



INVEST WINTER SCHOOL 2023

An introduction to Nature-Inclusive Agriculture

This course is open to students from all study disciplines. You will learn about the broad impact of agriculture on our daily lives. How it provides food, shapes the landscape, and influences our environment.

Course Introduction

Intensive agriculture plays a significant role in the global decline in biodiversity. A move towards a more nature-inclusive and sustainable type of agriculture is necessary. You will be introduced to the idea and practices of nature-inclusive agriculture and how you too can contribute to a sustainable food supply.

- Learn how agriculture can go hand in hand with increased biodiversity, such as flower and herb-rich grassland.
- Learn about challenges and solutions related to farming aspects such as the role of insects, soil health, and transitional production methods in horticulture and stock.
- Learn about the challenges of providing farmers with a fair income and maintaining food production will be addressed.
- Learn how food can be produced with less impact on nature and the environment and the resulting dilemmas and constraints of this transition.
- Learn how to contrast different European practices in nature-inclusive farming within the regional and national context.

Skills and Excursions

You will work in a multi-disciplinary setting, develop intercultural skills, and build on your communication skills.

You will work together on a real-world farm case, visit this farm, and visit examples of Nature Inclusive farms and companies in the sustainable food chain.

When:

Preliminary phase (online): 18 September – 6 October
 Onsite in the Netherlands: 8 October – 16 October
 Post Phase (online): 17 – 20 October

Where:

Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. Excursions will take place to different provinces in the northern part of the Netherlands.

For students from:

BSc (3rd year and up), MSc, and PhD programs

Study Credits:

5 ECTS

Language:

All classes, excursions and materials are in English

Ready to Register? [Sign up here!](#)



Teaching Format

- A student-centered approach combined with interaction with real-world stakeholders.
- A theoretical foundation for learning during the preliminary online phase.
- The practical application learning process during the onsite phase.
- Working in transdisciplinary teams to propose a set of actions that lead to more sustainable agriculture that fit the farm and the farmer's vision.

The course will consist of short, recorded lectures during the preliminary phase. Facilitated workshops, group work and presentations, site visits, cultural and free time activities will take place during the onsite phase

Leeuwarden Student City

A total of 28,000 students call Leeuwarden their home. The city is known for its canals flowing through the city and closely located to the Dutch Islands. Check [this link](#) for an impression of Leeuwarden Student City.

VHL is a nine-minute walk from Leeuwarden Central Station. You will have everything on our campus of approx. 2,500 students: a large library, laboratories, technology halls, greenhouses on the roof and a Grand Café, where you can talk with your fellow students in an informal atmosphere.

Competences

The competences gained during the course will prepare you for your future career and include:

- Competences in the field of sustainable regional development, in particular as it relates to Nature Inclusive Agriculture
- Data collection skills
- Problem solving competences
- Transdisciplinary competences
- Communication and social interaction competences
- Intercultural competence field, including cultural awareness, multilingual and internationalization
- Competences on self-managing, personal development, intrapersonal skills

Course Content

- Knowledge of Nature Inclusive Agriculture
- Collecting data from scientific data and information from the farm, legislation, government policy and the surrounding of the farm
- Create a set of actions to make the farm more sustainable
- Selecting a set of actions that fits the farm and the vision of the owners
- Communication and dissemination to the farm owner