

The Development of OR in Africa

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The aim of the presentation is to ignite academic debates on the development of operations research (OR) in Africa, with special attention to some selected institutions of higher learning in the Southern African Development Communities (SADC). It is hoped that such deliberations will assist future African scholars to identify relevant topics in the field and align them to emerging real-life problems the continent is confronted with. OR in most SADC universities has been introduced at undergraduate level, mostly within the Department of Statistics as part of the statistics program, offering basic introductory OR courses, such as Linear Programming and Dynamic Programming. Besides UK and USA, India surfaced as one of the countries where OR was introduced early in history. Besides some SA universities, the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe is one of the universities that has a strong dose of OR. The close alignment of OR methodology to Data Science, Big Data & Analytics, and Climate Change, makes The Science of Better continue to be relevant and of interest.