

Module code: MOD011222	Version: 1 Date Amended: 17/Jun/2025
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1. Module Title
Food Security and Sustainable Farm Management

2a. Module Leader
Henry Matthews

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	MBA Agribusiness		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module defines and evaluates the concept of food security globally and assesses the problems at a global and local level through the UN Sustainable Development Goals. You'll investigate the causes and consequences of food security, focussing on the vulnerability in some parts of the world, in particular Sub-Saharan Africa. The balancing of food production systems and their resilience is considered alongside social and environmental sustainability. Different food systems are investigated. Sustainable land management and food security requires innovative, risk-robust strategies to meet growing demands in the future and to ensure ecosystems remain fully functional and resilient to uncertain changes.

In this module, you'll analyse and critically evaluate current policy and strategies practiced in the UK and in the wider global sphere through a review of case studies. The aim of the module is to provide you with the latest applied scientific theory in sustainable farming practices, agricultural ecology and food production. Group work will give you the chance to strengthen key skills such as critical analysis, evaluation, teamwork and negotiation, all essential for tackling the complex issues surrounding food security.

6b. Outline Content

Evaluation of food security around the world.

Affordability, access and utilisation of food

Theories of sustainable development, alternative systems including urban and peri-urban agriculture, permaculture and organic production.

Strategies to address food poverty in key areas such as India and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Food waste and loss. UK and international policy and strategies supporting sustainable food production and agricultural ecosystem conservation.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of principles and issues surrounding food security:.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Critically evaluate a range of agricultural food systems and their ability to meet the needs of populations sustainably:
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop and propose justified strategies at local, national and international levels to enhance sustainable food supply whilst maintaining and improving ecosystem services.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	30	1-3	The equivalent of 3 hours a week for 13 weeks (excluding the scheduled exam week) and individual and small online group tutorials, workshop or project work. Contact may be packaged into different delivery patterns across the semester(s) Independent study will be a combination of tutor directed and self- managed study to suit delivery patterns.
Other teacher managed learning	6	1-3	Collaborative group activities will encourage students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations. Students will work in teams to solve postharvest challenges, enhancing their critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills in the context of food systems.
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Background reading and study for seminar preparation. A combination of assigned readings and individual research on postharvest management topics and developing deeper understanding of course materials.
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	2-3	60 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
Report (1000 words) - Food security analysis of a specific case study					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1	40 (%)	Fine Grade	40 (%)
2 Components (1500 words equivalent) - Role play discussion and Executive summary (500 words)					

Assessment components for Element 011				
Component No.	Assessment Title	Submission Method	Weighting (%)	Components needed for Mark Calculation?
011/1	Role play discussion		50 (%)	All
011/2	Executive Summary (500 words)		50 (%)	

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*). In addition, students are required to: (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above (b) pass any pass/fail elements [* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]
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