



BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION



International University for the Bio-Environment

Comments from Students

Food, Agriculture and the Environment

2013, 2011, Spring Quarter

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International University for the Bio-Environment E-learning Programme

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Comments and Feedback from Students

*Thank you very much for allowing me to participate in this course; it has been very valuable for me. I work on a university campus in the rural area of Guatemala; my job is to encourage entrepreneurs inside and outside of the university, with commercial ideas and crop producers. Nowadays, I am coordinating a project to help these people to develop their business, but the people dedicated to agribusiness are facing many of the problems that are mentioned in the course material, such as poor soil, bacteria, environmental troubles, food security, and pollution. My plan for incorporating this into my work is: to discuss this subject with my university colleagues, so that we can teach our students about how we can improve rural development. We can also make some projects to teach agricultural workers how to turn to organic agriculture or natural farming, and how agro-forestry can help them solve problems of water and flooding, and can help them economically as well. I am very enthusiastic about all I have learned with this course and all the impact we can have in rural communities in Guatemala. **Jacqueline Landaverde, Director of Centro de Recursos para Emprendedores en Acción, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala***

*Unfortunately, where I live we have limited access to both online and offline resources in most disciplines including environmental science and food security. The material covered in the course was of immense importance to me for exploring the concepts of environment, food security, and their inter-relation with agriculture. Though this may be ambitious, I will try to deliver the key points of the course to the appropriate people at the ministry so that they can incorporate them into the rural development policies in Uzbekistan. The most valuable aspect of the course for me was the synthesis made between past and present sustainable growth approaches in the agriculture sector. Also important was the latest information regarding new agricultural production practices and useful statistics about the current food crisis including the international community's efforts to solve the related problems. I am thankful to the Biopolitics International Organization for a wonderful and useful journey which was a pleasure to take. I learned a lot about food and agriculture and their impact on environment and how powerless nature is in the face of human ignorance. Environmental degradation is the result of our actions and our immortal desire to want more at the expense of environment. **Sherzod Mukhamadiev, Scientific Affairs Specialist, Centre for Project Implementation, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan***

The material covered in this course will help me in my work when I am setting up training components at the centre. We continue to explore the introduction of more

skill and training opportunities in the field of agriculture. All the topics were valuable; however, I will continue to explore more ideas for generating non farm incomes, which is a part of integrated farm management for the community of women who are the target group of our project. **Cordelia Adamu, Project Manager BPW/TY DANJUMA Foundation: Study and Skills Center Pyakasa, Abuja, Business and Professional Women(BPW) Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria**

Bangladesh, a developing country with a rural economy and primarily dependent on agriculture, is facing a big challenge due to the increasing consequences of climate change. Campaigning for food security is a common concern for developmental organizations in recent years and my professional responsibilities provide me with opportunities to participate in different forums to campaign for food security and to combat climate change impacts. The content of the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment has enriched my knowledge and understanding of sustainable management in agriculture and its contribution to environmental protection. The information presented was very relevant to the course, updated with contemporary scenarios, logically organized in series, and referring to practical examples from different corners of the world. My colleagues in the Bangladesh Freedom Foundation and its partner NGOs will also benefit from my learning. The study handouts provided will be very useful for incorporating new ideas into the campaigns and advocacy projects, particularly for the coastal region of Bangladesh. Also, the civil society campaign and advocacy for urban agriculture will benefit from the information. I am really thankful and grateful to the Biopolitics International Organization for giving me this opportunity. I must try to take more courses offered by B.I.O. in coming semesters. **Sazzadur Rahman Chowdhury, Executive Director, Bangladesh Freedom Foundation (BFF), Dhaka, Bangladesh**

This module was very helpful to me for my future teaching, as the topics were consistent, very comprehensible, and very up to date. There were also a lot of good examples making the topics easy to understand and absorb. I consider the most valuable aspect of the course its objectives, key questions, and answers which motivated me to read and understand all the concepts of each topic. I also liked the summaries of the topics. **Marciel Elorde, Administrative Assistant VI/Part Time Lecturer, Palawan State University, Puerto Princesa City, Philippines**

The materials in this course enhanced my knowledge of the impact of agriculture on the environment and vice versa, food production, food security and the policies governing these. **Titilola Adisa, President – BPW Lagos Club, International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW), Lagos, Nigeria**

This course helped me greatly in understanding the intimate relationship between our need for greater quality and quantity of food and environmental issues. People will always need food. This course showed me which paths must be followed in order to show people the importance of keeping a balance between our needs and nature's needs. **Adriana Haragea, Viitor Plus Association, Bucharest, Romania**

The material goes beyond the basic aspects of environmentally friendly agriculture. Each topic is analysed in a comprehensible way and relevant information is presented in the right order. This is very helpful for organizing classroom teaching. I believe that each aspect has its own importance. However I find the topics that have to do

with rural development and the directions for the future more valuable for me, as I had less former knowledge about these topics. **Evdoxia Manoli, Agronomist, Environmentalist, Thessaloniki, Greece**

Most of us know very little about how the food we eat each day is produced or how it reaches our plates. Food is central to our lives, and it has the capacity to profoundly connect us with nature and the place where we live. In this course, we explored the premise that the sustainability of the food and agriculture system requires practices, policies and social arrangements that balance concerns of environmental soundness, economic viability and social justice among all sectors of society. I was very interested in the chapter on Food security and environmental sustainability – directions for the future. The e-learning method used was very convenient. The use of technology to overcome the distance between the instructor and the learner is a valuable educational platform for many who might not otherwise be unable to achieve their educational goals. **Andreas, Papavlasopoulos, Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid, Agriculturist, Ioannina, Greece**

The course is very interesting and has clear objectives. The course material is rich, and supported with examples and information. Even though the course material is extensive, it is presented in a simple way. Also, the material was always made available in a systematic way and always ahead of schedule. The course material was very important to me since I am taking courses in environmental subjects for my Ph.D. program. I would like to take more courses through your esteemed organization. **Mona Mohamed Hamdy Mostafa Sayed Ahmed, Institute of Environmental Studies and Research, Ain Shams University, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt**

As I mentioned in my application, I do not work in a typical school classroom. I am part of an educational team which designs and implements environmental projects, mainly outdoors. Though the seven projects we are currently involved in and “teach” do not relate to the subject of this course directly, they have been enriched greatly by material covered in this course. Information from every chapter, along with the references included, has been used in the composition of educational material, as well as in presentations and plenary sessions during meetings and conferences at the Environmental Education Centre. For example, two meetings will be held in the months to come, related to energy and alternative crops, in which knowledge gained for Biopolitics’ previous and current courses will be used. Finally, the entire book has been printed and is now included in our library as a reference book for all interested parties. These courses are of extreme value and contribute not only to informing people and updating knowledge but also as a vehicle for environmental awareness. It would be really interesting if the library for the institution that I work for could be enriched with B.I.O.’s publications. I wonder if there any such possibility, along with any further partnership. Thank you very much **Maria Gkountouma, Environmental Education Officer, Educational Team Member, Environmental Education Centre, Makrinita, Larisa Greece**

Because I am a chemist teaching in the environmental department, I need to enrich my knowledge of other environmental areas, so this is the most valuable purpose of the course for me. The study material was full of useful information for me which could be used in some of my lectures. Also, the ability to study at my own pace and

with no travelling for lectures was a big advantage of the e-learning course.
Marianna Molnarova, Researcher, Department of Environmental Ecology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University in Bratislava, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

“Food, Agriculture and the Environment” was the second e-learning course for me. You have once more managed to offer a complete cover of the topic by demonstrating up to date, sufficient information which was easy to follow both for professionals and students. Personally, I incorporated the information provided by this course/seminar – mostly desertification and degradation issues – into my final paper for my school (Agricultural University of Athens) in order to obtain my degree in the Soil Science Domain. Moreover, I plan to use my participation to this seminar by including it in my CV, knowing that Biopolitics International Organization is well known and respected amongst agriculturalists, universities and companies in Greece.
Maria Zisi, Graduate Student, Agricultural University of Athens (A.U.A.), Greece

The material in this seminar provided me with precious information on several aspects of the food production chain and its influences on the environment along with the new relevant technologies. The differences in agriculture approaches and unique examples from other parts of the world provide interesting topics for debate. They also contribute to the spread of information and the creation of groups that are sensitive to environmental improvement.
Alexandros Alatsatianos, Administrator, Technological Educational Institute of Pireaus, Greece

This course has proven to be very helpful and interesting and, combined with environmental management that I am currently studying, it managed to enrich my knowledge and also motivate me to explore the issues of food, safety and agricultural waste management more extensively. The topic plays an important role in sustainable development and the fact that it provided examples of the current situations and practices is also very beneficial in my opinion and I hope that with further research, it can become a valuable tool for my future work.
Amaryllis Andrioti, University of Athens, Greece

