



Module Specification

Agroecology and Sustainable Farming Systems

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Agroecology and Sustainable Farming Systems

Module code: USSKHV-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2025-26

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module provides a detailed critical review of solutions to current unsustainable approaches to agriculture and food production in light of nature-based solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and provision of ecosystem services.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module develops a number of graduate skills; Understanding and critically assessing environmental challenges attributed to current

unsustainable agricultural practices; Evaluating novel approaches to sustainable farming such as nature-based solutions, regenerative agriculture and ecosystem service provision; The ability to collect, analyse, interpret, present and communicate data and evidence collected from the field and analysed in the laboratory for monitoring and evaluating environmental condition.

Outline syllabus: The following themes are embedded in the module:

Agroecological principles; Solutions; sustainability; land and resource management; social-ecological approach; non-food crops.

Climate change; Sustainable food production; Land and resource management; Social-ecological interactions; Non-food crop production.

Ecosystem Service provision; Balancing land use for more than food and yield (profit) production e.g. carbon sequestration, nature.

Future proofing; How do we build agroecological systems at different scales; contradictions, compromise and holistic design.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Module content will be delivered via lectures, tutorials/workshops, field trips and laboratory practicals.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Synthesise the principles of agroecology and apply them across food production systems.

MO2 Critically evaluate the complexity of producing food sustainably from multi and trans disciplinary perspectives related to social-ecological outcomes.

MO3 Critically evaluate multiple outcomes/objectives of food production system - data analysis, verification, validation.

MO4 Conceptualise a research plan and report research outcomes.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskhv-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskhv-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy for this module has been designed to develop the communication and knowledge exchange skills needed in social-ecological/economic interactions with e.g. farmers, policymakers and scientists.

Assessment 1: Field Work (3000 words maximum)

Short reports based on field and laboratory work.

A portfolio of short reports based on field and laboratory work and produced as a small group, written as for a scientific audience.

Students will be supported to succeed in this assessment through in-class peer review of reports, which are produced sequentially. Students will be awarded the mean mark for the best four of five reports, to reduce the impact of short absence.

Assessment 2: Written assignment (1500 words maximum)

A report on an agroecological issue, written as for a lay audience (e.g. an article for an agricultural magazine or television programme).

The written assignment will be supported by a one hour debate on the agroecological issue, undertaken in small groups.

The debate is not assessed but contributes to developing students critical thinking skills. The debate will enable students to assess food system dynamics and put forward their own arguments on food system challenges.

Assessment tasks:

Field work (First Sit)

Description: Short reports based on field and laboratory work (total 3000 words).

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written assignment in the format of knowledge exchange (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Field work (Resit)

Description: Short reports based on field and laboratory work (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written assignment in the format of knowledge exchange (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sustainable Food Systems [Frenchay] MSc 2025-26

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