



UNIVERSITÄT
HOHENHEIM

Master Info Days 2024

M.SC. AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES - MAJOR TRANSFORMATION MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

Verena Seufert and Katrin Winkler

THE PROBLEM



© Matt Zimmermann



© Andrea Carri



© NOAA



Agriculture is the most important driver of many environmental problems



Our food system is not providing livelihoods to producers



© Neil Palmer



Our food system is not feeding everyone

© Peter Menzel



Food demand is growing

© CIMMYT

OUR VISION

We want to equip you with these systemic approaches and transformative perspectives



Sustainability competencies



Where are we going?

Where do we want to go?

How do we get there?

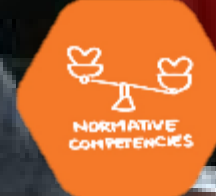
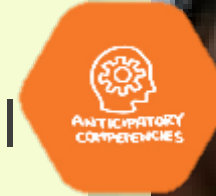
Where are we currently?

Sustainability competencies



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN?

- Viewing sustainability challenges from a **systemic** perspective
- Learn about the latest theories for understanding social and institutional **change processes**
- **Steer and organize** transformation processes
- Recognize **different points of view** and values and mediate between them



THE DETAILS



STRUCTURE

3 compulsory, 2 semi-elective, 5 elective modules

1st Semester	2nd Semester 30 credits from	3rd Semester	4th Semester
Transformation Studies in Agri-Food Systems (6 credits)	elective modules blocked 4 x 7.5 or elective modules not blocked 5 x 6 or Internship 1 x 30 or Internship 15 + 2 x 7.5	Elective module (6 credits)	Master Thesis (30 credits)
Analyzing Sustainability in Agri-Food Systems (6 credits)		Elective module (6 credits)	
Communicating Sustainability in Agri-Food Systems (6 credits)		Elective module (6 credits)	
Semi-elective module (6 credits)		Elective module (6 credits)	
Semi-elective module (6 credits)		Elective module (6 credits)	

■ Compulsory module
 ■ Semi-elective module
 ■ Elective module

Only 3 compulsory modules

Lots of freedom to choose!

COMPULSORY MODULES



Transformation Studies in
Agri-Food Systems
(6 credits)

Analyzing Sustainability in
Agri-Food Systems
(6 credits)

Communicating
Sustainability in
Agri-Food Systems
(6 credits)

SEMI-ELECTIVE MODULES

At least two semi-elective modules have to be chosen.

Students without agricultural background have to choose from this list:

- Agricultural Production and Residues
- Agricultural Production of Biobased Resources
- Organic Livestock Farming and Products

Other semi-elective modules:

- Global Change Issues
- Economics and Environmental Policy
- Policy Processes in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Governance of Sustainable Agri-Food Systems
- Knowledge and Innovation Management
- Land Use Economics
- Food and Nutrition Security

THEMATIC PROFILES

Suggestions for elective modules for specialized profiles

- Agroecology and Environment
- Diversified Farming Systems
- Tropics and Subtropics
- Rural Development
- Consumers and Food Value Chains

Check
curriculum



REFLECTION DAYS

- At the start and end of each academic year (October and July)
- To support **self-directed learning**
 - Reflect on own skills
 - Reflect on own learning needs
 - Define own learning goals
 - > Decide on course curriculum
- To create a **peer learning community** with other students

To help
you find
your way!



TRANSFORMATION INTERNSHIP - OPTIONAL

15 or 30 ECTS

- **Where?** Private companies, public institutions, NGOs. In Germany or abroad. That want to implement measures aiming at greater sustainability.
- **How long?** 6 months -> 30 credits (can be divided)
3 months -> 15 credits
- **How?** Self organized, but with support from the Department of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.
- **What?** Includes preparation of a seminar paper and presenting it in three online seminar sessions (start-mid-end).
- **Why?** Helps with thesis ideas, job orientation and career



BICYCLE EXCURSION MODULE

Exploring Regional Transformations through Utopias (7,5 ECTS) - optional

- Expand **imagination** and step outside of conventional mental models
- Learn from **lived utopias** and existing solutions (**bright spots**)
- Engage with transformative theoretical approaches in **practical terms**



MASTER'S THESIS

Can include collection of primary data



Visions of sustainable agri-food systems in Kerala, India



The influence of agroecological management on bright spots of food security in Oaxaca, Mexico



The role of capital and power in West-African agriculture

MASTER'S THESIS

...can equally be based on secondary data and can be carried out on campus



Local data collection:

The knowledge needs and gaps of the Food Policy Council Stuttgart

Literature-based:

- Public policies and vested interests in organic agriculture in Europe
- Evidence that makes a difference: A systematic literature review of the impact of transdisciplinary research

Secondary data:

- Remote sensing: The influence of changing EU policies on the uptake of flower strips in an intensive arable farmland

OCCUPATIONAL FIELDS

Typical areas of work for graduates include:

- Sustainability management in companies and organizations
- Activities in non-governmental organizations (e.g., Bread for the World), associations (e.g., Bioland), and/or international organizations (FAO, etc.)
- Preparation of expert opinions with a focus on sustainability
- Assistance with transformation processes for administrative institutions in the agricultural and environmental sector
- Scientific work in public research institutions in the agricultural and environmental field



Brot
für die Welt



BOSCH

ALUMNI WORKING IN TRANSFORMATION



Johanna Biegelmaier
Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin
einer Landtagsabgeordneten BW



Manuel Hilscher
Senior Consultant Nachhaltigkeit
Kommunikationsbüro
Ulmer GmbH



Lucas de Oliveira Arruda Proto
BOSCH Smart Farming
Global Product Manager

THE PRACTICAL



SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Student Services from the Coordination Office

- Counselling on study organization
- Feedback-meetings with course directors
- Seminars for intercultural competence, academic writing, job-entry...
- Information on „How to write a Master's thesis?“
- Excursions (Rome, Brussels, Berlin...)
- Tutorials
- Parties...



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Formal requirements

- Above-average B.Sc. or equivalent degree in a relevant discipline (e.g. agriculture, environmental sciences, geography...)
- Working knowledge of English language (TOEFL ibT 90 points, IELTS 6.5 overall band or a German Abitur with at least 8 points on the average over the last 4 semesters of high school)

Soft Skills

- Good communication and negotiation skills
- Enthusiasm for shaping change processes, and
- Great interest in the practical implementation of sustainability concepts



APPLICATION

Required documents, to be uploaded in the application portal:

- Secondary school leaving certificate
- B.Sc. certificate and transcript of academic records in original language, and, if this is not English or German, an official translation to English or German
- Ranking of the final results of your B.Sc. or a recommendation letter in case your overall grade is not “good” (second class upper or 2,5 in the German system) or better
- Proof of English proficiency
- Optional: motivation letter in English, using form provided on our website
- Optional: proof of special aptitude, if necessary

See also: <https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/en/application-transformation-info>

APPLICATION DEADLINES

For non-EU citizens: 15th of March

For EU citizens: 15th of September

Handing in documents after the deadline:

- Proof of English, ranking document / recommendation letter until 15th of July (Non-EU)
- APS certificate (only applicants from China, India and Vietnam) until 15th of November (enrollment deadline)
- Final B.Sc. certificate until 15th of December

See also: <https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/en/application-transformation-info>



FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION ...

Please check the program website: <https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/transformation>

... and if questions remain unanswered contact me:

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SUGGESTIONS AND COUNSELLING FOR YOUR STUDIES

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for sustainable Agri-Food Systems

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Mail: verena.seufert@uni-hohenheim.de



Make an
appointment
by e-mail



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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