It has been a very informative and entertaining course, offering significant “food for thought.” The most interesting parts for me were the biofuel production topic and the genetic diversity of crops. Thank you very much.
Efstathios, Magerakis, Patras, Greece

The course has proven to be very helpful, addresses current issues in well organized chapters with a clear image and definition of concepts. I was pleased and honoured to have had access to it and I am considering including the “Food, agriculture and the environment” course’s main information and debatable aspects in the training sessions for youngsters, as part of the AIDA educational programs. The issues I consider most valuable are the ones concerning the global character of the subject and the ethical applications of it. Thank you for everything!
Cristina Sinziana Buliga, AIDA (Association for Alternative Sustainable Initiatives), Bucharest, Romania

I had the opportunity to understand the importance of environmentally sound agriculture. I work at an environmental agency and intend to use all the knowledge I gained in my own work. **Anna Serri, Athens, Greece**

This semester I am taking a course for an advertising company which deals with Greek agriculture and promoting Greek food products. This course helped me understand various things and improved my knowledge so that I can communicate better with the producers/farmers. **Georgia Antoniou, Athens, Greece**

I am currently not employed in the environmental sector, however, this course has been quite interesting for me. I am glad that the information was not presented in a very complicated manner and that it was easy to understand. **Melita Athinaïou, Attikis, Greece**

As usual, the Biopolitics course helped broaden my knowledge generally. But, more specifically, as a Librarian working in a research institution, "Food, Agriculture and the Environment" has equipped me for meeting visitors' informational needs better, especially those in the Agriculture Economics department. I remain always grateful to the Biopolitics e-learning Team. I consider the Biotechnology (chapter 5) aspect of the course most interesting but not more valuable than the others because the whole course is sound and valuable. Biotechnology was interesting to me because it was the first time I came across the term in agriculture and the subject matter was exciting to me. I never knew that crops can be bioengineered to produce higher yields. I also think that this process can be helpful for food security, especially if it is applied in developing countries. As a librarian, I can suggest to researchers areas such as sustainable food security measures which are especially important in developing countries where the problem of hunger is very serious. **Queeneth O Ekeocha, African Institute for Applied Economics, Enugu, Nigeria**

The course content was sufficient and intelligible overall, so I can not only answer questions regarding the main issues of the course, but also absorb and pass on the knowledge I got from it. **Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Supervision Section, Management Body of Mt Parnon and Moustos Wetland, Arkadia, Greece**

The course content was sufficient and intelligible overall, so I can not only answer questions regarding the main issues of the course, but also absorb and pass on the knowledge I got from it. **Argyrios Boglis, Protection and Management Division, Management Body of Mt Parnon and Moustos Wetland, Arkadia, Greece**

I really enjoyed the material; it was well presented and the quantity was appropriate for each week, not too long and not too short. I found the material very basic, and I would have liked to find out a bit more about specific policies or about how to turn a farm into an eco/bio farm or about organizations that help farmers to change the way they work or to adopt the ways of sustainable agriculture. But, I know the material was already extensive enough. Maybe it would have been better to make it more concise with more information. Sometimes, I felt that there was overlap in parts of the material. I think this is common with online courses; it is also a matter of how much time participants spend on it. It would have been better to have more participation in the virtual camp or the web site, although I know I did not participate in the offered features anyway. Maybe it would help to ask us to do part of the work in a forum

setting with discussion questions related to the material presented each week. Then, participants would have to read more and give opinions, arguments and explanations. The participants are from a lot of different countries and this would be a really good way to facilitate the exchange of opinions from different places and experiences. My suggestion is to involve participants more in the online work and with the teachers, of course. The examination was easy and did not require 8 or 9 weeks of study, which is a weakness in the course. It is important to feel that one is participating in an important course with a good evaluation system and a good working platform. At any rate, people learn things from the course and it is really interesting and well presented. Sometimes it is better to disseminate basic information than to create professionals in a subject. This course gave me the impetus to enhance my project to live on a farm and make it a Bio Farm. I was already concerned about environmental issues, but this course helped me to become more aware of them. I will use what I have learned in my classes. I really appreciate your help and the opportunity to take this course. I am really interested in this theme. I am looking forward to knowing more about the organization and about future courses or workshops. **Víctor Manuel Escolano López, Berlin, Germany**

Although the material is not related to my work, it helped me enrich my personal knowledge. **Stamatis Chatzistamatis, Kavala, Greece**

Although the material is not related to my work, it helped me enrich my personal knowledge and to improve my skills and competencies. **Konstantinos Chatzitheodorou, Kavala, Greece**

The material of the course was very helpful in many ways. It gave me lots of information about many aspects of agriculture and its advantages and disadvantages. I was interested in learning more about the danger of agriculture for the environment and my personal health as well as the alternative farming methods and agricultural waste management tactics that exist. I'm a postgraduate student in the department of chemistry in the program of Environmental Chemistry and Technology and I hope that the information I got from this course will help me in my field. The most interesting sections of the course were "Quality and safety in food and agricultural products," "Biotechnology – benefits and dangers" and "Agriculture and the environment." **Stylios Chiotis, Department of Chemistry, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**

Management and Environmental Management is a field I am interested in finding a job in. Hence, this course material has been helpful for developing my knowledge in the area. I appreciate that the material incorporates issues from several parts of the world, which is beneficial to me as I seek to work in environmental management for development projects in third world countries. **Despina Constantinou, the University of Edinburgh, Larnaka, Cyprus**

I participated in this course aiming to improve my knowledge in this specific area. The course is not directly linked to my field, since I work as an accountant. The most interesting topics for me were organic agriculture and biotechnology. I will try to implement the knowledge I gained to my everyday life by searching for organic foods. **Aliki Diamanidou, Thessaloniki, Greece**

It mostly helped me with supplementary material for my postgraduate studies in “Crisis Management” at the university. **Antonia Dimitropoulou, Attikon General University Hospital, Greece**

The subject of the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment is very interesting. It is always interesting and very important to enrich one’s knowledge in such an important subject, especially one that a chemical engineer is very likely to use in their career. **Panagiota-Maria Eleni, Researcher, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), Greece**

The most valuable aspect of the course was the quality and safety of food and agricultural products, as well as environmental sustainability, which I have been able to combine with a course on “Environmental Business Management” this semester. **Maria Emmanouilidou, External Assistant, Coordinator of Agrotourism Pathway Course / Member of Local Action Group for the implement of LEADER Initiative in Rural Thessaloniki, American Farm School of Thessaloniki / Development Agency of Thessaloniki S.A., Greece**

The material covered in the course helped me learn many things about biodiversity: how forests benefit agriculture, how organic farming helps the conservation of genetic diversity, how agricultural activities affect the quality of the environment, and the significance of urban agriculture in meeting world food requirements. The most valuable topic for me was “Quality and Safety in Food and Agricultural Products.” I will use this information to sensitise my community concerning agricultural activities. **Ebwa Ngossi Eude Josue, GEO, Help Out MARPOL/ MARSAP, Buea, Cameroon**

The course helped broaden my mind with ideas which ought not to be forgotten in our daily lives; ideas that help improve our lifestyles and the environment. With this knowledge I can pass on my concerns to people I meet every day that have no real knowledge of the subject. I can talk about more specific topics and examples that were shown in class to illustrate important issues. We simply need to convey the concern that we all have to do something better for our present and our future in terms of environmental conditions and to reverse the adverse changes we have caused. There are always solutions if we try to improve our world together. **Eleni Fytsili, Agronomist, Technologist, Greece**

This program is very interesting, and the level of the course is very high. My studies relate to environmental management and thus I can draw on several elements of this course for my field. Sustainable development is the future, and it is very good that there are courses covering sound environmental management. The most interesting issues are the causes of pollution due to agricultural activities and the proper management of agricultural waste. The management of waste is an area that interests me, and the course fully covered the issue of agricultural waste giving me the opportunity to prepare for my future work. **Fotis Fotiadis, University of Athens, Greece**

The general philosophy of food, agriculture, and the protection of the environment is very important. This society, economy, environment interrelation constitutes the most

important dimension of the course. Nikolaos Galanis, 3rd High School of Tripoli, Greece

The material covered in this course helps me understand the importance of protecting the environment because this is an important factor on which agriculture should be based. We must protect biodiversity and ecology. Achilleas Gasionas, Graphics Designer, Marketer, Athens, Greece

I have been teaching English to cooks and the chapter about GMOs has been of great interest and importance to them since GMOs are very relevant to cooking these days. Eleni Gavriilidou, English Language Teacher, Thessaloniki, Greece

The material covered in this educational program is very interesting. As I am studying about quality control of food, I found all this information very useful. Also, I learned a lot of things about environmental sustainability which I had not studied before and I am eager to learn more about. It will be very useful in my work. Eleni Georgantzi, University of Athens, Greece

