



BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION



International University for the Bio-Environment

Comments from Students

Sustainable Agriculture

2010



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e-Learning Programme

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Comments and Feedback from Students

*I find the material covered in the course module very beneficial in my long term plan studies. I recognize the importance of agriculture economics and its importance as an emerging field of study. Being an economist and an activist I find the information provided very useful; it enriched my background and developed my understanding in different aspects. I find the most valuable aspect the policies implemented by the EU and their development, because I tend to regard the topic from the economic view point and assess its applicability and efficiency in the EU as well as developing countries. This will be incorporated in my work via the provision of fertile ground for comparative research among different policies implemented in the world and assessing the most suitable for my homeland. **Ala'a Mohamed, Student, Egypt***

*As I am working as a Program Coordinator of exchange programs between the EU, the USA and Turkmenistan, I deal with different areas: education, sciences and the environment. I am a member of Biocheshme too. It is a youth ecological movement. The material that has been provided is very helpful in preparing presentations on new sustainable methods of using mineral resources in agriculture and in creating round tables on models in agriculture. Turkmenistan is an agrarian country with 60% of the population involved in agriculture. My colleagues coordinate exchange programs for farmers. The material that is used in your course may serve them as an important tool for preparing workshops for farmers and officials from the agricultural sector. **Aleksey Grehov, Program Coordinator, Turkmenistan***

*I am very thankful to the organizers of this course, as it is very informative and provides knowledge. The course helps me in my current work as a Food and Agriculture employee in seed sector development in Armenia. I consider most valuable the topics on fair trade and organic farming, as fair trade is a new trend for my country. **Anahit Aghababyan, Project Assistant, Armenia***

*The course on Sustainable Agriculture helped me not only in that it improved my knowledge about the EU's CAP, but it will also help me in my daily work as a consultant in the area of European funds. **Anca-Andreea Calugaru, Junior Consultant, Romania***

*My studies focus on the use of European funds and financial instruments for regional development. This also includes financial instruments used for agriculture. The course has given me a broader perspective on the impact of agricultural activities and the way the EU's financial instruments must be used to ensure environmental and agricultural sustainability. **Anca Anitei, Student, Romania***

*“Sustainability” is a key concept and priority of my employer organisation – the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Therefore, more knowledge in this particular field was very necessary and appreciated. The topics covered by the course will help me better understand the agricultural policy issues discussed in Brussels and therefore a better reporting to my employer and an enhanced ability to identify cooperation projects which relate to sustainable agriculture. I must say that the course made me realise how the “ideal” (or at least better) European agriculture should look like, considering that I know only two extreme models: the very modern/intensive Dutch agriculture (with considerable impact on the environment) and the traditional Romanian agriculture (highly inefficient). However, the dilemma still remains (for policy makers): how to make EU agriculture more environment-friendly and animal-friendly, while keeping it competitive on the world market. **Anda Popescu, Agricultural Advisor, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Romania***

*The material covered in the course module helps me in my works as far as I am involved in projects for financing agriculture and rural development in the country. The most valuable is briefness in discussing main issues regarding the above matters. **Angela Altunian, Ministry of Agriculture, Bulgaria***

*For my Masters degree in European Law, I had written a dissertation on the topic of “Balancing the Free Movement of Goods with Environmental Protection; the case of Genetically Modified Organisms.” The course has helped me grasp a greater understanding of the many inherent problems that the world faces currently. The course contributed to my understanding of the practical aspects of the agricultural sector and thus sustainable development. It helped me expand my knowledge from the legal focus I already had, into the many existing agricultural factors in the sector, such as the theoretical and practical aspects, land use trends, management trends, pressures concerns and implications. The course was organised in a very clear, precise, collection of material which made it a very pleasant to read and provided a lot of “food for thought” on the current system and what more can and ought to be done so as to contribute to the sustainable development of this planet. **Anna Olak, Greece***

*The material covered in this course helped me a lot during my work. The most valuable aspect is the main sources of food contamination. I was able to incorporate it into my own work to discuss the sources of food contamination. **Artan Beka, University of Prishtina, Kosovo***

*As a university graduate in the field of sustainability, I got the opportunity to refresh and complement some of my knowledge. For me, the most valuable topics were those touching upon the European CAP, as I did not have much previous information on this. Thank you for this course! **Cristina Apetrei, The Netherlands***

