

Assessing Learning Skills and Knowledge of Latino Farmers and Ranchers in Missouri: An Assessment to Curricula Evaluation

Presented by
Eleazar U. Gonzalez
Stephen C. Jeanetta
David J. O'Brien



Objectives

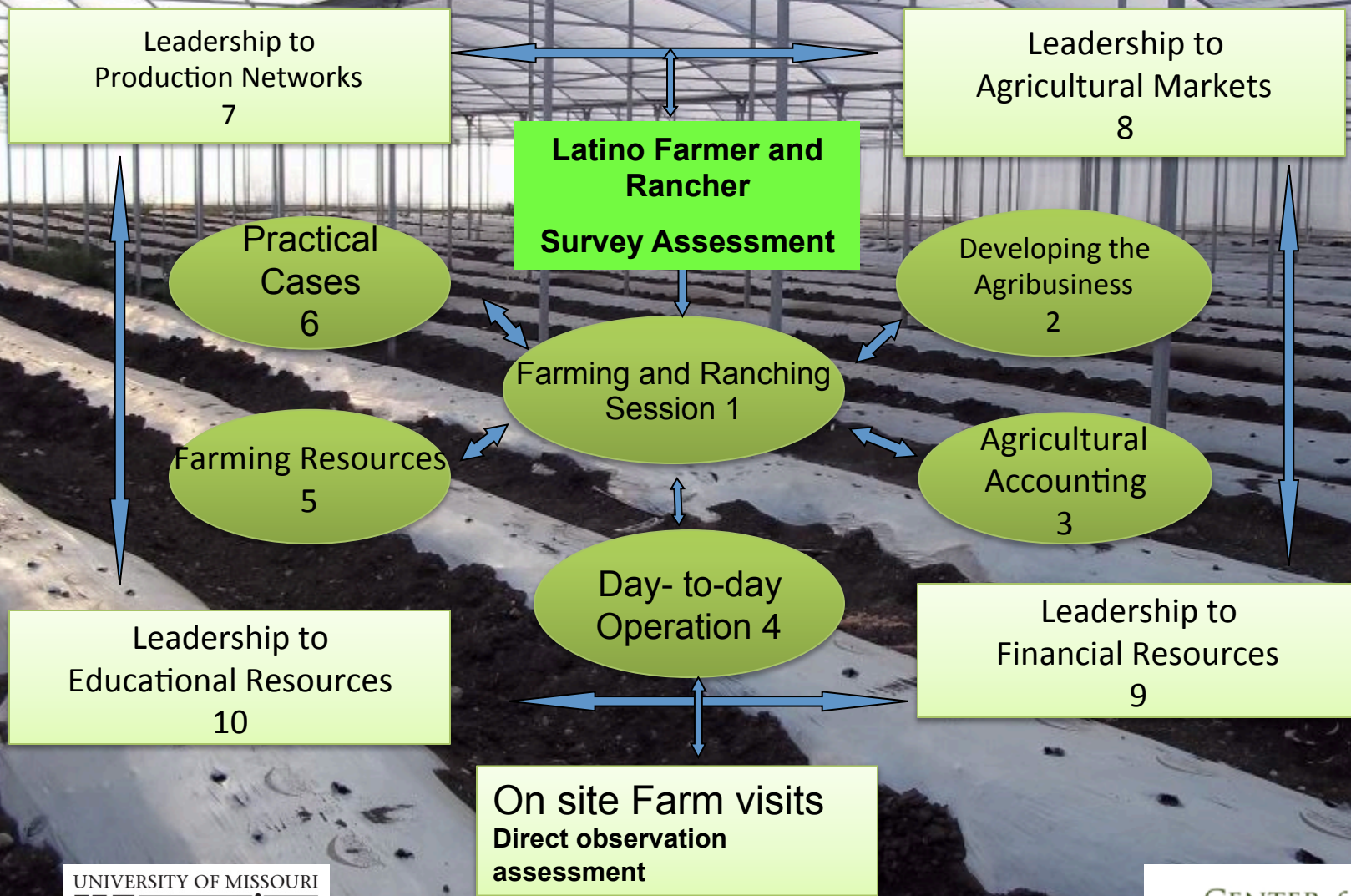
- To document Latino farmers' and ranchers' knowledge and the amount of change from session to session during the workshop.
- To support institutions and educators by providing them with understanding of the issues related to Latino farmers and ranchers being successful in the US.
- To start documenting and understanding Latino farmer and rancher reactions and attitudes to educational programs.