The material covered in the course will help me in my work and it also answered my questions. It helped me to understand the significance of agriculture for the environment. Aspasia Giannopoulou, Forester, Ipati, Lamia, Greece

I enjoyed improving my knowledge and becoming informed about the environment. Because of my specialization, the chapter in which I was most interested was the one referring to the quality and safety of food and agricultural products. Trisevgeni Gotsi, Technological Education Institute of Kalamata, Department of Organic Greenhouse Crops and Floriculture, Vironas, Greece

The material covered in the course helped me learn about aspects of agriculture that I was not familiar with. One of the most valuable aspects of the subject was biotechnology and some of its applications. This specific aspect pushed me to search bibliographies and internet databases to find more information relating to it. Generally, the whole course had very beneficial aspects Vissarion Gousios, Agriculturist, Farsala, Greece

The subject matter covered in the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment offered me the chance to obtain a better understanding of the problems related to agriculture and land use, and to learn ways of dealing with issues regarding sustainable development. This knowledge is helpful to me, both on a personal and professional level. Elisavet Kalaitzidou, Greece

Even though my major has nothing to do with environmental studies I am a strong believer that everything we learn is for our benefit, especially when it has to do with the environment. When I worked for an environmental organisation I started becoming more interested in this field. It is hard for me to choose the most valuable aspect of the subject since I believe that all the material is equally valuable. Ionia-Io Kalogiannakou, Greece

Throughout the course, I learned more about the importance of food and agriculture in relation to a healthy environment, which is essential for human wellbeing.

Basically, the key is to increase agricultural productivity while ensuring environmental sustainability. The material of the course can be used in a classroom and mostly in environmental programs in order to inform students about these serious matters. **Katerina Kaltsa, Thessaloniki, Greece**

This seminar's material provided me with precious information on several aspects of the food production chain and its influence on the environment including the new technologies in use. The different agricultural approaches and unique examples from other parts of the world provide interesting topics for debate, but also contribute to the spread of information and the creation of groups that are sensitive to environmental improvement. **Maria Kaltsogianni, Mechanical Engineer, Coordinator of Liaison Office SEC, Technical Educational Institute of Piraeus, Greece**

This material helped me understand the deeper significance of the issues and I could probably adopt some details for my own teaching. I consider the most important issue to be the sustainable ways of agriculture. **Alexandra Kantilieraki, IME GSVEE, Argostoli, Greece**

I deal with writing and this is a matter of concern for the whole world, including Greece. I learned many things and thank you **Eftichia, Kapardeli, Writer, UNESCO, Patras, Greece**

This course was a valued addition to my current research interests. Having a food policy orientation, it actually helped me enhance my knowledge about sustainability issues and apply this to my future research. **Ariadni Veatriki Kapetanaki, Lecturer in Marketing, University of Hertfordshire, UK**

The course was really interesting. Because of my profession, the subject was familiar to me. However, through this course I managed to deepen my knowledge and I have a more complete picture of the relationship between agriculture and environment. During my work as a mechanical engineer, I also deal with environmental studies. I always try to make the best environmental choices that I can. However, after this course, it is absolutely certain that I will be stricter and more careful with the measures that I take. It is obvious that it is absolutely imperative for more serious measures to be taken for the protection of our planet. **Grigorios Karagiannis, Mechanical Engineer, Vathilakkos, Greece**

The material presented to us was quite interesting and, in my opinion, food is one of the most important problems today and is expected to be greater in the future. Agricultural activity affects the environment and is affected by it, so it is an important topic for study. The new information on this issue will be an important addition to my studies of the environment and how it relates to my primary interests. **Georgios Kazamias, Department of Chemistry, University of Athens, Greece**

The course and all the things that we learned helped me understand a lot of things about agriculture and the environment. I think that it is necessary to know about this subject. As a primary school teacher, I think that it is very useful to learn about food security and environmental sustainability. I think that I will use the new knowledge in

my lessons. **Evangelia Kekeris, Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, Athens, Greece**

The course helped me understand a lot of things about agriculture and the environment. I think that it is very important to know about agricultural waste management. Also it is necessary to know about farming. I think that I will use the new knowledge throughout my life. **George Kekeris, Journalist, Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage, Athens, Greece**

I found the material covered in this course very interesting. Since my postgraduate work has to do with quality control and food, all the information about food quality and safety proved to be very helpful for me. I also learned lots of things about issues such as environmental sustainability, biotechnology and agricultural waste management that, even though I am not going to incorporate into my work at present, may prove to be useful information for me in the future. **Aggeliki Kiriazopoulou, Postgraduate Student, University of Athens, Greece**

This course has made me feel more responsible towards the planet and the environment. It was a really interesting course and I really enjoyed it. I consider that the most valuable aspect was that this course teaches people that even in the middle of the financial crisis, they should never stop thinking about the environment. What I learned helped me in my studies and this knowledge will make me proceed with respect for the environment and nature. **Galini Kondyli, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace, Edessa, Greece**

The complete approach of agricultural waste management is very promising and makes one think from a different perspective! **Dimitrios Konidaris, MSc, MBA, Athens, Greece**

The material above helps me at school as I am teacher in primary education. In my opinion, the most valuable aspects were the topic of agriculture and how it can be made more organic. Children should learn about farming and agricultural management because nowadays fewer and fewer families adopt their own garden in order to produce their fruits and vegetables. So, why not promote the idea of small-scale farming to children for future plans? Also, learning about the safety of food offered by organic agriculture is a great opportunity that needs more attention. This topic can be incorporated into a school project for an academic year where pupils can find out about agriculture and how it affects our lives by creating a small garden in the school. **Angelika Kontoni, Member at Youthnet Hellas, Zakynthos, Greece**

As I work for a company that deals with the Kyoto Protocol and other ecological aspects, it is really important for me to widen my knowledge in this sphere. Thanks to your course on food, agriculture and the environment, I have had the opportunity to make myself more knowledgeable and to obtain the newest information about environmental issues. I find all the topics very relevant and important for me and my work. I really appreciate the opportunity you gave me to obtain this knowledge. Thank you for doing great things! **Dmitriy Kosolukin, JI consultant, LLC "Global Carbon Ukraine", Makeyevka, Ukraine**

As I work for a company that deals with the Kyoto Protocol and other ecological aspects it is really important for me to broaden my knowledge in this area. Thanks to your course, I have had the opportunity to make myself more knowledgeable and access the newest information about the environment. I find all mentioned themes very up to date and important for me and my work. I really appreciate the opportunity you gave to obtain this knowledge. Thank you for doing great things! **Yevgeniy Altukhov, Head of GC Representation, LLC Global Carbon Ukraine, Makeyevka, Ukraine**

*As I work for the company that deals with the Kyoto Protocol and other ecological aspects it is really important for me to broaden my knowledge in this sphere. Owing to your course **FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** I have had this opportunity to make myself more knowledgeable, gaining the newest information about the environment. I find all the themes we covered very important to me and my work. I really appreciate the opportunity you gave me to obtain this knowledge. Thank you for doing great things!* **Kateryna Nesterchuk, Translator, LLC "Global Carbon Ukraine", Makeyevka, Ukraine**

The educational program is very good. The lessons proved to be very interesting and helpful, as I am studying sustainable development along with environmental phenomena where the human factor plays a crucial role. Thus, I had many questions about food quality and safety, agricultural waste management and environmental sustainability that were answered after attending this course. It was a subject that I had not been involved in before but that I would like to learn more about. **Konstantinos Koukoulakis, University of Athens, Greece**

The literature provided in this course was very interesting. I am a Master's student of Industrial Ecology and my main interest is issues of food scarcity, including inequality of food distribution around the globe, how eating patterns contribute to this distribution, what the corresponding environmental impact is, as well as the waste generated due to agricultural processes. The course provides knowledge about how a holistic system works, how different processes are integrated into the agricultural sector, and how human interventions contribute to environmental deterioration. It was an interesting topic for me, although, due to my studies, I was quite familiar with many concepts and facts. Still I gained a better understanding of several issues. **Eleni Koukouna, MCs Industrial Ecology, Morsweg, TU Delft and Leiden University, Netherlands**

My attendance in the seminar was an interesting experience. I acquired important knowledge and was informed about various things that I had ignored up until now. Because of my specialization, the two chapters that interested me the most were those referring to biotechnology and the quality and safety of food and agricultural products which added a lot to my experience. **Dimitra Koumendakou, Department of Agricultural Product Technology, Technological Education Institute of Kalamata, Ag. Dimitrios, Greece**

I believe that all dimensions mentioned and discussed in the seminar are equally important. Each new section gives information and examples that, if applied to our daily life, there would be great improvement in all areas. **Vagia Mitraga, Electrical Engineer, Kozani, Greece**

