



2nd Global TOA-MD Modeling Course 2013

Preliminary Announcement and Call for Applications

A TOA-MD modeling course will be offered Spring 2013, involving self-guided learning, webinars and a workshop on June 17-21 at Oregon State University. Individuals interested in participating are asked to submit an application by February 15, 2013 (see below).

TOA-MD is a novel modeling approach to simulate agricultural technology adoption and to assess technology impacts, ecosystem service supply, and impacts of environmental change (including climate change). More information about TOA-MD is available at tradeoffs.oregonstate.edu, as well as information and photos from the 1st Global TOA-MD workshop held in June 2012.

The goal of the course is for researchers to learn how to use the TOA-MD model with data from their own projects. **This course is designed primarily for economists and other scientists and graduate students with a background in agricultural economics at the graduate level, including knowledge of advanced statistical concepts and simulation modeling.** Individuals lacking this background may apply, but are cautioned that the instructors are not able to provide remedial training in economics and statistics. Instructors are John Antle and Roberto Valdivia (Oregon State University) and Jetse Stoorvogel (Wageningen University). The course will involve self-guided learning, two on-line webinars and a one-week workshop at Oregon State University.

This course is offered by the Tradeoff Analysis Project at Oregon State University for individual professional development of the participants, and is not an official course of Oregon State University or Wageningen University. Individuals completing the course will receive a certificate from the instructors certifying that they took the course.

Key Dates

February 15, 2012	Applications due to tradeoffs.team@oregonstate.edu (see below)
February 16-24	TOA team will review applications and send acceptance letters
March 1	Registration fee due (payment online or by bank transfer; see below)
March 1-30	Participants install software and learning modules. Study Part 1: Basic Learning Module (BLM) and complete exercises
April 2	Deadline for participants to submit questions on BLM and exercises

April 8	Webinar on BLM and exercises (time TBA)
April 8-May 1	Part 2: Advanced Learning Module and exercises
May 1	Deadline for participants to submit questions on ALM and exercises
May 8	Webinar on ALM and exercises (time TBA)
May 8 – June 10	Participants prepare their data and preliminary application, and prepare a presentation about their project for the first day of the workshop using the template provided (see agenda below)
June 17-21	TOA-MD workshop at Oregon State University (see agenda below)

Course Registration Fee and Logistics

A fee of 1500 USD per participant will be charged to cover course and workshop expenses. This fee will include: course materials provided by email; access to two on-line webinars; and participation in the workshop at Oregon State University, which will include a ½ day field trip in the Willamette Valley or Oregon Coast. In addition to this fee, participants will be responsible for their own costs which include: internet access adequate to receive course materials by email and access to webinars; transportation to and from Corvallis, Oregon, accommodation and subsistence costs (estimated to be approximately 1200 USD for ground transportation, hotel and subsistence) plus airfare (to Portland or Eugene airports); any required visas. The workshop organizers will provide hotel information and ground transportation information, but participants will be responsible for their own reservations and any other arrangements outside of the workshop. The workshop will be limited to a maximum of 20 participants on a first-come basis.

How to Apply

Individuals interested in participating in the course should submit an application by February 15, 2013, by sending an email to tradeoffs.team@oregonstate.edu with subject “*applicant name* TOA-MD 2013 Course Application.” Applicants should submit:

- Curriculum vitae with name, education, position, institutional affiliation and recent publication list;
- a short (max 1/2 page) description of their economics and statistics training;
- a short (max 1 page) description of their proposed project for TOA-MD application. This description should include:
 - description of research project and objectives
 - funding source for the researcher’s participation in the workshop

- description of the current and alternative systems to be modeled
- description of data to be used
- anticipated products of the research, e.g., publications, theses, presentations etc.

Payment of the USD 1500 registration fee (online preferred using Visa card, or by bank transfer) is due by March 1, 2013. Online payment can be made through the TOA Project web site; contact tradeoffs.team@oregonstate.edu for bank transfer details. Students lacking institutional sponsorship may qualify for a registration fee discount. Students should include the request for a discount with explanation in their application.

Workshop Agenda

Monday June 17

Introductions and presentations by participants (template will be provided). The goal of these presentations is for each participant to describe the project (location, systems, objectives) and data to be used during the workshop. Participants are expected to prepare a summary of their “system 1” data for this presentation. A template for this presentation will be provided, and will be due to the organizers by June 10.

Tuesday-Thursday, June 18-20

Each morning special topics will be reviewed, based on the participants’ interests. Tuesday and Thursday PM participants work on their projects and consult with instructors as needed. Wednesday PM is a field trip to visit Willamette Valley agriculture with dinner at the Rogue Brewery Hops Farm.

Friday June 21

AM: Review of special topics: ecosystem services and climate change applications.
PM: Participants present results from their projects. Graduation ceremony held!