

## Course description, INVEST Winter School 2023

<b>Unit of study - code study unit</b>	VHL-UAS
<b>Unit of study - name</b>	An introduction to Nature-Inclusive Agriculture
<b>Competences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competences in the field of sustainable regional development particular Nature Inclusive Agriculture</li> <li>• Problem solving competences</li> <li>• Transdisciplinary competences</li> <li>• Communication and social interaction competences</li> <li>• Intercultural competence field, including cultural awareness, multilingual and internationalization</li> <li>• Competences on self-managing, personal development, intrapersonal skills</li> </ul>
<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>Students will have an understanding of the challenges and solutions in relation to aspects in farming such as the role of insects, soil health, as well as transitional production methods.</p> <p>Students will have an understanding of the challenges of providing farmers with a fair income and maintaining food production.</p> <p>Students will have an understanding of how food can be produced with less impact on nature and the environment and the resulting dilemmas and constraints of this transition.</p> <p>Students will be able to contrast different European practices in nature-inclusive farming within the regional and national context.</p> <p>Students will have a working knowledge to be able to compose a set of appropriate actions to make a farm more sustainable.</p> <p>Students will be able to work in a multi-disciplinary setting, develop intercultural skills and build on communication skills.</p>
<b>Content</b>	<p>The winter school course 2023 is divided into 3 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Preparatory phase.</b> The preparatory online lessons start with an introduction to Nature Inclusive Agriculture (NAI) and lectures on related topics offered by the various INVEST Partners. In addition the students are asked to do a preparatory group assignment:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What contrasts between agriculture and nature do you see in your own region?</li> <li>b. Give examples of how agriculture and nature reinforce (strengthen) each other in your region</li> </ol> <p>Each country group is asked to put the results in a PowerPoint presentation, and to pitch the results on de first day of physical classes.</p> </li> <li>2. <b>Executive phase in Leeuwarden.</b> During this week there are various lecturers and excursions to companies engaged in NAI. One of them is a farm that is interested in NAI and wants to introduce it on its farm. The students prepare this farm visit and collect data during this excursion. Back in Leeuwarden, students investigate the possibilities of applying NAI. The assignment is supported with the guidance from lecturers. The lectures and the visit provide input needed for students to write an advisory report on the introduction of NIL measures on a farm that fits the landscape and the farmer's vision.</li> </ol>



	<p>3. <b>Final phase.</b> At the end of the course, the students will present the results of their advisory report. They will also reflect on the learning process through the individual learning diaries. Feedback by lecturers of all INVEST partners will be provided.</p> <p>The course will be concluded with a ceremony.</p>
<b>Teaching method(s) and student workload</b>	<p>The course will be implemented in blended format – 2 weeks online and 1 week physical realization:</p> <p><b>Preparatory work :</b> 25 September 2023 – 7 October 2023  <b>Program in the Netherlands:</b> 8 October 2023 – 17 October 2023  <b>Opening ceremony</b> 9 October 2023  <b>Awarding ceremony</b> 16 October 2023  <b>Feedback and finalizing</b> 16 October 2023</p>
<b>Rating scale</b>	<p>The course is evaluated on a scale of 1-5, where 5 is excellent and 1 is satisfactory. The evaluation of the course is based on the approved completion of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The preliminary assignment with a PowerPoint presentation on the first day (10%)</li> <li>2. Advisory report (30%), expert evaluation of their presentation (20%),</li> <li>3. Participation in joint meetings and group work (20%) and the learning diary (20%).</li> </ol>
<b>Examination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preliminary Assignment</li> <li>- Continuous assignment</li> <li>- Assessment of group assignments</li> <li>- Assessment of individual assignments</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory literature</b>	<p>Not applicable. All content will be provided during the sessions in the form of lectures and/or readers.</p>
<b>Module coordinator</b>	<p>Van Hall Larenstein University of applied Sciences, Leeuwarden, The Netherlands. Hendrik Boekhoud, lecturer/researcher Management of the living environment   Innovative Plant breeding</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>
<b>Credits</b>	<p>5</p>
<b>Period</b>	<p>Winter semester</p>
<b>Entry requirements/prerequisites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minimum requirements for English language level is B2</li> <li>- If student is a BSc, he/she should have completed two years of studies</li> </ul>