The environment depends on us. We have to respect every creature and plant on our planet for present and future generations. Biopolitics is a way to aim for this. **Koutsogianneli Mersini, Nikaia, Greece**

The material covered in the course helped me understand the importance of the environment and the importance of protecting it; it is a most important factor on which agriculture should be based. We have to think green and protect the environment. **Dimitra Kypriou, Athens, Greece**

It helped me a lot, by helping me to gain additional knowledge about my job. **Maria Lechou, Forestry and natural environment management, Thessalonikis, Greece**

This course presents a comprehensive overview of agriculture and the consequences of unsustainable agriculture on the environment and people's lives. It also presents the benefits of sustainable development of urban agriculture and the importance of agroforestry in rural development. Since Aspropyrgos, where I live and work, is a former rural town and today is an industrial one, this course showed me the advantages of the coexistence of these different activities. **Margarita Liakou, Head of the Department of Civil Protection, Directorate of Environment and Civil Protection, Municipality of Aspropyrgos, Greece**

Most of the material covered in this course can be translated and incorporated into the lessons in my classroom. **Zisimos Likoudis, Technological Educational Institute of Athens, Greece**

The material of the course helped me revise and update my knowledge of certain aspects of environmental issues and increase my awareness regarding them, enabling me be a more “environmentally responsible” citizen in every area of my life (private and professional, that is). **Aspasia, Loukeri, Patras, Greece**

The material of the course is very interesting and I think that the most valuable aspect is the fact that it deals with current matters. The courses enriched my knowledge of environmental issues. **Ismini Malesi, Panteion University of Athens, Greece**

The material covered in the course modules is very valuable to my everyday work due to the fact that I deal with European investment programmes, like Interreg, mostly considering environmental proposals that combine the scientific field with economic factors as well as social aspects. The material has already been very helpful with projects at my university and also with the Municipality Board for proposals for sustainable development in our community. **Konstantina Malliarou, Alpha Plan Consultants, Civil Protection, Investment Programmes Consultant – Forestry and Environmental Management, Forest and Mountain Rescues, Thessaloniki, Greece**

I enjoyed improving my knowledge and becoming informed about environmental correctness. Because of my specialization, the chapter that I was most interested in was the one concerning the quality and safety of food and agricultural products. **Christos Martinos, Brunel University, Alimos, Greece**

The material was complete and comprehensive, providing substantial knowledge about food safety and agriculture. The most valuable aspect of the course was that information was provided with solutions and suggestions which were useful for everyone regardless of their profession or position. **Androniki Mikrelli, Municipality of Lemnos, Greece**

The course was particularly important as it has enriched my knowledge about issues that interest and concern me. The information provided in the examples helped me to better understand the problems facing our planet and how important our contribution is to its salvation. **Anastasia Mitraga, Civil Engineer, Kozani, Greece**

The present course, written in a simple way and amplified by numerous examples, was useful for refreshing my knowledge about food, agriculture, and the environment. The most valuable aspects of the course were the urban agriculture topic and the benefits arising from agriculture in forests. I am convinced that the present course would be helpful for broadening my research field. **Cleopatra Moraiti, Agronomist, Nicosia, Cyprus**

The material covered in the course helps me a lot in my work. **Dimitra Bekri, Lawyer, University of Thrace, Greece**

The material covered in the course helps me a lot in my work. **Efrosyni Bekri, Civil Engineer, Technological Educational Institute of Piraeus, Greece**

The material covered in the course helps me a lot in my work **Panagiotis Bekris, Electronics Engineer, Manpower Employment Organisation, Amaliada, Greece**

I am going to use the material covered in this course at school. Concerning the most valuable aspects, I would concentrate on the impact of agricultural activities on the quality of the environment, and emphasise the importance of extensive pollution damage as well as the analysis of effective pollution prevention systems. **Theodora Mylona, Deputy Director, 1st High School of Ellassona, Greece**

PERFECT. I use it in my work. Thank you for helping me. **Nikolaos Nikoudis, Chemist, Chemistry Teacher, 2nd High School Orestiada Evrou, Greece**

The subject of the course is very interesting and informative. The information and knowledge that I gained will be very useful to me in my job as well. **Vasileia Ntourouka, Agriculturist, Payment and Control Agency for Guidance and Guarantee Community Aid, Ptolemaida, Greece**

Food agriculture is an area that should be given special attention. It requires everyone's awareness as well as the sensitization of local authorities. Food agriculture is an interesting field of science for a chemical engineer and I think that the current course supplied me with important knowledge, which I could use in my professional career. **Vasiliki Oikonomopoulou, National Technical University of Athens, Greece**

Every aspect of this course is very important and useful to me. The course material from module 1 to 9 will be of great use for achieving my proposed large scale urban

farm and for its implementation. As a senior technical officer in Abuja Geographic Information systems, getting agricultural farmland allocated from the government is not a big issue but basic knowledge of implementation has been a major setback. Many thanks to the organisers of this course and am look forward to taking part in future training in the field of agriculture. Thank you so much. **Shola Ezekiel Owokoniran, Senior Technical Officer (STO), Abju Geographic Information Systems (AGIS), Abju, Nigeria**

The material covered in the course module helps me a lot in my work as a mechanical engineer! **Panagiotis Sotiropoulos, Mechanical Engineer, Technological Educational Institute of Patras, Greece**

This course on food, agriculture and the environment helped me understand the basic concepts surrounding the issue. I understand these problems and needs and as a person and a chemical engineer, I will try to implement measures to address this problem while alerting others to do the same. Thank you for providing this knowledge. **Marina Papadaki, Chemical Engineer, Crete, Greece**

I learned a lot from this course and I found it very interesting, especially the chapter on organic agriculture. My father is a farmer and I hope that someday I will continue his work. All the knowledge that I gained is precious and I hope to someday have the possibility to teach this material to my future students. **Myrsini Papadiamantopoulou-Magdalidou, Patras, Greece**

I think that the course was very interesting and I will use my new knowledge in my work, especially in projects for the environment. **Elli Papadopoulou, 1st Primary School, Veria, Greece**

The lesson notes were simple and very helpful to me because they helped me fully understand the new concepts. I acquired a lot of knowledge by attending this environmental programme. I will use it in my classes! **Chrysoula Papageorgiou-Magdalidou, Patras, Greece**

The course content was sufficient and intelligible overall, so personally speaking, I am not only able to answer questions regarding the main issues of the course, but also to absorb and pass on the knowledge I got from it. **Nikoleta Papalou, Arkadia, Greece**

The material in this course is very well organized and points to the main issues of the topic. I am glad that the given information was not written in a complicated way and was easy to understand. The references at the end of each chapter were really helpful for further reading. **Panagiotis Simitzis, Agricultural Researcher, University of Athens, Greece**

I am an agriculturist and the material is helpful in my work for reaching a higher level of education and research. In my opinion all the aspects of the course are valuable and fruitful. I gained a lot of useful information which I will teach to my students in the laboratory and this will allow them to gain more knowledge and experience. **Alexandra Solomou, University of Thessaly, Agriculturist, Volos, Greece**

The module on food, agriculture and the environment was very important. It helped me understand more about the protection of the environment and its relationship with agriculture. **Michalis Stefanakis, Crete, Greece**

I found the course really interesting. The subject made me re-think the importance of agriculture and how we can all benefit from it. **Christina Theodoratou, Surveyor, Methodos S.A., Greece**

The material covers many well connected topics. It provides plenty of information and includes recent documents. I hope that this effort continues. **Olga Theodoropoulou, Forester, Technological Educational Institute of Lamia, Forestry Department, Karpenisi Sub-Department, Greece**

The most valuable aspect of this course was the information about biotechnology systems. I believe that it helped me develop better knowledge of agriculture and the environment. I hope that I will be able to pass this knowledge to the students of an environmental project that I run in my school. **Thomai Pelka, Teacher, Ministry of Education, Kalymnos, Greece**

This course gave me knowledge about environmentally sound agriculture and food production, and showed me the importance of conserving the biodiversity of plants and animals, increasing my awareness of the issue of sustainable living. **Eva Tsanai, Graduate of Forestry and Environmental Management, Athens, Greece**

The material covered in the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment gave me the chance to understand the problems related to agriculture and land use, and to learn ways of dealing with issues regarding sustainable development. This knowledge is helpful to me, both on a personal and a professional level. **Eleni Tsechelidou, Civil Engineer, Kalamaria, Greece**

