

Training and Education: Progress and Future Directions

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Overview

- **How does someone currently learn GTAP?**
- **The changing market for short courses**
- **Challenges for GTAP**
- **Possible Strategies**
 - **Internal Training**
 - **Untrained Users**
 - **Advanced Users**
 - **Policy makers**

How does someone currently learn about GTAP?

- **Option 1: Courses**
 - **GTAP Web Course (preparatory)**
 - **GTAP Short Course**
 - **Dynamic GTAP Web Course (preparatory)**
 - **Dynamic GTAP Short Course**
 - **Pros and Cons**
 - **Good background knowledge of model and data**
 - **Total cost = \$8,000 tuition plus travel expenses**
 - **But does not teach you how to change the model**
 - **One-off training, not capacity building**

How does someone currently learn about GTAP?

- **Option 2: PhD**
 - Extremely good knowledge of GTAP model/s, data and CGE modeling
 - Life choice, expensive/prohibitive
- **Option 3: Work through the website on your own**
 - There is a lot of information on the website
 - BUT you miss a lot
- **Option 4: Join GTAP team**
 - Limited opportunities for untrained to visit the Center

The Market for Courses

- **Increased number of network members based in developing countries who cannot afford to come to the standard short course and therefore remain untrained (contributing to quality concerns)**
- **Increased number of competing courses**
- **Power users moving away from GTAP model and building their own super-models**
- **Despite this, demand for our course outstrips supply of places (even after price rise).**
- **Increased requests for smaller courses/capacity building projects (e.g., Paraguay) or more specialized courses (e.g., advanced courses or policy-maker courses)**
- **Lots of interest in hosting a course, but space constraints further limit supply**
- **Increasing demands on Center staff time as size of network and research ambitions grow**

Challenges for GTAP

- **How to satisfy demand for short courses given limited resources?**
- **How to help network members gain advanced knowledge on model development and the data base?**
- **How to cater for and raise the quality of untrained users who cannot afford (or cannot fit into) our courses?**
- **How do we educate policy makers in the GTAP model and database? (5)**
- **How to train visitors, grads and new staff members quickly so they can be more productive? (1)**

Internal Training

- **Our Priority is to help train staff/visitors who can assist with the data, research and model development.**
- **Methods:**
 - **on-the-job training at Purdue**
 - **mentoring**
 - **internal task documentation (e.g., DB construction process)**
 - **Advanced ITaP programming courses in UNIX, BASH, PERL.**
 - **More active GTAP Seminar Series with invited guests.**

Untrained Users

- **In progress:**
 - **Audio presentations on the website on RunGTAP and GTAPAgg.**
 - **First “Live web sessions” conducted**
- **Other Options being explored:**
 - **Further “Live web sessions” on the GTAP Data Base and model**
 - **More short courses**
 - **Allow qualified short course instructors to lead/manage courses on GTAP with the Center’s assistance**
 - **Employ a new staff member to oversee more short courses**

Advanced Users

- **In progress:**
 - I-O contributor's course materials on website
 - Expansion of Technical paper series
- **Other options being explored:**
 - Periodic 'webinars' on specialized topics relating to the GTAP Data Base and models
 - Webinars could then form the basis of web-based modules

Policy Makers

- **Some concern amongst staff that this is not our strength**
- **Need to work with a Board member who wanted to take this forward**

Comments
Thank you