Curricula/Producers' Profile

- Financial Capacity Building
 - Six classroom sessions. Every weekend, each 2.5 hours long.
- Leadership to Community Resources
 - Four classroom leadership sessions. Every Weekend, each 2.5 hours long.
- Two on site farm visits.
- Assessment Items (each of 10 sessions)
 - Pre-test (360 surveys-Likert scale)
 - Post-test
 - End of session evaluation



Developing financial capacity and access to community resources



Curricula/Producers' Profile

- Program was taught in Spanish to an average of 9 producers per session.
- The program reached 56 Latino farmers and ranchers in the Central and Southwest region.
- Of those 56 producers who attended at least one session of the workshop, only 2 were US born.
- Most were immigrants from Mexico. Six were from El Salvador and one was from Honduras.
- Age ranged from 32 to 65 years old.
- Most of them showed low- English communication skills.

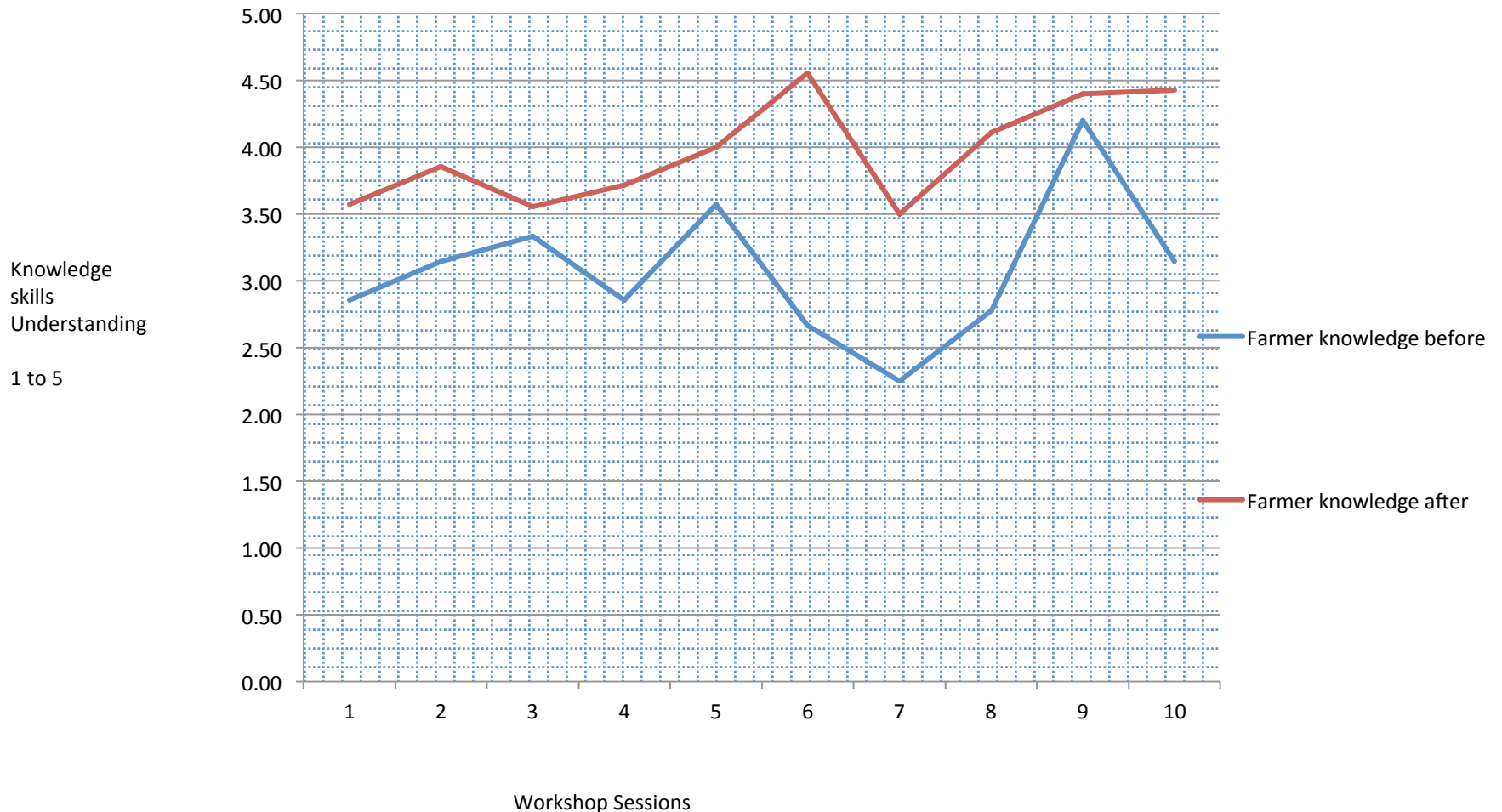
End of session evaluation assessment

The mean score value of 'End of Session Evaluation' questions of workshop in Missouri