My occupation, as well my upbringing, is focused on agriculture. Hence, my interests are centred on all the problems that farmers, farmer's associations, consumers, states etc, encounter due to the irrational economic behaviour of all the key players. This course has offered me the chance to link basic environmental principles with agricultural realities. This field is very close to my scientific interests and I wish to deal with it more analytically. This will not only benefit my professional career but it will also give me many answers (or even better, create more interesting questions) about issues that concern me. **Ilias Tsergoulas, Department of Investments in SME's Regarding Processing Agricultural Products, Division of Programming, Greek Ministry of Agriculture, Athens, Greece**

The knowledge that I have obtained will help me enforce the environmental features of my institution and provide my co-workers with useful information. **Ioanna Tsiakalaki, RN Nurse, Attikon University Hospital, Greece**

It was an interesting seminar, as past B.I.O. seminars have been. The topics are useful in my work in that they make you aware of many issues (environment, policy, relations). I wish B.I.O. would organise more similar e-courses and give us the opportunity to attend them. Many thanks. **Basiliki Tsiokou, Plant Production**

Damage Assessor, Agricultural Insurance Organization (ELGA), Hellenic Regional Office of Thessaloniki, Greece

The subject matter covered in the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment gave me the chance to better understand the problems related to agriculture and land use and to learn ways of dealing with issues regarding sustainable development. This knowledge is helpful to me, both on a personal and a professional level.
Konstantinos Tsionos, Albe GmbH, Civil Engineer, Architect, Bonn, Germany

I am a political scientist and I gained important knowledge on specific issues that could help me create effective policy proposals that will deal with crucial environmental and other issues.
Stylianos Ioannis Tzagkarakis, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Crete, Greece

Food security is a pivotal matter in the field of Rural Sociology, in which I work. I consider the topic of alternative organisations of food production at the local level to be the most valuable aspects of the course. I will include the knowledge I have gained through this course in my Ph.D. thesis.
Eirini Ioanna Vlachopoulou, Ph.D. Candidate, University of the Aegean, Irakleio, Greece

I enjoyed improving my knowledge and getting the right information about the environment. Because of my specialization the chapter that I was most interested in was the one referring to quality and safety in food and agricultural products.
Eleni Vlachou, Technology of Agriculture Products, Technological Education Institute of Kalamata, Greece

I understood the importance of financing sustainable environmental projects through Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.
Dimitra- Viktoria Votsari, Greece

I understood the importance of financing sustainable environmental projects through Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund.
Eleftheria Votsari, Greece

Overall the materials covered in this course are not only important but also part of our lives. There is no doubt that every curriculum must emphasize teaching this material to children. As a teacher myself, I acquired a lot of knowledge by attending this environmental programme. Moreover, the notes of the lessons were simple and helpful, because they helped me fully understand the new information.
Sotiria Vrana, Special Education Teacher, Athens, Greece

Working as an English teacher in a public school, I coordinate a group of students who participate in an environmental programme. This course improved my knowledge about food, agriculture and the environment. In the classroom we emphasize the impact of agricultural activities, the quality of the environment, and the link between agricultural development and population growth, which is of vital importance. Furthermore, we talk about the issues of agricultural pollution and waste management. Apart from that, using the material given in this course, we discussed the importance of biotechnology and GM crops and their drawbacks. Students were particularly interested in food ethics and organic products and curious to learn about agroforestry and the World Heritage Initiative. Participating in this course was of

*great significance to my teaching. **Marianthi Xanthou, Ministry of Education, English Language Teacher, Thassos, Greece***

*I learned a lot of things. I believe that governments and all people have to take measures in order to avoid the decline of food production. Each and every person around the world has the right to live without poverty. **Maria Chatzakou, Thessaloniki, Greece***

*Since the lectures were written in a simple and comprehensible way, accompanied by numerous examples, the format of the course helped me understand concepts relating to agriculture in an enjoyable way. The course contained the basic principles for understanding the methods of agriculture and how sustainable agriculture is related to the protection of the environment. Particularly important was the profile given to the impact of agriculture on our life and how we can solve the major problem of worldwide hunger. On a personal level, and given the relevance of my studies, the course helped me a lot to remember and to elaborate more on this subject and to enrich my knowledge with new information. **Nicolaos, Xypteras, Environmentalist, Nicosia, Cyprus***

*The subject matter covered in the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment offered me the chance to obtain a better understanding of the problems related to agriculture and land use and learn ways of dealing with issues regarding sustainable development. This knowledge is helpful to me, both on a personal and professional level. **Eugenia Zoura, Forester, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece***

*The material was very detailed and gave me very important knowledge about food and agriculture. As far as I am concerned the most valuable aspect of the course is how agricultural activities affect the environment. For sure, the information and the knowledge I get from these lessons will be very useful for my future research. **Panagiotis Kotsovilis, Postgraduate Student, National University of Athens, Greece***

*It helped me get in touch with the subject of my postgraduate studies so as not to forget basic terms and topics concerning environmental science. **Dorothea Maragkopoulou, Postgraduate, University of Glasgow, Athens, Greece***

*I am very interested in being educated about the nexus of agriculture, food and environmental science and policy to empower and provide rigorous training for ethical and social change and an intellectual community generating visions and models of alternative systems. The use of e-learning was very convenient for me since I work during the mornings and do not have time to attend a seminar in a class. The most interesting topic was Biotechnology – benefits and dangers. **Eirini – Chrysovalantou Papavlasopoulou, Agriculturist, Animal Scientist, Scientific Manager, Cattle Farmers Cooperative of Arta–Preveza, Greece***

*This project was very essential and relevant to my agricultural studies. As an agricultural student, I found it really helpful when dealing with all the important issues of today's agriculture, farming world and industry. **Aggeliki Paraskeva, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece***

All the information was very enlightening for me. It made me consider things that never crossed my mind before. It helped me, as a consumer, to choose foods that come from rural and non conventional farming and harvesting activities in order to have better health for me and at the same time encourage all these farmers to keep up with their decisions to turn to practices that are friendlier for the environment. From my point of view, if all these bio policies could be implemented, then we would be living in a better world where the environment would be pure and perfectly clean and no one would be hungry because the earth would be capable of producing all the food needed. **Eirini Paraskevopoulou, Greece**

I have enjoyed the course material very much as it presented a useful overview of the key topics from the interlinked fields of sustainable land use, agriculture, natural resource management, food production, food safety and quality, etc. The topics were well-presented and provided a clear understanding of current policies, and I believe they also aimed to point out the necessity for more serious consideration of the potential policy options for securing our sustainable future. The course was very useful for me in complementing my studies in Development Policy. I enjoyed the readings, mostly on food security and sustainable resource management, along with the chapters on food safety, quality, biotechnology and sustainable agriculture, as they belong to my primary research interests within this field. Thank you very much for this opportunity! **Erika Pathó, DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium**

The course helped me a lot and provided a lot of information about a topic that I have not dealt with before, since my university does not offer anything similar. The bibliography was very useful to me and I have already used it to search for more information about soil erosion in relation to climate change. Water pollution also is a very important topic which I would like to research. **Sofia Patsiou, National Technological University of Athens, Greece**

It is always pleasant and interesting to be informed with accuracy and clarity about a topic that in reality, directly or not, concerns us all. Although it is very important, unfortunately we do not hear many things about this in everyday life. Of all the very useful material provided, I personally distinguish the chapter about EU policy as especially intriguing, which can be used in combination with legal data in the recommendations of the EU. **Charalampos Petsas, Athens, Greece**

The material of the specific course was very helpful in the learning process and preparation. It offered up-to-date information concerning agriculture, the problems that occur with the lack of food in developing countries, and the subject of food management globally in order to cover people's needs and reduce hunger and poverty. **Eleni Petsava, Highschool Teacher, Ymittos, Greece**

The module was very useful and interesting for my own personal development. It helped me understand and clarify concepts regarding environmental protection and management. **Athanasios Polydoros, Associate Head, New Proton Bank, Athens, Greece**

The material covered in the course module is very interesting. Food and agriculture is vital in order to cover the nutritional needs. In general, this course gave me the

opportunity to think about how I could use new techniques in agriculture, so that nutritional needs would be better met with respect to humans and the environment.
Maria Roboka, Mining and Metallurgical Engineer, Volos, Greece

Most of the examples provided in the topics addressed in the course module were really interesting and very useful for the courses I teach at school (Environmental Projects, Natural Sources Management, and Principles of Environmental Studies etc.). In my opinion, the most valuable part of the course was the examples of how forests benefit agriculture along with the examples of how agriculture prevents rural environmental degradation (Niger and Malawi). **Dimitris Rorris, Teacher, Ministry of Education, Athens, Greece**

I found the material really basic, I would like to find out a bit more about specific policies or about how to turn a farm into an eco-bio farm or about organizations that help farmers change the way they work, to improve, towards the way of sustainable agriculture. I really enjoyed the material, it is well presented and the quantity of material was good for every week, not too long and not too short. So it is very useful and I will use the information in my classes. I really appreciate your help and the opportunity to do this course. **Yolanda Ruiz Noria, Malaga, Spain**

