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Content Details:

Dr. Paul Clark <i>Thompson Rivers University</i>	Global Awareness Map Assignment: Basic Knowledge for Students in International Business (Working Title)
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Abstract

An individual's understanding of international commercial and political events and topics is heavily dependent on an appreciation of world geography. Faculty teaching courses in International Business are often challenged by students lack awareness of basic international geographic knowledge. Students are unfamiliar with the country locations, sizes, and proximities to other countries. Additionally, students often lack knowledge of continent locations and sizes, major transportation routes, and key geopolitical chokepoints such as the Strait of Malacca, the Strait of Hormuz, and the Panama and Suez Canals. These weaknesses in geographic literacy restrict students' ability to understand many topics related to international business and geopolitics.

To address these challenges, the purpose of the Global Awareness Map Assignment is to develop students' basic geographic knowledge. Through the use of the Global Awareness Map Assignment, students are challenged to gain a foundational understanding of the international geography, and a priori, an essential level of the international business environment.

This exercise asks students to draw a detailed, freehand map of the world from memory. This assignment promotes active engagement with world geography and supports the broader pedagogical goals of developing international awareness among business students (Leask, 2009).

Keywords: Geopolitics, geographic literacy, geopolitical literacy, international business, learning activity,

PEST / CAGE analysis, institutional environment, experiential education, international management.

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<p>Nyama Simon Kwabena <i>Ghana Health Service</i></p>	<p>Assessing the Effectiveness of Obesity Interventions in Ghana</p>
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Abstract

Obesity continues to be a significant public health issue worldwide. It is commonly linked to negative effects on the health and well-being of individuals. Particularly in children, obesity has been shown to hinder their intellectual, psychological, and social development. Furthermore, it is associated with the long-term risk of diseases such as hypertension, cardiovascular conditions, and diabetes. In this regard, it becomes imperative to search for obesity interventions that are effective in dealing with this public health problem. Proceeding from this backdrop, this study generally aims to assess interventions aimed at reducing obesity in Ghana. Specifically, it aims to identify the risk factors for obesity in the country, assess its impact on individual health and well-being, evaluate the nature of obesity interventions in Ghana, and determine their effectiveness. The research employed a secondary methodology, focusing on evidence gathered from prior studies. Data were sourced exclusively from empirical research, primarily through journal articles, conference proceedings, and grey literature, including government reports and expert evaluations. The findings indicate that the risk factors contributing to obesity include socio-economic deprivation, unhealthy eating habits, fast food consumption, a sedentary lifestyle, and inadequate parental care. The results further confirm that obesity adversely affects child development, leading to psychological and emotional issues such as low self-esteem, diminished self-confidence, and depression, as well as poor academic performance and difficulties in social interactions. Additionally, the study highlights that obesity interventions in Ghana include prohibitions on the sale and advertising of unhealthy foods, school-based educational initiatives involving parents and teachers, social marketing campaigns, informational leaflets, fiscal strategies to lower the cost of healthy foods, urban design policies promoting physical activities like walking and cycling, behavior modification efforts, enhanced nutritional labeling, and provision of resources. Again,

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based on the results emerging, the study finds that obesity interventions that require little agency demands from individuals tend to be more effective. Policy and research implications of the study's findings are finally discussed.

Keywords: assessing, effectiveness, obesity, interventions

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Faegheh Hamzavisarkhaei <i>Dr. Hamzavi Pharmacy</i>	New Therapeutic Prospects and Current Potentials of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors and Machine-Learning Models in Breast Cancer
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Abstract

