



## AFRICAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

### CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARTICIPATION IN IMPACT EVALUATION RETOOLING WORKSHOP FOR RESEARCHERS AND TEACHING FACULTY FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

#### African Economic Research Consortium

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), established in 1988, is a public not-for-profit organization devoted to the advancement of policy research and graduate training to inform economic policies in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The principal objective is to strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of Sub-Saharan African economies through a synergetic programme combining economic research with postgraduate training in economics and supported by an interactive communications and policy outreach, within a vast network of researchers, universities and policymakers across Africa and the globe. The AERC is supported by donor governments, private foundations, and international organizations.

The AERC has received financing from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) towards the cost of the Project on Policy Analysis for Sustainable and Healthy Foods in African Retail Markets (PASHFARM) and from the University of North Carolina and intends to apply part of the agreed amount of these grants to conduct an Impact Evaluation Retooling Workshop. The training will also be supported by the UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight, through a SIDA grant to the Transfer Project, and the American Institutes for Research (AIR). Targeted participants will be teaching faculties from the AERC network of the Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE), the Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP), and the Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP) universities in Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### The Impact Evaluation Retooling Workshop

##### Background

Every year, large amounts of resources are spent implementing social and economic policies. In a context of limited resources, it is important for policymakers, programme managers, and civil society to examine whether programmes are having their intended impact. Good evaluations play an important role by providing concrete evidence of the impact of programmes on target populations. Does a programme have an impact? Does the programme have a different impact on different groups of people? Do different programme components have different impacts? Why and how does the programme have an impact? Which programmes are more cost effective in achieving desired outcomes? Those are important questions that can be answered by rigorous evaluations. In this workshop, methods for providing answers to some of those questions will be reviewed. The limitations of the methods and the conditions under which they provide valid answers will also be reviewed.

##### Objectives

The course will provide intensive training in the concepts of programme evaluation and in the designs and techniques for evaluating programme impact. The main workshop objectives are to:

- Understand the basic concepts of programme and policy impact evaluation.
- Define the impact evaluation questions and to examine the main issues to consider for answering those questions in a valid way.
- Review the main evaluation designs and estimation methods used for evaluating programme impact.
- To develop criteria for choosing the appropriate estimation strategy given different scenarios of programme characteristics and data availability.
- To interpret results appropriately and to examine the programmatic implications of results.
- To gain practical experience applying the estimation strategies and quantitative tools.

##### Workshop Content

This hands-on training will cover the following areas:

- Difference between impact evaluation and other types of evaluation.
- Answering the impact evaluation question.
- Evaluation designs and key issues to consider: confounding, selectivity, externalities, contamination, and others.



- Experimental designs.
- Selectivity and endogeneity problems: causes, consequences, and solutions.
- Instrumental variables methods.
- Difference-in-differences.
- Matching.
- Regression discontinuity analysis.

The workshop consists of lectures, Stata practical sessions, case studies, and group work. Participants will prepare a proposal for evaluating the impact of a real programme during the course. Participants are encouraged to bring their own cases of programmes they are evaluating in their countries.

### **Training Facilitators**

The course is a collaboration between the AERC, BMGF and the Transfer Project (<https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/>). It is designed and taught by experts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, AIR, and the UNICEF Innocenti – Global Office of Research and Foresight

### **Dates and Structure of the Workshop**

A hybrid approach combining face-to-face with online will be used to conduct the workshop from **July 10 – 21, 2023** as follows:

**July 10-15, 2023:** Full day face-to-face instruction in Nairobi, Kenya.

**July 16, 2023:** Travel back to home residence.

**July 17-21, 2023:** Four-hour online sessions each day.

### **Eligibility**

To qualify for participation in the Impact Evaluation workshop, an applicant must:

- (a) Be a national of a Sub-Saharan African country.
  - (b) Hold a PhD degree in Economics, Agricultural Economics, or related field from a recognized institution.
  - (c) Be a teaching faculty in any of the AERC network of the CMAAE, CMAP and CPP universities.
  - (d) Computer literacy, experience with household survey data, and knowledge of regression analysis is essential.
- The course will be taught in English.

Note: Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

### **Application Process**

Interested applicants should submit their applications to the AERC Director of Training by attaching the following documents and sending them to the following email address: [cmaae@aercafrica.org](mailto:cmaae@aercafrica.org) and copied to [training@aercafrica.org](mailto:training@aercafrica.org):

- ✓ Application cover letter clearly indicating you are a member of the teaching faculty of an AERC network university.
- ✓ Curriculum Vitae (clearly indicating gender; nationality; academic qualification; postal, email and telephone contacts, including country code).

The application letter should be referenced “**Application for Impact Evaluation Workshop**”. The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday, May 19, 2023**.

For more information on our programmes, please visit the AERC website on: [www.aercafrica.org](http://www.aercafrica.org).