I am a lecturer at KIST, and have to teach a module called “Soil Chemistry.” I am very interested in this e-learning module for many reasons. Chapter 2 titled, Land use, Soil quality and Water in Agriculture is very interesting because of some topics developed like soil quality, soil erosion and soil fertility which will improve my educational background and my teaching. I was also interested in the theme related to biotechnology and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), because these are new topics for me. I would have liked more information about these concepts. We have started a new semester and I will include what I have learned about Soil Chemistry in my classes. **Adrien Rutikanga, Assistant Lecturer, Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), Kigali, Rwanda**

I am a tourism referent, I do not work with tourists only though, I also prepare to excursions and some leisure activities for primary and secondary schools with nature/environmental topics. In the future, I would like to start something like a permaculture farm that will become gradually more or less self-sufficient with supporting income from tourism activity. A farm or a permacultural system of farming and forestry would be a place of interest in itself. Even if I do not succeed, I will try to show the younger generations the concept of a sustainable world and encourage them not to give up on it and hopefully when they grow up and gain the appropriate education they can follow the idea. I appreciated the course as a whole – the connection between lots of points of view and the complexity of the course. Thank you a lot! **Hana Sejáková, Tourism Referent, Touristic information centre Devínska Nová Ves (Bratislava), Stupava, Slovakia**

Broadening one’s knowledge is always needed, so this course was very useful.
Theodora Tsiarnilioti, Technological Institute of Larissa, Ellassona, Greece

The course content is directly related to the subject of my work as an educator and researcher biologist. The environment is a contemporary issue but is also of concern for my research in the field of biological treatment of wastes. All the dimensions that

were given are important and will become widely valuable. A special interest for me were the biotechnology topics, as well as the protection of water supplies and soil. The issues that were raised are of global concern. **Olga Tsolcha, Educator, Agrinio, Greece**

The material of the course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment has been extremely useful for me, since I teach the course Ecology and Sustainable Development at the International Academy of Business (Almaty, Kazakhstan). The management of natural resources such as water, land management and the protection of the environment from agricultural pollution is one of the major themes of the course. The topics, such as water management and the statistical data on water footprintw, new advanced water-saving technologies such as drip water irrigation and scheduled irrigation, methods used to protect the land from erosion and degradation, applying crop rotation and alley farming, and agricultural waste management have been interesting and valuable for me to use in my classroom teaching. Besides, the EU Rural Development policies have been quite unknown to me and could serve as a good example for good agricultural practices for our students. As far as my research is concerned, I am interested in the valuation of ecosystem services provided by the steppe region of Kazakhstan, which has been widely used for extensive agriculture and animal husbandry. A complete system approach could be the right way to solve environmental problems in our country. The impact of climate change on ecosystem services and adaptation to these changes is another area of interest. **Sholpan Davletova, International Academy of Business, Almaty, Kazakhstan**

This course, like others was very useful and helped me very much in my everyday work. The most valuable topics in this course were the link between agriculture, biodiversity and protected areas. Even my daily work deals with biodiversity and protected areas and I hope in the future to try to incorporate this experience to develop this field in my country. **Qenan Maxhuni, Biodiversity Officer, Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, Kosovo Institute for Nature Protection, Kosovo**

This course helped me understand the way agriculture and food production actually work. Thanks to this course I was able to understand more about biotechnology and food cultivation processes. The aspect that I consider most important is biotechnology and the importance of sustainable agriculture. **Panagiotis Dakoutros, Student, University of Macedonia, Greece**

As I have previously completed this course in the Greek language, the main attraction for me has been the use of the respective terminology in English. Hopefully, I will be able to make use of the development of my English writing skills in my future publications. **Elizabeth Kolovou, Ph.D. student, University of the Aegean, Greece**

The material covered in the course is very helpful to my work. **Dimitrios Bekris, Mechanical Engineer, Tecnological Educational Institute of Patras, Greece**

The material covered in the course module was very interesting, notable, beneficial and up to date. It fulfilled my expectations and provided me with useful information, sources and knowledge which I will combine with topic of forestry, my main domain,

and examine issues such as climate change and the greenhouse effect in a more holistic and objective way. Many of these materials, I believe, will be helpful and useful for my future teaching, broadening my horizons and combining the causes of environmental problems or phenomena with managerial strategies and methods. I strongly believe that all information and sources of knowledge are useful and important, especially when you try to approach the truth objectively and without prejudice. For this reason I do not want to winnow or undervalue any aspect of the course because everything is significant and valuable in my work as a teacher on environmental issues. **Konstantinos Zografos, Teacher, Ministry of Education, Florina, Greece**

BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION

International University for the Bio-Environment

e-Learning Programme

Food, Agriculture and the Environment – Spring Quarter 2011

Comments and Feedback from Students

*This course was worth attending because it is very helpful. The lecture material is detailed and explained very clearly. I learned a lot of interesting and new facts about agriculture, agricultural management and policy, food security and quality, biotechnology and environmental pollution. The course has helped me to become more familiar with this important topic. After this training course, I have had new ideas on how to enrich and improve my seminar work with students. I am going to recommend the training course to other colleagues from my country. **Professor Anna Dimitrova, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Industrial Technology, Department of Materials Science and Technology, Technical University of Sofia, Bulgaria***

*The material covered in this module has been of immense value to me, to say the very least. Though I may not be using it so directly in my day-to-day teaching, I am finding myself constantly making use of this knowledge to interact much better with the environment. In matters involving environmental pollution, soil erosion, waste disposal and how to best manage the environment, this module has been invaluable. **Delaide Mungai, Lecturer, Kagumo Teacher's College, Kenya***

*The material presented was really helpful, as Food, Agriculture and the Environment are very crucial issues in developing countries, as well as developed ones. I was studying how the conservation of forests has affected possibilities of extensive cultivation, and how rural people are prevented from managing their local resources. Agriculture for Rural development is major topic of interest to me, without ignoring the issues of food security and degradation. I will be able to use this knowledge in my research. **Rabin Raj Niraula, Student, Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur Municipality, Nepal***

Thanks for providing this opportunity to learn online. The materials covered are useful. I have a better understanding of the concept of sustainability as it applies to agriculture. In order to fully understand the concept of sustainability we need to understand all aspects of it: environmental, economic and social sustainability. Sustainable agriculture cannot be considered only as a form of agriculture to be recommended to farmers and encouraged with all the possible incentives. Sustainable agriculture is something more: a keystone for a sustainable society. It also puts people at the center of the farming system to increase resilience, income, and food security. I want to commend your organization for its good work on advancing the vital role of agriculture for rural development. Food Security is an important strategic objective. The materials clearly set out the challenge which is essential for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. This is certainly true for Millennium Development Goal 1: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. It would be a good suggestion that the materials could also focus on one of the most vital concerns for food security in

our world: the equality and integration of men and women throughout the agriculture sector. Studies show that when women are provided with equal resources, they can produce yields equal to those of men, if not more. But because there is a gender gap in access to resources like seeds, fertilizer, technology, and so much more, bringing women up to the same level of resources as men provides an important opportunity to improve overall productivity. Research also indicates that women are more likely than men to use their incomes to improve the well being of their families and communities. This is especially the case for children, as greater investments in education, health and nutrition for them will have long-lasting value. Many thanks. **Kwang Boon Lee, Vice President, UNA of Singapore**

I really enjoyed taking this course. It covered many important aspects, raising my awareness on a wide range of different matters and giving me new ideas for prospective careers that I may try to pursue after my PhD. I am especially interested in conservation and how we are going to deal with the challenges of accommodating an ever growing population. I think most chapters contained important information regarding this wide subject and so I was interested in them all. **Andreia Feijao, Student, EMBL – European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Portugal**

I find this material highly informative, and essential. I have learned a great many things from the course, which helped me broaden my outlook, understand the importance of the topic, and, consequently, it will be of use to me in the future. I am sure to integrate the obtained knowledge into my studies and work. This year I expect to take part in the state student Olympiad in environmental science. Thanks to this course, I will be able to represent my institute with honour at the contest and, hopefully, take the lead. I consider the issues of quality and safety in agriculture and food production to be the most valuable aspect of the course. There is no other opportunity like this when I can find and learn so much information that has always interested me. As a future diplomat, I believe I will be able to incorporate the knowledge and experience gained into my own work. **Maral Rahimova, Student, the Institute of International Relations, Turkmenistan**

I write articles on the environment, water and, now climate change has taken centre stage. The course on Food, Agriculture and the Environment has broadened my knowledge of their interrelationship and, more importantly, on the issues of agricultural sustainability/forest resources conservation that are addressed by the UN-REDD+ programme. Also, I now know more about biotechnology and food security. This knowledge will enrich my reports. **Bennett Oghifo, Correspondent, THISDAY Newspaper, Lagos, Nigeria**

