Welcome back. This is the first of the video sequencing on a specific task for developing and writing an application task for Further Mathematics Unit 3.

We will work through the context, how it actually came about, what the questions were that came up of interest in this particular context and scenario, try to find some data or some sources of data for this particular task, and the actual task, heading title, introduction, et cetera. Of course, each of these become quite important in the whole development as we go.

So looking at the context itself, it is going to centre around rural agriculture, particularly how crops might be developed, sold, livestock, if you like, impact. In terms of these particular areas, there are many who are in the rural industry and then this becomes quite real. One of our major ideas with an application task is to try and make it community-based, if you can. The notion of agriculture as I said is certainly real for many students within your communities, and therefore becomes something that they can quite easily get into.

The whole notion of this particular topic came about through a discussion with a group of people from a rural community. It was a PD session, in fact, and we were looking for ways of trying to develop a particular task in another subject area. And through the development of that particular task, the community of rural people then linked it to agriculture. We were talking about crops. In particular, of course, then yields of those crops become interesting. So from the idea and the introduction of this particular context, there was a question and set of questions that could certainly be developed into an application task, which is really where the whole notion of this particular task came about.

So from just that initial discussion with that group of people, I then went away and started to think, how might I develop this into a workable and usable application task for Further Mathematics and their data analysis component of the course? Some of the thoughts that came to mind in terms of the crops or the grains or the livestock, if you wanted to use those, what's their production like over a period of time? What's it like from state to state? Is there a higher production in certain states over others? Is there a bigger pool of these sorts of crops in certain states from the state level? What did it actually look like internationally? Is there similar patterns that you would see internationally?

From that basis, there was a great story that was going to then be part of this particular task. In terms of the crops that we produce here in Australia, how do they rank against other countries in terms of the production? Is it similar to other countries? Do they produce better crops in yields than what we do here? Does it depend on the season? Is it weather orientated? So there's a whole series of questions that are certainly coming up as part of this particular context.

Mind you, the questions I've already stated so far would quite easily take one, if not two, separate items of application tasks. You could quite easily build those up. The idea of the livestock, what prices are they? Are they growing? Do they deplete? What do they look like over time? Again how do they compare across the globe? Are there any specific trends that I might be looking at? Could I go and forecast or predict what might actually happen in five or eight years? Is there a hint of being able to understand from an agricultural level just what's happening to these rural activities that are actually set up?

So from that basis of context and just that question of agriculture, I've got a whole series of these ideas to now go and explore. And of course part of that exploration now is trying to work out, well, how can I get these things answered? What sorts of data am I going to actually go and look at? So in terms of trying to identify the data, and of course your search engines become quite important, but it's not always easy to actually find data in suitable formats or files that you can actually readily download or get students to download and go and look at.

So I was wanting to know about the agriculture production, what it look like in its growth, prices of it. Do we export it? Do we import it? How much do we import or export nationally? Could I find some information nationally, internationally? So all of these items then became basically keywords. So you'll notice a list of keywords that I started with. And of course it's interesting once you start a search how one website can then introduce more keywords for you. And that certainly is what happened in this case. So I started with those five keywords that are there. I did find some data that was useful, but of course it led me off in other directions which actually became far better. I was able to focus and hone in on certain data sets that became very, very useful for this particular task.

So the title, I then went for 'agricultural commodities' of course, that's a very wide and broad topic. I will concentrate on a particular grain in this particular task, but of course you may choose any of the agricultural elements. Maybe it's more locally-based for your particular community. Maybe you've got a personal interest in some of these particular areas. I would certainly encourage you strongly that where that interest exists, that you actually set that up as part of this particular application task.

So you'll notice the two data sets that I actually had created here. And in terms of those data sets, I've come up with two pretty good sites to help me. One's Australian and one's international. The international one, you can actually drill down to any country at all regarding their production of agriculture, whether that being crops or livestock. But these two sites can give you data quite readily. Of course, you could limit the data that you want the students to actually work their way through, but it's certainly a great start.

So based on those two sites, I then started the introduction of the task, what it look like, what I was then going to try and develop as part of the sequence of this particular task itself. So in terms of the idea of, just go back one, in terms of then getting this into a group of probably, questions, being able to then actually see what the introduction looked like was then part of the next task.

So we're going to now quickly move into video two. And in video two, we will actually look at the first component, what the question looked like as part of this particular application task, and then how we started to develop from there. So I will see you soon in the second of these videos.

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