Breast cancer (BC) ranks among the most prevalent malignant tumors, with its incidence rising annually, posing a significant risk to women's physical and mental health. Triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) represents a distinct molecular subtype of BC characterized by poor prognosis and the absence of human epidermal growth factor receptor-2, estrogen and progesterone receptors. Historically, chemotherapy served as the main therapeutic approach. Nevertheless, with the emergence of the immunotherapy era, substantial advancements have been made in the management of TNBC, offering new therapeutic prospects for this challenging disease. In this context, we reviewed the results of cutting-edge clinical trials to assess the effect of immune checkpoint inhibitors targeting programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) and programmed death protein ligand 1 (PD-L1) together with chemotherapy. This review outlines the key treatment approaches for immunotherapy in patients with BC with particular emphasis on TNBC. Additionally, we provide an overview the potential of the current machine-learning models and artificial intelligence (AI) tools that utilize clinicopathological data, including straightforward blood tests, to anticipate the success of immunotherapies, specifically immune checkpoint inhibitors, in patients diagnosed with cancer.

Keywords: Therapeutic Prospects; Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors; Machine-Learning Models; Breast Cancer

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<p>Golpar Golmohammadzadeh</p> <p><i>Faculty of Pharmacy, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences</i></p>	<p>Polymorphisms and Levels of Diazinon and Malathion in the Etiology of Breast Cancer: A Case- Control Study in Northern Iran</p>
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Abstract

Xenobiotic-Metabolizing Enzymes (XMEs) play a crucial role in the detoxification of various products resulting from cancer therapies. In the process of xenobiotic metabolism, cytochrome P450s, also known as monooxygenases, along with Glutathione S-transferases (GSTs), are essential as they facilitate hydroxylation reactions and the conjugation of glutathione (GSH) to a diverse range of xenobiotics. The extensive use of pesticides in northern Iran is recognized as a significant risk factor for the development of breast cancer. These substances undergo detoxification through phase I and II enzymatic processes. This study aims to investigate the relationship between polymorphisms in CYP1A1(rs4646421), CYP1B1(rs1056836), CYP2C8(rs1058930), CYP19A1(rs749292), and GSTP1(rs1695), as well as serum concentrations of the pesticides Diazinon and Malathion, and the risk of breast cancer in Northern Iran. This cross-sectional case-control study involved the recruitment of 72 patients and 51 healthy individuals. The participants underwent genotyping for gene polymorphisms using the PCR-RFLP technique, while the quantification of toxins was performed using the GC-MS method. The results of the experiments showed that there were significant relationships between two groups and the age of the patients was significantly higher than the control group ($p=0.044$). Regarding the relationship between the genotypes of each gene and breast cancer risk, using a logistic regression model in two normalized and age-adjusted models, it was determined that in CYP2C8 genotype, those having the CG allele, increased the risk of breast cancer in adjusted model ($CI=95\%1.11,75.84$). In the CYP19A1 gene of individuals with GA genotype, the risk of breast cancer increased in non-adjusted model ($CI=95\% 1/52-27/21$) about the CYP1B1 gene, people with two genotypes of CG+GG were associated with a higher risk of breast in non-adjusted

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(CI=95% 1.197,5.71) and adjusted model (CI=95% 1.31,6.57). In CYP2C8gene, the G allele had a protective effect on breast cancer and decreased the risk of breast cancer ($P=0.02$) and in GSTP1gene, the G allele increased the risk of breast cancer ($P=0.0480$). Moreover, in CYP1B1 gene, G allele decreased the risk of breast cancer ($P=0.0271$). Regarding the serum levels of OPs, Diazinon in the case group had a much lower level than the control group but ($p<0.001$) there was a significant relationship between serum levels of Diazinon and risk of breast cancer ($p<0.001$). The results of the current study confirmed the association between CYP2C8(rs1058930), CYP19A1(rs749292) and CYP1B1(rs1056836) gene polymorphisms and increased the risk of breast cancer. Also, there was a significant relationship between serum levels of Diazinon and risk of breast cancer in women in Northern Iran. The results of this study indicated that CYP2C8(rs1058930), CYP19A1(rs749292) and CY-P1B1(rs1056836) gene polymorphisms were associated with breast cancer and there was a significant relationship between serum level of Diazinon and risk of breast cancer. Screening these genes, polymorphisms can be used to prognosticate disease, prevent disease progression, and be sued as appropriate therapeutic intervention.

