

BIostatistics FOR THE BEGINNERS IN FIELD BIOLOGY (BBFB)

Prologue

Having experiences with young field biologists in different levels of education and fieldwork, it appears that most of them have little or no knowledge in biostatistics. Prior to research in wildlife ecology or related fields the students are given routine education in various levels of higher education, in which the practical aspects are not emphasized may be due to out of scope during a definite and limited time frame. The enthusiastic students also have to cope up with the existing situation for the rat race in their career without gathering much knowledge in the applied field. Many a times, it is observed that soon after the Master's programme, students jump into PhD programme without having adequate knowledge of biostatistics—the root of research in the field biological research. Not necessarily for ornamental degrees, the young field biologists who want to build their career in applied field biology, must acquire knowledge of biostatistics prior to action in the field. This knowledge will enable them to construct their research design.

With this backdrop AARANYAK is going to organize a week-long workshop as the title reads above in Guwahati in collaboration with Scholars' Institute of Technology & Management (SITM).

Are you a probable participant?

Yes, you are! If you are an energetic young person actively involved in field biological research, having biology or life science as your background subject, you can apply for this. Wait a minute, we consider minimum educational qualification as Master's degree or equivalent, or if you are pursuing Master's course in a UGC recognized university.

Seat availability

Please note that this workshop is a residential one, i.e., you have to stay at the venue. The venue is Scholars' Institute of Technology & Management (visit www.sitmguwahati.org) at Gaharighuli, Garchuk in perfect natural setting. We are sure that being field biologist you will like to stay in the hill surrounded calm and quiet place. It is close to ISBT, Guwahati. You will be accommodated in the hostels of the institute. So at the most we can have 20 trainees; however, we will see the gender balance as far as practicable.

Will you be selected?

Most likely! However, you have to send back a filled up application form on line (enclosed herewith), also you need to send your latest CV and a write up regarding your present status and the reason to take part in the workshop, how will it benefit you— in not more than A4 size paper with Times New Roman 12 font size. You also have to get send a recommendation letter by an educationist/scientist and a NOC if you are employed from your immediate superior.

What will you learn?

Well, it is up to you, how much you can take back with you! However, we will be trying hard to clear your concept in basic biostatistics. You might have been familiar with some biostatistics tests already, but we will teach you some most essential parametric as well as non-parametric tests, which you will be able to do without even using software. Of course, if selected, it is advised to bring your laptop computer; however, scientific calculator is must. Detail syllabus and course will be post later. Besides the statistics, you will attend some

lectures everyday on various field biological study by eminent scientists of repute in their respective field to break the monotony. Yes, be ready to do fieldwork in the nearby areas, the data collected by you will be used for analyses.

Please note, you have to be mentally and physically tough to withstand the load of work for that week as the workshop is residential; classes will continue even in the evening, and you have to do assignments at night!

The important dates

Please note that the workshop will be from 28th October to 2nd November 2013. The camp will open from 1500 hr on 28th October; and you have to arrive at least in the evening. And this is must, as it is a residential workshop. You will leave on 3rd November 2013 forenoon. The last date for submitting application is 6th October 2013. The selected candidates will be communicated on or before 10th of October 2013.

Course fees

Hope, you will understand that in addition to the course materials, for your stay and food at least you have to bear a minimum expenditure. Aaranyak is doing the workshop voluntarily without any sponsor, the SITM is generously providing the logistic, so you have to bear your own cost including your travel cost. It will be Rs 1500.00 (Fifteen Hundred) only.

What if you are not selected?

Never mind, your applications will be with us. You will be considered for the next workshop.

Course coordinator

In addition to the classes by eminent scientists, the entire course will be conducted by Dr. Hillol Jyoti Singha, Assistant Professor, Centre for Biodiversity & Natural Resource Conservation, Department of Ecology & Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar. He will be assisted by two of his scholars, and they all will be available in the camp throughout the workshop.

Contact Person

You have to send the application to Sri Manas kr. Bhattacharjya, Manager Operations, Aaranyak (manas@aaranyak.org). For any query regarding the workshop, please feel free to call at + 91 9435017153.