CBPS)-University of Nairobi, Chiromo Campus. The target group was postgraduates as well as staff of the University of Nairobi, where we had a total of seven (7) attendees. The participants were taken through Policy Briefs, Newsletters, E-Brochures, using Web 2.0

tools, designing and preparing posters for national and international scientific conferences.



Ms Frenny Jowi, a participant from BBC Africa chapter explain how to turn a research document to a Policy brief during the training at the TCC boardroom.

- ii. A training on Scientific writing and publishing was undertaken from 20th to 25th February, 2017 at the University of Nairobi, College of Agricultural and Veterinary Science. The training was designed to target postgraduates from both the faculty of Agriculture as well as the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. A total of seventeen (17) postgraduates were involved. The main goal of the training, was to sensitize on the importance of publishing among the students. The topics that were tackled were, scientific writing and publishing, Data analysis and presentation, and Proposal writing and Grant management.



Students presenting the “problem Tree” during the proposal writing for Grants training, a unit in the Scientific communication and publishing course, February 20-25 .

- iii. On the 24th April through till the 27th of April the same year, a four (4) day training on Research Proposal Writing and E-Resource Writing course was undertaken at the University of Nairobi, College of Biological and Physical Sciences (Chiromo Campus). A total of twelve (12) post graduate students as well as staff attended. The participants were taken through various topics including; Reference Management, Assessing and Enhancing Researcher’s visibility online, Online survey tools, and Plagiarism check tools.



Dr. Cecilia Onyango explain the reason why research proposals are rejected.

- iv. TCC organized a cohort – type of training with the College of Biological and Physical sciences (CBPS) and College of Agricultural and Veterinary Services for post graduate students from 4th to 8th December, 2017. The topics the students were taken through were: scientific writing and publishing, Data Analysis and Presentation and Research proposal and Thesis defense techniques. Leadership and Mentorship are among the new units introduced with the aim of nurturing the young scientist into national and global leaders in their respective areas of specialization. The training was supervised by the Principal, Prof Benard Aduda, the Principal Prof Stephen Kiama, Prof Kimenju and Prof

R. Kinuthia the Dean faculty of Agriculture. A total of 67 post graduate students from both the Faculty of Agriculture, Faculty of Veterinary, School of Biological Sciences and School of Physical Sciences were trained, 23 PhD students as well as 44 masters students.



Prof Wasington Ochola, TCC trainer explaining a point on leadership style during the leadership and mentorship session, 4-8 December 2017, chiromo campus.

The output of such trainings is that the TCC trainers should make sure that at the end of each “Training clinic” each participant has to come out with a publishable manuscript.

Linkages

Talks are underway to create partnership with the Commission of University Education where TCC will be the training partner in advising on the procedures of quality publications.

We are in the process of creating partnership with the National Research Fund with the aim of reaching its beneficiary, the researchers and the targeted Universities hence increasing the output of the fund by building capacity on the Grant management and quality of the publication of the research funded.

CONSULTANCIES AND ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

- i. TCC was contracted with German Academic Exchange service,(DAAD), <https://www.daad.de/en/>. These sessions were conducted within two months starting from September to October 2017. The mandate for TCC for this project was to take build capacity in research output dissemination for the DAAD fellows in Kenya and Uganda. This was done through training in the following thematic areas addressing their most needs in writing their thesis as well as publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

- Scientific writing and publishing
- E-Resources training
- Data management and translation
- Oral communication and presenting in conferences
- Research proposal writing and thesis defending techniques
- Consultancy



Mr.Kamanu , TCC trainer during a session on Technical writing , 16-23 September 2017 at Ngong Kampala, Uganda.

- ii. TCC in partnership with Strathmore University facilitated a Grant writing and Resource mobilization on 11th November 2017.



- iii. Training Centre in Communication just concluded a Leadership and Mentorship training for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, AGRA Fellows. This training was focusing on Leadership, Gender in Agricultural research and Science paper writing.



- iv. TCC was contracted to facilitate the [#BrandCommunication](#) training for the Milk Production Unit for [New Kenya Cooperative Creameries](#) Extension Service Officers. By the time the training was over, a 60 page training manual was produced which they will use to train over 200 Dairy Farmer Assistants, on how to communicate with their stakeholders.



New Kenya Cooperative Creameries staff in a group discussion on technical communication

Marketing Strategies

TCC's growth strategy involves marketing and visibility in exhibitions with existing partners. However in this quarter TCC did not participate in any exhibition but strategically employ the TCC Research capacity Advisor to create more partners with projects within the universities.

Consultancy

- i. Training Centre in Communication facilitated a training on Proposals for Funding Writeshop with the Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) Country Node Programme Mangers. The Food, Agriculture, and Natural

Resource policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) brought together fourteen (14) national node Programme Managers to come up with a proposal that would be submitted to the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). This was done at the FANRPAN Common Vision Workshop, held in Nairobi from 26th March to 27th March 2017. The training's focus area was on Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Climate Smart Agriculture.



Administration

- TCC contracted a messenger to handle all the courier services during the first quarter which runs from January to March.
- During the same first quarter, TCC introduced a new department focusing on Research Capacity Advisory activities. The new department involves five Research Capacity Advisors, to handle the following components within TCC:
 - Training of trainers and pedagogical skills training
 - Resource mobilization and grants management
 - Communicating to non-scientists

- Technical Communication

The objective of the Research Capacity Advisors, is to work closely with the Programme Manager's Office, in achieving TCC's objectives as well as networking with our collaborators.

- During the third quarter, TCC management team together with the new department focusing on Research Capacity Advisory activities, laid out plans to venture in Building capacity on research output dissemination among the post graduates in the University of Nairobi. The plan was to collaborate with the Principal of each college for mobilization.

The courses they will be taken through are:

- First year's masters: Research proposal writing , Research Methodology and Data collection and analysis techniques
- Second years and PhDs: Scientific writing and Publishing, designing posters and conference participation plus presenting in international conferences.

Work-Study Programme

- During the first quarter TCC management in collaboration with the Principal office, College of Biological and Physical Sciences, Prof Aduda and Prof P. N. Ndegwa, chairman School of Biological sciences agreed to be admitting a undergraduate students as interns for a 3 Month period.



Mr. Michael Seluk a second year at the School of Biological Sciences, taking a bachelor degree of Micro-Biology.

- The work study programme was yet to be advertised at the University of Nairobi website for competitive application of postgraduate students after the last beneficiary graduated with his master's degree.

Challenges Encountered Through the Year

During second quarter which runs from April to June the following we encountered the following challenges which curtailed our operations

- The Universities Lecturers Strike affected the Normal TCC monthly trainings, most of the students travelled up country hence could not participate.
- During this quarter, the political parties were conducting their primaries and the whole country experienced chaos leading to fear and anxiety. Businesses affected and minimal cash flow.