As part of the capacity-building component of the project, Michigan State University Professor Thomas Reardon trained Nigerian scholars on value chain analysis within transforming food systems. Reardon is a professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics and fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA).

A seminar on value chain concepts and analysis took place April 4-5, 2016 at the University of Ibadan. The training attracted 57 participants (28 females and 29 males) from academia and research institutes. The two-day workshop introduced participants to the concept of value chains—not just as a simple chain of actors, but a complex set of networks. It also introduced participants to ways of effectively identifying and analyzing policy issues relevant to different nodes and actors along a value chain.

Participants were also introduced to the stacked survey approach for data collection within value chain studies, which would enable them to engage in empirical analysis that is international best practice. This training was followed by a day-long seminar on value chain concepts at the Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igbo-Ora, which has a mandate to provide advice on agricultural policy to the Oyo State Ministry of Agriculture. The event attracted 50 participants (12 females and 38 males), who interacted with faculty and students at the college on how to incorporate these concepts into research and policy analysis.

by Saweda Liverpool-Tasie and Thomas Reardon
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