*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 very complicated way and it was easy to understand. It is really helpful to have the references at the end of each chapter. I was able to learn very new and important details concerning the course. Please convey my gratitude to the team of Biopolitics. **Dragomir Zahariev, University of Forestry Position: MSc Student, Bulgaria***

Since my career is in the field of Agriculture, this course was of a great value for me and my work. It added to my knowledge new information especially about the common

agricultural policy (CAP) in the EU, the food laws and the international certification system in the food industry. And because of my great concern about environmental issues, the information I got through the course about organic farming and the importance of sustainable water management in agriculture will be considered in my work and lectures. Thank you. **Professor Azza Tawfik, Assiut University, Faculty of Agriculture, Egypt**

The material in this course is very useful from the ethical point of view. It includes many of the interesting aspects connected with many disciplines which I now study within the framework of specialized training. The most valuable aspect of the course was the material about the financial policy of the agrarian sector. From the economic and from the ecological point of view, the given material is presented in useful 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 connected with it. **Gennady Potanin, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

I needed to study more European Legislation for Agriculture and Common Agricultural Policies, because my study area is situated within the Danube's floodplain system and it took me some time to understand the interdependencies between agriculture and natural protected areas from this geographical area. **Gheorghe Clota, PhD Student, Romania**

I am currently not employed in the environmental sector. However, this course has been of great interest to me. I took a few environmental courses when I studied for my Masters Program on Public Policy, and I have written my Master's Thesis focusing on environmental issues of private firms in the US. I found all materials provided for the course to be very informative. I enjoyed reading about organic farming and about its harmony with environment. I also enjoyed learning about various water management systems. The information was always provided with specific examples, numbers and figures, which always helps to analyze the material in detail. I will share my knowledge with others, and in the future, if I am employed by any agency engaged in solving environmental issues, I will definitely apply this knowledge. **Gulya Kolakova, Communications and Strategy Coordinator, Kazakhstan**

The material covered in the course module will help me to consider the practice of sustainable agriculture in the EU which in return will contribute input in preparing and drafting environmental laws in my country. The most valuable topic of this course for me was the one which dealt with Organic Agriculture and Farming (Chapter 2). I am now thinking of using the material as significant input in preparing and drafting future laws on agriculture. **Hilina Getachew Belete, Federal Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia**

As a young researcher and part of the post graduate team in my lab, I will consider how our technique (environmentally-friendly insecticide use) parallels the policy of sustainable agriculture. The most valuable aspect of the course, and the one that will be incorporated in my own work, is food safety because I work on similar issues. **Ibtesam Abd Allah Khalifa, Researcher of Physiology of Pests, Egypt**

The courses were very useful for me because I am still in the process of learning and accumulating information for my future carrier. At the university, we have courses on the CAP and other EU policies, but we never talk about biopolitics or the environment.

This is why this course was for me just what I needed for a better understanding of agriculture. **Iov Claudia Anamaria, Master's Student, Romania**

Course Sustainable agriculture was, as all courses that I attended, very interesting and useful. It gave deeper insight into development of agriculture in Europe. I hope that there will be more courses like this in the future. **Jelena Knežević Jarić, Ecological Society Endemit, Serbia**

My field of work is currently related to gas and biofuels, in terms of the EU relevant legislation framework and its implementation in South East Europe (i.e. Contracting Parties of the Energy Community). My everyday work mostly consists of supporting the implementation process by advising and interpreting the EU legislation. Agriculture is closely related to biofuels, and this was the main trigger for my choosing this seminar. Furthermore, I consider it very important to have the entire picture in focus all the time, not just using separate pieces of legislation and/or separate non-linked strategies. Almost all Contracting Parties should develop their strategy, not only regarding energy but the entire economic development of the country, and agriculture is an important part of it. In this sense, knowledge on new trends and possibilities, how to start from the beginning in the right environmentally-friendly direction and reaching the planned development, would help in my work. **Karolina Cegir, Energy Community Secretariat, Austria**

Presently, I am a master's student, some years ago I was a teacher and will be again in the near future, at which time I will have to teach about farming. Issues such as agricultural waste, organic farming, pest management etc., are common topics where this course will be a good resource for me. Not only in teaching, but also in my village, I will definitely follow some of the important points that I found here. **Madhu Nepal, Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal**

Having passed the given course, I have found a lot of the information interesting and useful to me. I have learnt a lot of new things that can help me with my training process on the speciality of "protection of environment and rational use of natural resources" and this will be further useful in my work. As my future work, and now study, is directly connected with environmental protection, I am concerned with all areas studied in this course. The most interesting for me is the strategy for the increase of biological variety by means of the introduction of organic agriculture. **Maria Volcova, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