Scores go from 1 to 5. Where 1 is the lowest score and 5 is the highest score

| | Sess1 | Sess2 | Sess3 | Sess4 | Sess5 | Sess6 | Sess7 | Sess8 | Sess9 | Sess10 |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| | MO | MO | MO | MO | MO | MO | MO | MO | MO | MO |
| Workshop evaluation | 4.43 | 4.57 | 4.11 | 4.14 | 4.57 | 4.78 | 4.75 | 4.56 | 4.75 | 4.75 |
| Satisfaction with Program | 4.29 | 3.86 | 4.00 | 4.14 | 4.00 | 4.44 | 4.50 | 4.33 | 4.60 | 4.43 |
| Presenter/Encouraged Answered | 4.43 | 4.71 | 4.56 | 4.71 | 4.29 | 4.78 | 4.75 | 4.44 | 4.60 | 4.86 |
| Presenter Communication | 4.57 | 4.86 | 4.44 | 4.57 | 4.43 | 4.67 | 4.75 | 4.67 | 4.75 | 4.86 |
| Presenter/Used Examples | 4.43 | 4.71 | 4.44 | 4.14 | 4.14 | 4.89 | 4.75 | 4.44 | 4.75 | 4.86 |
| Presenter Preparation | 4.86 | 4.86 | 4.44 | 4.57 | 4.57 | 4.89 | 4.75 | 4.56 | 4.75 | 4.86 |
| Farmer Knowledge Before | 2.86 | 3.14 | 3.33 | 2.86 | 3.57 | 2.67 | 2.25 | 2.78 | 4.20 | 3.14 |
| Farmer Knowledge After | 3.57 | 3.86 | 3.56 | 3.71 | 4.00 | 4.56 | 3.50 | 4.11 | 4.40 | 4.43 |
| Community Engagement | 4.14 | 3.71 | 4.56 | 4.43 | 4.14 | 4.33 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.80 | 4.86 |
| Growth Networks | 3.86 | 3.43 | 4.22 | 4.43 | 3.57 | 4.33 | 3.50 | 4.22 | 4.80 | 4.86 |
| Work with Others | 4.29 | 4.14 | 4.33 | 4.29 | 3.86 | 4.33 | 3.75 | 4.44 | 4.80 | 4.86 |
| Action Plan to participate | 3.57 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.29 | 4.00 | 4.33 | 4.00 | 4.56 | 4.80 | 4.86 |
| Implementing a Project | 3.43 | 3.57 | 4.11 | 3.71 | 3.43 | 4.33 | 3.75 | 4.56 | 4.80 | 4.71 |
| Will Recommend Workshop* | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