The material covered in the course is very very nice, crisp, informative and well designed. The chapters on organic agriculture and farming, and rural farming were well designed and valuable. This course will surely help me in my research work on climate vulnerabilities and coastal farmers. Thanks! **Parth Sarathi Mahapatra, Project Associate, Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR), India**

First, I wish to thank you for giving me a chance to be part of this course. This is my second course and the modules helped me very much to understand the link between food, agriculture and environment. I appreciate the work done by the team of this course in choosing the topics and I will try to incorporate the lessons learned in my future work, considering that we, as a new state, are in a good position to start with those

things. I hope that in the future this course will be taken by more people who can be the driving force for the next generations. I wish you success in the future. **Qenan Maxhuni, Biodiversity Officer, Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency**

The material covered in the course helped me to understand and learn more about the environment and its connection with all levels of beings. For me it was important because my job is not related to the environment or its protection, but the course opened for me the world of nature and showed me how fragile it is. This course helped me to be a comprehensively developed person in the environmental field of study. The most valuable topic for me was nature protection. During my study, I had the idea for the climbing club "Agama" to hold some training sessions connecting alpinism to the protection of the environment and nature and to the steps which should be taken in this field. For example, alpinists can plant trees in the mountains in order to improve ecosystems and biodiversity. **Olga Glushenkova, Program Officer, ICNL, Turkmenistan**

The material covered in this course is useful to me, because I like to gather new information and to share it with my family and my friends. Maybe it will help me to better analyse the ecological situation in Russia and to think more about local problems in my city. The most interesting aspects for me were the information on biotechnology, food safety and agricultural waste management methods. I was happy to read references and a great number of examples, which were in each theme. Thank you! **Ekaterina Petrunova, St. Petersburg State Polytechnic University, Russia**

The materials and information provided in the course modules are very understandable, interesting and useful. They helped and facilitated my knowledge in environmental problems and challenges, and the understanding of their meaning. I used these materials to involve volunteers in environmental issues by teaching and assisting them. **Zhanyl Mamunkulova, Program Assistant, Public Fund DCCA, Kyrgyz Republic**

The course material has been designed in a very lucid manner so it is easy to grasp. The interrelationship between agriculture, environment and food security has been provided in a detailed manner, which helped me to understand the concept. This has been the best part of the course. I got a very clear view of this interrelationship and also its development all over the world. The examples made it a more interesting read, helping me to understand the reality of the situation. Overall, a very good read which helped to enhance my knowledge which I can apply to my present research work. **Sonali Pradhan, Senior Research Fellow, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, India**

I have found the course very interesting and educative and I am very happy that I have had a chance to be a participant of this course. I would like to use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to B.I.O. I learned a lot of new and interesting things about environmental protection, agriculture and food safety. I hope to incorporate this knowledge in my future work. Thank you very much. **Marina Ordulu, Turkey**

The course material was concise and helped me to cover and understand many topics. The course content is multidisciplinary and cuts across themes and gives a holistic picture of the prevailing agriculture and development scenario. I work in the sector of bioenergy and biofuels, and food security is my current area of research. The material helped me to crystallize the concepts and put my thoughts into words. I have immensely

gained from the course in getting a macro picture. The lessons learnt from the course will be put into use in my research, and I am now confident more than ever to handle agricultural issues. **Santosh Kumar Patnaik, Scientist, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, India**

I found a lot of the information in the course interesting and useful. I have learnt a lot of new things that can help me with my training process in the protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources which is useful to my further work. As my area of study and future work are directly connected with environmental protection, I am intrigued by all areas studied in this course. The most interesting for me is the strategy for increasing biological variety by means of the introduction of organic agriculture. **Olga Koval, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

The material covered is a ready-to-use, handy guide for dispensing information. Particularly the summary and the question/answer section in each topic helped in clearing doubts and in easily understanding the material. I am involved in raising environmental awareness, and the topics covering natural farming, bio-fuel implications and genetic engineering aspects have been most useful, as these are burning topics here in India and people wish to know more about them. A clearer understanding of these concepts has enabled me to generate healthy debates among my peers and colleagues which brought up many interesting ideas. I also learnt many new aspects which I was not previously aware of. The EU's Common Agricultural Policy also interested me a great deal, as it could serve as a benchmark for other countries. **Puskar Pande, Environmental Officer, XIDAS, India**

The material covered in the modules help me to better understand the current scenario of agriculture and food security across the globe. The course provided insight into various developments, issues, concerns, corrective actions, policies, and their framework, thus widening my sphere of knowledge. Being in Clean Development Mechanism consultancy, the knowledge gained here will surely help me in developing a better outlook and understanding of projects related to this sector. The material provided in the course module is very informative, as it not only gives the current global scenario of particular topics, but also illustrates the topics with examples making them easy to understand and supports them with authentic data. The details which are covered in the course are explained in a manner which makes them equally important as other major points. Undertaking this learning program was really a great experience **Saumya Pandey, Management Trainee, IL&FS Environmental Infrastructure and Services Limited, New Delhi, India**

The material in this course is very useful from the ethical point of view. It includes many interesting aspects connected with many disciplines which I now study for my specialized training. The most valuable aspect for me was the financial policy of the agrarian sector. The given material is presented from the economic and from the ecological point of view, making it useful in applications not only concerning agriculture, but also other areas. By possessing basic knowledge in this area it is possible to structure, competently, work in the areas interconnected with it. **Gennady Potanin, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

This course is very useful for me and my work performance. In my work I implemented some materials, for example: Biotechnology – benefits and dangers, land use, soil quality and water in agriculture, Agricultural waste management and Food security, Rural development and environmental sustainability – directions for the future. These materials I used in carrying out some lessons for school children, workshops for teachers, and meetings of an informal network of environmental organizations in Kyrgyzstan on climate change in Kyrgyzstan. And I am sure that I could also use the other topics in my future activities. Personally, I really liked the material on agricultural lands and urban agriculture and on agriculture and the environment.
Elena Shilonosova, Head of Ecology Department, Republican Children's and Young Centre of Ecology, Local History and Tourism, Department of Education, Kyrgyz Republic

The material offered for this course was really good. It covered almost all the related aspects. Some data could be more updated.
Victoria Tsitsoni, European Economic and Social Committee

I studied the course material in detail and it fully coincided with the development issues that are covered in my project. I am working to ensure sustainable environmental health, by promoting safe water, environmental sanitation and hygienic practices. Knowledge on agricultural activity affects the quality of the environment. The topics of agricultural water pollution, the way agriculture prevents rural environmental degradation, agricultural waste management, and the significance of urban agriculture covered in the course module help me in my work of ensuring sustainable health. The way agricultural activity affects the quality of the environment is the most valuable aspect of the course, and I incorporate it in awareness raising and in the advocacy of my work.
Nur Mohammad, Project Manager, Nabolok Parishad, Bangladesh

After completing the topics of the course material, I believe that they should be brought to the attention of every individual in order to create awareness of our nature and the environment. Diverse topics have been covered in such a simple and interesting manner. I am really glad to read and understand the topics and would surely advise people to learn about nature, agriculture, food and environment. Undoubtedly, I would consider biotechnology as the most valuable topic. I cannot incorporate this technology in my day-to-day work, as I am in an entirely different field, however I will surely try to raise awareness among people.
Ankit Anubhav, Senior Analyst, Dell, Singapore

I really enjoyed taking this course. It covered many important aspects, raising my awareness on a wide range of different matters and giving me new ideas of prospective careers I may try to pursue after my PhD. I am especially interested in conservation and how we are going to deal with the challenges of accommodating an ever growing population. I think most chapters contained important information regarding this wide subject and so I was interested in them all.
Andreia Feijao, PhD Student, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Portugal

Personally, I do not deal extensively with topics such as food and agriculture; the underlying reason behind my interest in attending the course was exactly to acquire knowledge on the subjects and to try to incorporate some ideas into my future work endeavours. The provided papers hit the mark, especially the one dealing with agricultural waste management, which enlightened me about the potential of waste-to-energy procedures in the farming sector that are usually dwarfed by the talk

surrounding private or industrial waste management strategies. **Valerio Ponzio, Junior Expert, Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), Hungary**

The material helped me in understanding lots of matters concerning the food and agricultural industry and its problems in providing food to the rest of the world. The mitigation of environmental problems in the world is only concerned with providing sustainable methods in the usage of today's resources for tomorrow's requirements. **Amany Youssef, Alexandria University, Egypt**

The material covered in the course module is very informative. The material on biotechnology and organic farming is the most valuable aspect of the course and it will be very helpful for the agriculture based programme of our organisation. **Shakil Ahmad, Secretary, Riyayat, India**

