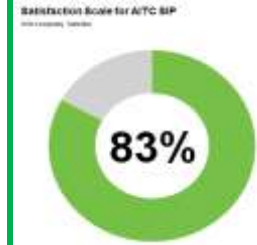


SC Agriculture in the Classroom Summer Institute Program (SIP) Evaluation

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Introduction

South Carolina (SC) Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Summer Institute Program (SIP) provides professional development workshops for educators to learn about agriculture and gain classroom resources. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshops were re-designed for a virtual setting using ZOOM as the meeting platform and six workshops were offered in 2020.

Theoretical Framework

Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) (Ajzen, 1991)

- Used to reveal participant perceptions of the online SC AITC SIP to determine if there were correlations between factors (e.g. age, gender) related to the adoption or rejection of the online structure.

Diffusion of Innovations (DOI) model (Rogers, 2010)

- AITC SIP aligned with the five characteristics associated with DOI.

Methods

- Survey: Online Quantitative and Qualitative data
- Data Analysis
 - Thematic Analysis
 - Check for relationships between variables
 - Draw Conclusions

AITC Mission

“To improve student achievement by applying authentic, agricultural-based content as the context to teach core curriculum concepts in science, social studies, language arts and nutrition” (Spielmaker & Mitsuoka, n.d., para. 2)

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of this study was to determine participant perceptions of the online workshops, content, and structure of the overall SIP program.



Research Question:

What were participant perceptions of the online structure for the South Carolina AITC SIP?

Data Analysis

- 92% possessed necessary technological resources to learn efficiently online
- Learning ability was impacted only “somewhat” to “very little” online
- 54% reported the resources did align with State teaching standards
- 66 participants did not attend before, 74% would attend again if held face-to-face
- 18 attended before, 100% would attend again if held face-to-face
- Benefit: convenience
- Downfall: lacked the full in-person experience

Implications and Recommendations

- Online format of the 2020 AITC SIP had little to no impact on the participant’s learning ability.
- Providing both online and face-to-face workshops can be beneficial for the SC AITC SIP by increasing the number of SC educators they may potentially reach.
- Online format is recommended as a better alternative for participants with disabilities, family emergencies, or those who cannot afford the registration fee.
- Hybrid workshops including virtual farm tours could be the future of SC AITC SIP.