The material in the course is very helpful to us since we are presently working with communities in the setting up of organic farms and integrated pest management techniques. The material therefore gives us more insight on the subject. The module on agriculture and waste will also be very helpful in our work with large-scale plantations as we intend on persuading them to switch to the use of organic fertilizers. **Masango Sone, Green Cameroon President, Cameroon**

Sustainable agriculture is one of the issues that have received the most attention in Egypt during the past 5-7 years; great activities are being done in research, teaching and legislation. The course will be useful in my teaching and to show students. It also provides some useful knowledge, especially on the possible negative effects of GMOs on human health. **Professor Mohamed Foua Abdalla, Faculty of Agriculture, Assiut University, Egypt**

From my point view, using biological control in my job, all the items of sustainable agriculture cooperated with each other and aided me to explain the underlying scientific background to my students. Thanks. **Mohamed Hamada Mahgoub, Researcher of Acarology at Vegetable and Ornamental Acarology Department, Egypt**

My father is doing organic agriculture. This course helped me to see the benefits of this system. **Monica Parpalea, Student, Romania**

The online course offered a new structuralized perspective on the topic of Sustainable Agriculture. At present, the Romanian scientific literature has 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 Eco-Technologies, 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 Sustainable Agriculture course was the fact that the course had been organised in an excellent manner, having separate modules for each environmental issue, which helps a lot in understanding and using the information. The second valuable aspect was the fact that the course provided the most important regulations of the European Union regarding agricultural policy, including a short description of every piece of law. **Țăpurică Oana-Cătălina, Master's Student, Romania**

Sustainable Agriculture and the other two courses I took are totally new fields for me, which I took out of curiosity and desire to broaden my knowledge and interests. The information provided in the course will help me to review and compare the agricultural policy of my country, Turkmenistan, and, possibly, make suggestions on how to improve and make the agricultural policy more efficient. **Oksana Yeshshyorkina, Masters Student, Turkmenistan**

I am not a teacher but I find this course valuable because it offers me a glimpse into the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and made me want to further study this domain. **Petruca Anca, Romania**

The material covered in the course module includes a lot of interesting studying. A lot of things in the given course are connected with environmental protection, giving the chance for the given course base to be further assimilated in the work of the ecologist. In my opinion, the most valuable material is the information on organic agriculture with use of policy for sustainable development, and, also, the application of the so-called organic logo. It further gives the chance to acquire experience and to achieve more efficiency in one's work. **Olga Koval, Saint Petersburg State Technological University of Plant Polymers, Russia**

The knowledge from this course does not affect my work in a direct manner; however, because I am working in the field of Sustainable Development, I need to gain knowledge in different areas where the concept can be applied. I chose agriculture as one of them, as I have been indirectly in contact with it ever since I was young (my father is an agronomic engineer) and I was able to see the difficulties involved, and also because I collaborated in 2009 in a study called "ICT and Agriculture" which sparked my interest for organic agriculture. **Olivia Popescu, National Centre for Sustainable Development, Romania**

The course in general has been very helpful for my understanding of basic concepts of sustainable agriculture. In my current job, we promote courses for sustainable development for governmental officials, and the topic of agriculture will be highlighted based on the needs stakeholders have expressed. In this sense, some components of what I have learnt in the course will be certainly incorporated in future courses.
Raquel Asencios, The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Hungary

The materials covered in the course have been very useful for my professional work. The sustainable model of agriculture as presented in the course is very helpful in mitigating the food insecurity situation arising due to the degradation of agricultural land from various development projects in my country. The course has provided valuable and updated information on sustainable agriculture which is the most valuable aspect of the topic. The information provided has greatly helped my work.
Sakunda Ojha, Environment Officer, Kathmandu, Nepal

The material is rich in content with references, which helps me gain information in an easy way. I am working in the field of environmental education, environmental psychology, etc. The material provides an overview of the present environmental crisis due to unsustainable agricultural practices and the EU's response, in particular, in addressing the crisis. In my work, all the topics are equally valuable. For me to understand the EU Common Agricultural Policy completely is a difficult task. To understand the implications of policy, I need to know the context: social, economic and historical. For this, I need further supplementary readings.
Saurav Shome, Research Scholar, India

