

MORE THAN 20 TRAINERS AND TEACHERS TRAINED IN NEW TECHNIQUES AND TEACHING METHODS

JUNE 23, 2017-- Feed the Future Haiti Appui à la Recherche et au Développement Agricole (AREA) project's second session of the Faculty Development Academy was held on June 22 and 23, 2017 at Université Quisqueya (UniQ) in Haiti. Thanks to a group of trainers selected by the AREA project, this training session on agricultural higher education was organized for faculty of the seven partner universities.



21 participants and AREA project facilitators at the second session for the Faculty Development Academy program. Photo/AREA

Coordinated by Absalon Pierre, Training Coordinator of the AREA project, and hosted by other faculty/trainers including Martine Elisabeth Mathieu, Emerson Louis, Arsène Similien and Elda Deronnette, this second session was held following the first training, which took place on February 15- 16.

The first training was for training trainers and was followed by syllabus development training at Faculté d'Agronomie et de Médecine Vétérinaire (FAMV) for faculty of partner institutions February 21-22.

Training content

The main objective of this module is to provide participants with new teaching methods and techniques that will enable them to be more effective in their classroom.

There were more than twenty to attend this two-day training. Topics covered during the first day included: effective teaching, teaching methods and evaluation of the effectiveness of education. The second day was devoted to Active Learning and Cooperative Learning, followed by Case Studies and Scenarios.

In addition to theoretical part of the training, participants also had the opportunity to work individually and as a team on different topics covered during this training.

To do this, facilitators offered practical exercises for each topic in order to arrive at a good assimilation of the concepts presented throughout these two days.

Facilitators also used a participatory method extensively, enabling faculty/trainers to interact with one another to get their point of view as agricultural higher education professionals, carry out analysis at each stage and also exchange and debate on the different topics on the agenda.

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Participants' testimony

"I am very satisfied and happy for attending this productive and interesting training given the new concepts, techniques and teaching methods we have learned." said Marie Alexandra Alexandre, professor in the laboratory of chemistry and biology and one of the representatives of UNDH.

"These will allow us to improve our teaching methodology," said Professor Alexandre. "This training was an opportunity for us to update ourselves on certain notion, but also it provided us with new useful teaching tools to provide our students with a good quality education. It will not be easy to apply everything, given the difficult conditions in which we work, but we will do our best to put them into practice. I attended the first training, it was very successful, I hope there will be follow-up after these important trainings."

- 21 participants from 7 partner universities attended the second Faculty Development Academy session
- Syllabus development, new teaching methods and techniques were taught to participants who expressed satisfactions.
- "It was a successful and very important training", says Marie Alexandra Alexandre, professor and representatives of UNDH.

Termés Damoclès, Professor of Monogastric Breeding and representative of UniQ, said he had the opportunity to learn a lot during this two-day training.

"Different topics covered will be very useful to me; they will help me to better prepare my syllabus as a faculty and improve my teaching practices at the same time," Professor Damoclès, said. "This series of training will be helpful because it will build my capacity. The new methods, particularly with practical exercises and case studies, were good means of assimilating these concepts. I am very proud and wish to attend the 3rd module to be held soon."

Former Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis, a founding member of UniQ, encouraged participants to adapt their training to the new challenges that exist due climate change. He explained that there are challenges that agricultural professionals are facing today, and faculty must prepare students in accordance to new agricultural technologies developed.

The training is part of the program consisting of three modules: (i) syllabus development, (ii) teaching techniques and methods, and (iii) research and teaching improvement.

The different participants represented the seven partner institutions involved in the AREA project: FAMV, Schools of agriculture of UniQ, Université Américaine de la Caraïbe des Cayes(AULC), Université Episcopale d'Haïti (UNEPH), Université Caraïbe (UC), Université Notre Dame d'Haïti (UNDH) and Université Roi Henri Christophe de Limonade.

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