Knowledge, Skills, and Understanding: before and after each session

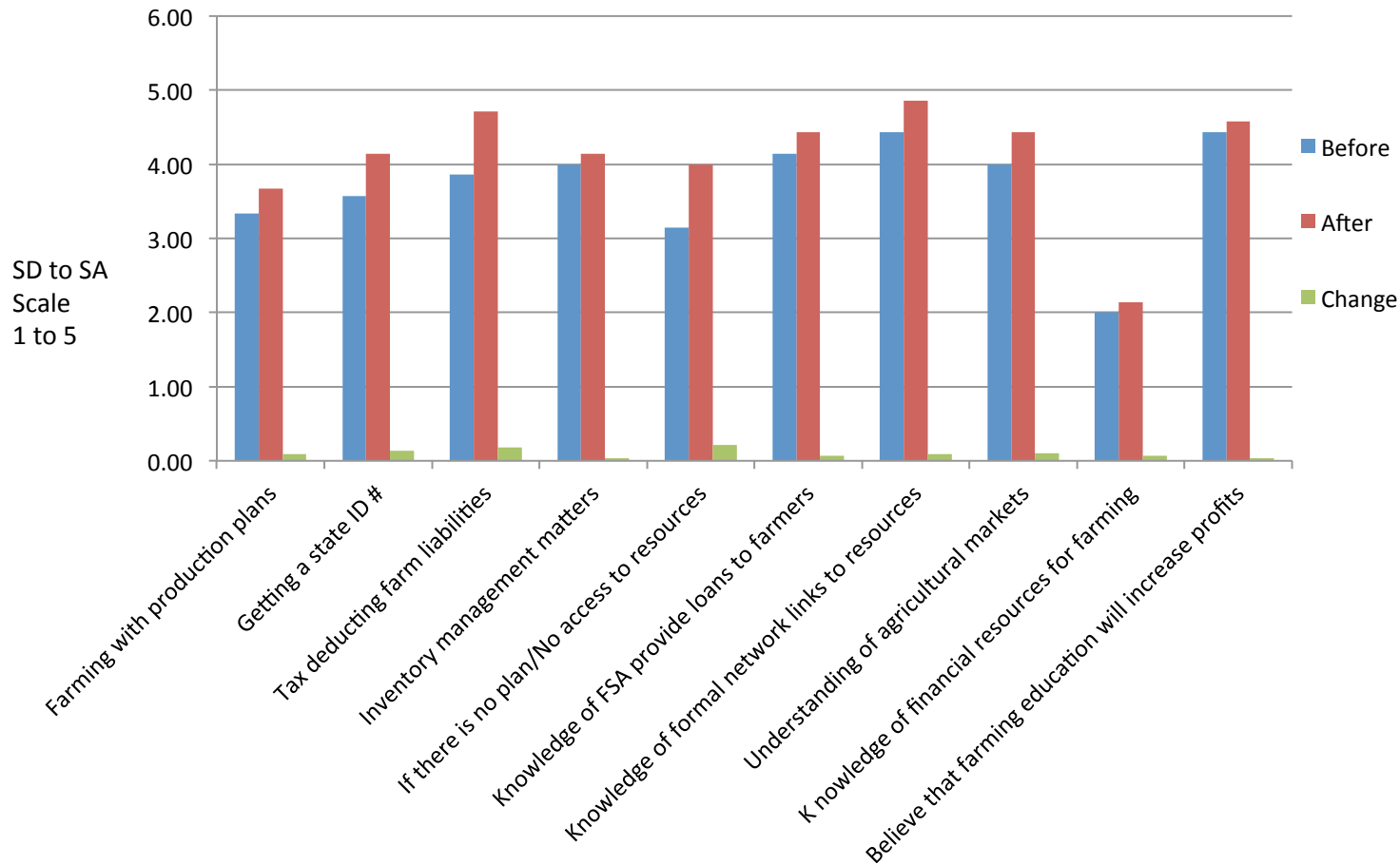


Selected pre-test and post-test statement from Latino farmers

(from SD to SA scale)

| Knowledge on Farming and Ranching in Missouri | Before | After | Change |
|--|--------|-------|--------|
| Farming with production plans (willing) | 3.33 | 3.67 | 9.1% |
| Getting a state ID # | 3.57 | 4.14 | 13.8% |
| Tax deducting farm liabilities | 3.86 | 4.71 | 18.2% |
| Inventory management matters | 4.00 | 4.14 | 3.4% |
| If there is no plan/No access to resources | 3.14 | 4.00 | 21.4% |
| Knowledge of FSA provide loans to farmers | 4.14 | 4.43 | 6.5% |
| Knowledge of formal networks link to resources | 4.43 | 4.86 | 8.8% |
| Understanding of agricultural markets | 4.00 | 4.43 | 9.7% |
| Knowledge of financial resources for farming | 2.00 | 2.14 | 6.7% |
| Believe that farming education will increase profits | 4.43 | 4.57 | 3.1% |

Pre-test and post-test evaluation assessment



Participant Constraints



To what extent are Latino agricultural producers learning new skills?

- Low levels of reading and writing communication skills (Spanish)
- Unfamiliar with answering tests. This might influence them to comeback to sessions.
- Assessment instruments aligned to the producers' understandings of the survey design. (most Latino producers were unable to develop writing explication of their skills and knowledge.
- Survey design was based on the Likert scale. This format might lead participants to sub-estimate their knowledge.
- New producers without previous experience in agricultural activities might give biased responses.

Questions and feedback are welcome

**Beginning Farmer and Rancher
Development Program Grant No.
2012-49400-19587**