I have always thought that this kind of material is something that everyone should know about, read about and remember about. It is common knowledge and can help each and every one of us to be more aware of what is going on in the world and how one can participate in making it better. This course expanded my knowledge on the subject and will definitely help me write more about the connection between food, agriculture and environment in a way that will reach people's hearts and minds. **Ramona-Mariana Dragomir, Freelance Writer, Bucharest, Romania**

I teach English to students of various ages and at times we come across some terms on agriculture and organic farming which I was not fully aware of before. Right now I can explain to my students a lot of terms and concepts I learnt in the course. The most valuable topics for me were organic farming and biotechnology. I appreciate all the time the professors spent on writing this course. **Anna Grehova, English Teacher/Trainer of English Teachers, Turkmenistan**

The materials in this course provided new insight into the subject matter. I am now able to appreciate much more the value of food, agriculture and the environment. Because the course was set at a very basic level of intended understanding, it was both easy to understand as individual units and as a whole. My field is very technical in nature and thanks to the approach to reach users in this course, I am now able to better appreciate and understand how my field of study, Geoinformation Technologies, can fit into this area. The most appealing aspect of the course were the examples used and how they fit in well to give an overall great discussion of the various sub-topics. **Ron Mahabir, PhD. Student in Earth Systems and Geoinformation Science, George Mason University, USA**

The course helped me to acquire a deeper knowledge of the topics covered, which I am interested in and which I enjoy very much. It also filled a gap in my biological education and will give me a better chance to find a job in the sphere of ecology. One of the most valuable aspects of the course is that it makes clear the interconnection of the social, political and environmental spheres. I like that this message comes through the material clearly. I do believe I will be able to incorporate what I have learned during this course in my future job. **Kamelia Miteva, Bulgaria**

As an economic advisor to organisations and enterprises, I was familiar with the traditional form of the issue of "Sustainable Development." The introduction of the

“green” dimension essentially redefines sustainability and allows me to reconsider my scientific perceptions, taking into account the improved efficiency of production factors and protection against natural degradation as new economic realities. **Maria Paraschaki, Economist, Consultant to the Intermediate Administrative Authority of the Region of Crete, Greece**

The online course offered a new structuralized perspective on the topic of Food, Agriculture and the Environment. At present, the Romanian scientific literature has quite a few resources that are up to date related to this field. As a potential teacher at The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies in the field of Environmental Policies, this course offered me the possibility to have a basic background in my research and also to accumulate useful knowledge for my further activity. The first valuable aspect of the course was the fact that it is organised in an excellent manner, having separate modules for each field of interest, which helps a lot in understanding and using the information. The second valuable aspect was the fact that the course addressed the most important correlations among problems in managing a sustainable agriculture, under the circumstances of the growing pressures of population growth. **Țăpurică Oana-Cătălina, Ph.D. Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**

The material covered all aspects which are important and useful in a course on food, agriculture and the environment. The most valuable aspects of the course for me are water pollution and food quality. After studying this course, I understood how difficult your work can be if you do not know the main information about the subject. Thank you very much for this interesting course. **Ovezova Tylla, Teacher of Music Theory, Turkmen Musical College, Turkmenistan**

This course helped me a lot in learning how agricultural systems are developed and how to deal with regulations that can help the environment. As a lawyer who works on environmental law, the course helped me to know the reasons for the regulations and how they help the environment. **Rania Ghallab, Lawyer, Alexandria, Egypt**

This course gave me the possibility to extend my knowledge in the area of sustainable agricultural policy, on present agricultural, food security and environmental problems, and on applying recent regulations, directives and systems. I believe that this will be beneficial for future cooperation in projects relevant to the environment and food safety. **Stanislav Zahov, Expert, Centre of applied military Epidemiology and Hygiene, Military Medical Academy, Bulgaria**

The material is very interesting and deeply covers all the aspects, trends and consequences of the excessive use of chemicals and other problems. It does not help me particularly in my work, but, because the topics addressed are part of our life, civilization and habits, I consider it very important to be aware of the situation, and to know all the aspects of agriculture and the use of natural resources which are in equilibrium with each other and depend on the right policy, as well as on our good sense of the use of these resources, and on our responsible behaviour and actions. **Guiliano Zamboni, Export Manager, Index SpA, Italy**

The course module has enabled me to have a broader outlook on environmental issues and to grasp the great effects that simple acts have on the environment. It helped me to integrate various aspects in my teaching and to give relevance to the courses that I teach. The most valuable topics were quality and safety in food and agricultural

products. I have a research interest in the reduction of pesticide residues in rice and rice products and, thus, was energized by this module. **Leonard Gitu, Lecturer, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya**

The course content was good and helped me to learn the subject and its global issues. I have learned some new things during the course. A few global issues on food and agriculture are very pertinent for an agricultural country like India. I hope to use this information in my future work. **Amit Kant Awasthi, PhD Student, National Taiwan Ocean University, ROC**

The material has been very helpful to me, as it covers subjects which have only occasionally been addressed in my faculty's curricula, but which are, in my opinion, essential both nowadays and in a future perspective. The most valuable aspects were the approach towards key-subjects on the current agenda, as well as the comprehensive and coherent informational content provided. I plan to further incorporate the information and knowledge acquired in my activity as an environmental and sustainability consultant in the consultancy company, which I plan to establish in the upcoming months. **Natalia Ciobanu, MSc Student in Environmental Management and Protection, Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, Babes-Boylai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania**

The material covered in the course module helps me much in my work as I face a great amount of questions and disputes concerning the environment and agriculture every day. And I do need to deepen and widen my knowledge in these fields. Due to the fact that I am dealing with global climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and the Kyoto Protocol, the material related to the reduction of methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions in agriculture are the most interesting for me. I find all mentioned themes very actual and important for me and my work. On the whole, I really appreciate the opportunity you gave to obtain this knowledge. **Vladislav Antypov, Business Development Manager, Global Carbon B.V. (The Netherlands, Utrecht), Ukraine**

I am a Master's student in Environment Management at the Forest Research Institute, so the course module was related to my Master's degree. It helped me to better understand my classroom studies. The language of the material was easy to understand, and the course covered important aspects. The course interface showed the list of participants with their email addresses, so we could communicate with each other and enhance our global communication on various environmental issues. Thus, this course was very useful for us. **Vinod Kumar Yadav, Student, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, India**

I really enjoyed the course module on Food, Agriculture, and the Environment. I have just graduated from university with a Biotechnology major. I intend to pursue higher studies in the environmental field next year. Therefore, your course helped me to deeply consider some issues surrounding food, agriculture and the environment. It supplies more knowledge for me to apply to my graduate program. Overall, I was most interested in the aspects of Biotechnology – benefits and dangers and Rural development. The relevant chapter begins with the question “Biotechnology: promise or pitfall?” I totally agree with you that there are two sides to the application of biotechnology and people should use it in a wise and ethical way to ensure sustainable development. In addition, Vietnam did not ever focus more on rural development. With

your lesson, I now recognize how important rural development is and its positive interrelation with agriculture. Although I have not had the chance to incorporate your valuable aspects into my work, I think it will be very useful when I study and do my dissertation in my graduate program, as well as when I work later. **Tram Nguyen, Dong Thap Province, Vietnam**

When learning about different aspects of business operations – marketing, finance, management, etc. – we often forget about the importance of food, agriculture and the environment for everybody, thus this course has taught me many interesting ideas regarding environmental protection. **Kerim Nuryyev, Student, International Master of Business Administration, I-Shou University, Taiwan, ROC**

I found the course materials very interesting and informative. The course content is very strongly formulated. This course is very essential and beneficial for me and my future work, because my country is also a developing country with a strong orientation towards agriculture and is in huge need of modernization and upgrade of scientific resources. Thank you for the course! **Ilhomjon Teshabaev, Procurement Specialist, Amu-Zang Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

The material presented in the course is very informative and useful. I cannot say that my work is directly related to the topic, but I am deeply convinced that environmental problems should be considered in any sphere – be it business, education or governmental policy. That is why I think it is important to be knowledgeable about such problems and the issues related to them. The course gives a very good overview of the problems and of the latest tendencies and changes, both concerning the state of the environment and agricultural strategies. Now I can use this information in the situations related to this theme and also spread this knowledge to raise awareness about it. **Elena Zorina, Alumna, Tomsk State University, Russia**

Being one of the decision-makers at the Brest Regional Rural Entrepreneurship Support Center (an institution which promotes new technologies and provides support for farmers here in the Brest region of Belarus), it was a great experience for me to learn about European tendencies in biotechnology, benefiting agriculture and preventing environment degradation. Thank you very much for the course! **Siarhei Mahonau, Lawyer, Brest Regional Rural Entrepreneurship Support Center, Belarus**