Keywords: Diazinon; Malathion; Breast Cancer

<p>Getahun Baye Berihun</p> <p><i>Bahir Dar University</i></p>	<p>Crop Breeding for Low Input Farming Systems and Appropriate Breeding Strategies</p>
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Abstract

Resource poor farmers practice low input farming system; and yet, most breeding programs gave less attention to this huge farming system which serve as a source of food and income for several people in developing countries. The high input conventional breeding system appears to have failed to adequately meet the needs and requirements of 'difficult' environments operating under this system. Moreover, the unavailability of resources for crop production is getting for their peaks, the environment is maltreated by excessive use of agrochemicals, crop productivity reaches its plateau stage, particularly in the developed nations, the world population is increasing, and food shortage sustained to persist for poor societies. In various parts of the world, genetic gain at the farmers' level remains low which could be associated with low adoption of crop varieties, which have been developed under high input systems. Farmers usually use their local varieties and apply minimum inputs as a risk-avoiding and cost-minimizing strategy. This evidence indicates that the conventional high-input plant breeding system has failed to feed the world population, and the world is moving further away from the United Nations' goals of ending hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition. In this review, we discussed the rationality of focused breeding programs for low-input farming systems and, the technical aspect of crop breeding that accommodates future food needs and its significance for developing countries in the decreasing scenario of resources required for crop production. To this end, the application of exotic introgression techniques like polyploidization, pan-genomics, comparative genomics, and De novo domestication as a pre-breeding technique has been discussed in the review to exploit the untapped genetic diversity of the crop wild relatives (CWRs). Desired recombinants developed at the pre-breeding stage are exploited through appropriate breeding approaches such as evolutionary plant breeding (EPB),

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rhizosphere-related traits breeding, and participatory plant breeding approaches. Populations advanced through evolutionary breeding like composite cross populations (CCPs) and rhizosphere-associated traits breeding approach that provides opportunities for improving abiotic and biotic soil stress, nutrient acquisition capacity, and crop microbe interaction in improved varieties have been reviewed. Overall, we conclude that low input farming system is a huge farming system that requires distinctive breeding approaches, and the exotic pre-breeding introgression techniques and the appropriate breeding approaches which deploy the skills and knowledge of both breeders and farmers are vital to develop heterogeneous landrace populations, which are effective for farmers practicing low input farming across the world.

Key words: Low input farming, evolutionary plant breeding, composite cross population, participatory plant breeding,

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<p>Yabdoo Kwabena <i>Ministry of Local Government, Agriculture</i></p> <p>Co-author: Joseph Akyeh <i>Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology</i></p>	<p>The Role of Supply Chain Visibility in Reducing Post-harverst Losses</p>
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ABSTRACT

Post-harvest losses (PHL) represent a significant challenge in Sub-Saharan Africa, affecting food security, economic stability, and sustainable development. Despite efforts to reduce these losses, they remain high, particularly in agricultural supply chains, due to limited infrastructure, poor storage facilities, and inefficient logistics. This study explores the role of supply chain visibility (SCV) in mitigating post-harvest losses across the region. SCV refers to the ability to track and monitor goods and processes throughout the supply chain, enabling real-time decision-making and early intervention. Through a mixed-methods approach, this research examines how enhanced visibility through digital technologies, such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices, blockchain, and data analytics, can optimize the management of post-harvest processes. Findings suggest that improved SCV reduces delays, improves storage conditions, and facilitates more effective distribution strategies, significantly lowering post-harvest losses. The study concludes with recommendations for policymakers and supply chain actors to invest in visibility-enhancing technologies, fostering stronger partnerships among stakeholders to build more resilient and transparent supply chains in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Keywords: Post- harvest loss, supply chain visibility, agricultural supply chains, sustainability



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