I am deeply grateful for having the opportunity to complete this course, because I have found many aspects related to my work that I was not aware of. Now I know that a good management of the soil and water can provide not only economic growth, but a good environment/ground for wellness and future development. I can teach people how to find the motivation for putting into practice the theory and how to benefit from their work, as well as how to make the environment benefit from it.
Severina-Andreea Batca, Research & Development Assistant, Romania

The material provided was user-friendly, comprehensive, and exhaustive. It helped me to be able to answer to the questions.
Stefania Romano, Regional Environmental Center, Hungary

I am very satisfied by this course. The lectures are very informative, in good order and approachable. They gave me good simple and at the same time detailed information about the agricultural field. I consider the topic of sustainable agriculture very interesting and useful, as I believe my country is very suitable for the development of organic agriculture. All the rich information provided gave me a good point of reference regarding agricultural policies and some things about such policies that I should pay attention to. I am sure that in the future I can apply this information in my work as my major is directly related with this topic.
Tsvetelina Naydenova, Master's Student, Bulgaria

I would like once again to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in this course and thus to broaden my knowledge on such a crucial issue. Details on the EU

legislation on such a matter was the most valuable aspect of the topic for me as an example of a sound and good approach, which although needs further improvement is a step towards the only feasible prospect for agriculture. **Vassilios Grigoriadis, Poland**

It helps me to know about European sustainable agricultural systems. As an employee of an Environmental Protection Authority, it is a great asset for me to know about other countries' experiences. **Wengelawit TadesseTeklemichael, Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority**

The module on "food safety" is one of most important modules, for it helped me in my work as I work at the Animal Health Research Institute which has as one of its roles the examination of food for importation and exportation. I would like to thank the team that helped us with this valuable knowledge. **Amal M. Abd EL Raof, Sr. Researcher, Animal Health Research Institute, Egypt**

Although most of the facts I knew already, there has been some very interesting new information. On the other hand, the module helped me to keep myself up to date. The lists of bibliography, although I missed some important publications, are interesting as well. **Dr. Matthias Alexander Siebold, Farm Manager, Spain**

All the material in this course was very interesting and useful for me. First of all, I learnt some things which I did not know before. For instance, about funds that are financing the agricultural sector, such as the EAGF and EAFRD, and more details about special certification systems for producing organic food. Very informative was the chapter about organic agriculture increasing biodiversity. I can use the information on organic food and European legislation for organic agriculture, labelling, the organic logo, certification and inspection, agricultural water pollution and water use in my trainer's work, which I provide as a volunteer for our communities. Thanks a lot for this course, and I would be happy to study with you other courses in the near future. **Nataliya Volkova, Turkmen Polytechnic Institute, Turkmenistan**

In my work as a Project Assistant, this course on Sustainable Agriculture helps by endowing me with a better understanding of the challenges in agriculture today. It is especially important for me, working for an organization that promotes sustainable development, to have acquired specific knowledge on the European agricultural sector. Although my work does not deal with agriculture directly, agricultural practices are an absolutely crucial aspect of any country's sustainable development. I look forward to incorporating the knowledge I acquired in my work, especially in the writing of new projects, potentially dealing with agriculture or related themes, such as rural development. **Alexandra Stef, National Centre for Sustainable Development, Romania**

It reveals most European countries' sustainable agriculture systems. It is a great help for a developing country like ours to be able to compare and identify the best sustainable agricultural practices. As an environmental policy maker, I will try to absorb the lessons I have learnt from this course and apply them to our country's agricultural system. Thank you very much. **Shelemat Tesfaye Junfesa, Environmental Legal Expert, Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, Ethiopia**

This course helped me a lot in knowing how to develop the agricultural system in countries and how to deal with regulations that would help the environment, and as a

lawyer who works in environmental law the course helped me to know the reasons of the regulations and how they help the environment. **Rania Ghallab, Law Firm, Egypt**

The most valuable aspect is the opportunity to travel on-line through very well structured material. I will be able to incorporate it in my work, having a better general view into sustainable agriculture. **Gabriela Iordan, Human Resources Responsible, Romania**

The online course offered a new structuralized perspective on the topic of Sustainable Agriculture. The course provided a fully featured approach upon the new European Union trends regarding the common sustainable development programme in agriculture. The material is very useful because, in Romania, agriculture is still a basic occupation for most of the people living in villages, and our country really needs strategies and policies that aim to ensure the growth and competitiveness of this economic sector. Also, the course provided the basic background for developing new investment projects in agriculture, and the practical examples may become real opportunities for the people involved in this field. **Florin Tache, Student, The Bucharest Academy of Economic Studies, Romania**