UF/IFAS AI AND DATA SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

Mapping AI Adoption in Florida Extension: Who's Ready, Who's Connected, and What Comes Next

From February 20 to April 10, 2025, 154 UF/IFAS Extension faculty (139 completed) participated in a systemwide survey examining AI perceptions, use, and social influence. With a target population of 360 faculty, this study offers a robust snapshot of current AI readiness across the state for their Extension programs.

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Through a mixed-methods approach, including social network analysis, clustering, text mining, and predictive modeling, this training will explore how AI use and confidence vary across UF/IFAS faculty; who is positioned to influence others in the network; what tools Extension agents are already trying; and how we can move from isolated adoption to peer-led transformation.

BIO

Jaehyun Ahn (Jae), PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Artificial Intelligence in Extension at UF/IFAS Agricultural Education and Communication (UF/IFAS AEC). Previously a Research Scientist at Texas A&M AgriLife Research, he has leveraged his diverse background in agricultural education, economics, and public health to foster collaboration with organizations such as the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Texas A&M Institute of Data Science. Building on these partnerships, he advances inventive methodologies and ideas that unite academics, practitioners, and policymakers, driving AI-powered innovations for agricultural and societal impact. Currently, he contributes to the AI71 initiative—supported by CGIAR, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UF/IFAS, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)—to develop a large language model (LLM) tailored to smallholder farmers and Extension agents in developing countries.