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**REPORT ON CSIR-FRI / AUTHORAID RESEARCH
WRITING TRAINING WORKSHOP HELD IN CSIR-
FRI, ACCRA FROM 20TH – 22ND APRIL 2015**

BY

RAPHAEL KWAME KAVI

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I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP), sponsors of the CSIR-FRI /AuthorAid Research Writing Training Workshop for the opportunity to participate in this training workshop held in CSIR-FRI, Accra from 20th – 22nd April 2015. Finally, am also grateful to the Director of CSIR-FRI for his immense support for the organization of the Workshop in the Institute.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is on the training workshop on research writing that was organized by CSIR-FRI / AuthorAid which was held in CSIR-FRI, Accra, Ghana from 20th – 22nd April 2015. The workshop was to equip researchers in developing countries with the requisite skills in scientific writing to enable them publish and communicate their research results in high impact scientific refereed journals. In all, ten (10) participants were nominated by the organizers to attend the training workshop.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The training workshop was organized by AuthorAid and CSIR-Food Research Institute at CSIR-FRI, Accra, Ghana from 20th to 22nd April 2015. AuthorAid is an international research community. AuthorAid is a pioneering program based at International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP). It is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). AuthorAID helps researchers in developing countries to publish and otherwise communicate their work. It also serves as a wider global forum to discuss and disseminate research. AuthorAid provides support and mentoring. Key features and benefits of AuthorAID are:-

- a community space for discussion and questions where researchers can benefit from advice and insights from members across the globe
- access to a range of documents and presentations on best practice in writing and publication
- a chance to network with other researchers
- a personal mentoring by highly published researchers and professional editors and
- a world-wide training workshops on scientific writing.

DAY 1: 20th APRIL 2015

2.0 OPENING AND WELCOME ADDRESS

The programme started at 9:30 am with an opening prayer by Dr. (Mrs.) Mary Obodai, the Deputy Director of CSIR-FRI, Accra, this was followed by a self-introduction of trainees from CSIR-FRI and facilitators of the AuthorAid workshop from CSIR-FRI. The facilitators from CSIR-Food Research Institute were Dr. Wisdom K. A. Amoa-Awua (Retired Chief Research Scientist of CSIR-FRI), Dr. Charles Tortoe, Dr. (Mrs.), Mary Obodai, Dr. Margaret Owusu and Mr. Paa Toah Akonor.

The ten (10) participants of the AuthorAid /CSIR-FRI training workshop were welcome by the Director of CSIR-FRI, Dr. Nanam Tay Dziedzoave. He congratulated the trainees who were fortunate to be nominated to attend the training workshop in Scientific Writing, and also admonish the trainees to make the best use of the opportunity given them to acquire the necessary skills in scientific writing, that would propel them in their career development and progression.

3.0 INTRODUCTION TO AUTHORAID

The Director of CSIR-INSTI, Dr. Joel Sam also welcomed the participants to the AuthorAid training workshop. He admonish the trainees to visit the AuthorAid website to seek for more resources and information about AuthorAid. In his opinion, AuthorAid have numerous

programmes that can be exploited by the participants to enhance their career development and improve on their writing skills, in order to publish in high impact refereed scientific journals.

4.0 INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH WRITING

This session was facilitated by Dr. Wisdom K. A. Amoa-Awua (Retired Chief Research Scientist of CSIR-FRI). Some of the highlights of the above-mentioned topic were: - that research was carried out in order to contribute to knowledge, every new result adds to the previous state of knowledge only if they are communicated, research results only contribute to knowledge and development if they are communicated and also communication of the information must be accurate and audience-adapted, brief, and clear.

The participants of the training workshop were also taken through the step by step approach of the research process, decision to make in choosing a journal publication, which is the journal impact factor, the basic elements of a scientific paper and procedures adopted by reviewers in reviewing a manuscript for publication in a journal.

5.0 PLANNING TO WRITE

The facilitator for this session of the training workshop was Dr. (Mrs.) Mary Obodai, Deputy Director of CSIR-FRI, who took the participants through a step by step process of planning to write a journal article for publication. Some of the key points in the deliberations were the need to establish a mindset for scientific writing, knowing the ethics in scientific writing, selecting a journal to publish an article, measures to take in preparing to write, approaches in undertaking the writing and revising the work before submission to a journal publisher.

DAY 2: 21ST APRIL 2015

6.0 WRITING THE SECTIONS OF A SCIENTIFIC PAPER

This session of the training workshop was facilitated by Dr. Charles Tortoe, who also took the participants through a step by step approach in the writing of the various sections of a scientific paper for publication. The highlights of this session were the need to read a journal's instructions to authors before starting to write an article for publication. Some of the questions that a journal's instructions to authors may answer were: - what categories of article does the journal publish?, what is the maximum length of articles?, what is the maximum length of abstracts?, what sections should the article include?, What guidelines for writing style should be followed?, how many figures and tables are allowed?, what are the requirements for them?, in what format should references appear?, is there a maximum number of references?, in what electronic format should the paper be prepared? and how should the paper be submitted? Participants were also introduced to IMRAD which was a common format for preparing a journal article for most journal publications.

7.0 SUBMISSION AND POST SUBMISSION OF MANUSCRIPT

This stage of the training workshop was facilitated by Dr. Margaret Owusu, who introduced the participants to a step by step approach in the submission and post submission of manuscript to a scientific journal publisher. The highlights of this session were the relevance of reviewing the manuscript, importance of the cover letter in the submission process, approach in handling of reviewer comments and proof checking of the journal article by the researcher or researchers of a journal article.

8.0 POST ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCES

During this session of the training workshop, participants were introduced to several online resources for research writing. These resources serve as a store of information to improve one's scientific writing skills. This stage of the training was facilitated by Dr. Charles Tortoe and Mr. Paa Toah Akonor. Some of the Electronic resources that participants were introduced to were AGORA, HINARI, Science direct, Google Scholar, AuthorAid resources, Directory of Open Access Journals, JANE and Predatory Journals.

DAY 3: 22ND APRIL 2015

9.0 ONE-ON-ONE WRITING CLINIC

During this session of the training workshop participants were organized into three groups' for a one-on-one writing clinic with Dr. Charles Tortoe, Dr. (Mrs.) Mary Obodai and Dr. Margaret Owusu. This session offered the participants the opportunity engage in discussions with the facilitators on various aspects of their prepared manuscripts and also brainstorm on some pertinent issues of concern on scientific writing. This session was really a period for all participants to have the opportunity to address all misconception or doubts that may entertain in relation to scientific writing with the facilitator and also tap into their expertise in research writing.

10.0 GROUP PRESENTATIONS

The three groups that was created during the training workshop were tasked to organize a group presentation. Group 1 Presentation Topic was "Challenges in research writing and their solutions", Group 2 Presentation Topic was "Training needs for scientists and technologists" and Group 3 Presentation Topic was "Importance of research collaboration with other Institutes". The three groups were given 10 minutes each to do a PowerPoint Presentation, which was followed by questions and contributions from other participants and facilitators of the training workshop.

CONCLUSION

On the whole, the training workshop was very successful and very beneficial for me, since the lessons learnt would equipped me with adequate knowledge and necessary skills that would be used in writing and publishing more articles in high impact scientific refereed journals.