



Master in

**Sustainable Development and Agroecosystem Resilience
(SARe)**

Academic Year 2026 - 2027

Description

The Master in “Sustainable Development and Agroecosystem Resilience (SARe)” provides an innovative educational path that aims at preparing professionals to tackle the complex challenges to sustain food production in rural areas. The course focuses on farming and food systems evolution, identifying 1) the agroecosystem as the unit for action, a complex system with economic, social, and ecological components; 2) the local community as the main stakeholder relying on the agroecosystem functions and aiming to conserve and improve its ability to resist and respond to changes.

Agroecosystems are studied as agricultural landscape systems delivering important services to societies, and that evolve in relation to agri-food policies and people behaviors. Solutions are proposed for their sustainable management with a focus on biodiversity, water, soil resources, and inputs, also in response to challenges related to climate changes.

With a view to agroecological transition, the study programme gives attention to ways to promote stakeholders’ participation and empowerment in agroecosystem planning and management; to develop knowledge and innovation systems in rural areas; to establish agri-food networks driven by green and ethical principles. The course presents methodologies and tools for analysing agroecosystems and designing projects for sustainable development of agri-food sector and communities.

A consistent part of the programme is devoted to students’ projects.

At the end of the programme students will master the system thinking required to understand, assess, and promote agroecosystem resilience, and they will be able to:

- ❖ comprehend and analyse the complexity of agroecosystems, their relations with food systems and people’s behaviors, the nature of their development challenges.
- ❖ design and drive community development processes according to agroecological principles to build up resilience against bio physical and socio-economic stresses.
- ❖ analyze and promote multi-actors’ networks, and agricultural knowledge and innovation systems that support sustainable land management processes, green economy development and social inclusion.
- ❖ support community farms towards greater competitiveness and socio-economic sustainability in the agri-food system.
- ❖ implement action-research and learning approaches through participation, dialogue and vision building processes; use a range of tools for quantitative and qualitative research in rural areas.

The one-year programme will be organised in 9 Teaching modules and internship, awarding a total of 60 credits (see table below). Module 1 will be implemented in distance learning.

Modules	Credits	Dates
Module I - Sustainability and resilience in agri-food systems	4	12 Oct – 1 Nov 2026
Module II – Land and water management in agriculture	6	9 – 29 Nov 2026
Module III – Agroecology	6	30 Nov – 20 Dec 2026
Module IV – Sustainability assessment of agricultural systems	6	04 – 24 Jan 2027
Module V - Remote Sensing and Geospatial analysis	4	25 Jan– 07 Feb 2027
Module VI – Farming System Development	6	08 – 28 Feb 2027
Module VII – Territorial development and local food networks	4	08 Mar – 28 Mar 2027
Module VIII - Methodologies for Rural appraisals	6	29 Mar – 25 Apr 2027
Module IX - Internship	14	03 May – 31 Aug 2027
Module X – Project design	4	06 – 19 Sep 2027
Internship report		04 – 17 Oct 2027

Module I: Sustainability and Resilience in Agri-food Systems

This module introduces students to the complexity of agri-food systems by examining the interactions among ecological, social, economic, and institutional dimensions that shape food production, processing, distribution, and consumption. Adopting a systems-thinking perspective and framed within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the module explores the drivers of sustainability challenges and the pathways towards more sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

Food systems encompass the actors, resources, infrastructures, institutions, and activities involved in producing, processing, distributing, and consuming food, together with the food environments that influence food access and dietary behaviours. While they are fundamental to food security, nutrition, and livelihoods, they are also major contributors to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, and resource depletion, while remaining highly vulnerable to global shocks and socio-economic disruptions.

The module examines the multidimensional nature of sustainability across environmental, economic, and social dimensions, highlighting resilience as a key capacity that enables agri-food systems to absorb disturbances, adapt to change, innovate, and sustain their functions over time. Students will explore food environments, policy frameworks, and governance mechanisms that support agroecological transitions and food system transformation. Drawing on practical examples from local to global scales, the module critically analyses policies, strategies, and initiatives that foster resilient,

inclusive, and sustainable agri-food systems, preparing students to evaluate pathways for sustainable food system transformation.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce systems thinking as a framework for understanding the complexity of agri-food systems and food environments.
- ❖ Explain the concepts of sustainability, sustainable development, and resilience and their application to agriculture and food systems.
- ❖ Examine the main environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges affecting the sustainability of agri-food systems.
- ❖ Present policy frameworks and governance mechanisms that support food system transformation.
- ❖ Explore strategies and pathways for the transition towards more sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the concepts of agri-food systems, food environments, sustainability, and resilience using a systems-thinking approach.
- ✓ Analyse sustainability challenges affecting agri-food systems across different environmental, socio-economic, and institutional contexts.
- ✓ Evaluate the application of policies and governance approaches in agriculture and food systems.
- ✓ Critically assess strategies and pathways for promoting sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.
- ✓ Apply systems thinking to analyse the interactions, trade-offs, and opportunities involved in food system transformation.

Module II: Land and water management in agriculture

This module examines the sustainable management of land, soil, and water resources as fundamental components of resilient agricultural systems. It explores the interactions among climate, landscapes, soils, water resources, and land use, providing students with an integrated understanding of the processes that shape agricultural environments and influence ecosystem functioning. Particular emphasis is placed on the challenges posed by climate change, land degradation, soil erosion, desertification, drought, and water scarcity across different environmental contexts.

The module distinguishes the complementary roles of land as a territorial resource, soil as the foundation of agricultural productivity and ecosystem services, and water as a key driver of agroecosystem functioning. Students will examine land-use planning and agricultural landscapes, the principles of soil genesis, classification, survey, and soil profile interpretation, as well as hydrological processes, soil moisture dynamics, and integrated water resources management. The interactions

between rainfall patterns, soil properties, and water availability will be analysed to understand their influence on agricultural productivity, land degradation, and ecosystem resilience.

The module presents sustainable land and water management practices aimed at conserving natural resources, restoring degraded ecosystems, and improving resource-use efficiency under changing climatic conditions. Practical activities, including soil profile investigations, landscape transects, and field-based assessments, complement the theoretical foundations and provide students with hands-on experience in analysing agricultural landscapes and evaluating sustainable land and water management strategies.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Develop an understanding of the interactions among land, soil, and water resources and their role in sustainable agricultural production and ecosystem functioning.
- ❖ Examine the processes and drivers of land degradation, desertification, and water scarcity, including the impacts of climate change.
- ❖ Introduce approaches, tools, and best management practices for sustainable land and water management and climate adaptation.
- ❖ Explore methods for soil and land assessment, integrated water resources management, and decision-making to support agroecological transition.
- ❖ Provide practical experience in analysing agricultural landscapes and evaluating sustainable land and water management practices.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the characteristics and interactions of land, soil, and water resources within agricultural systems.
- ✓ Analyse the causes and impacts of land degradation, desertification, drought, and climate change on agroecosystems.
- ✓ Apply methods for soil, land, and water assessment to support sustainable natural resource management.
- ✓ Evaluate sustainable land and water management practices and their contribution to climate adaptation, ecosystem restoration, and agricultural resilience.
- ✓ Assess management strategies and planning options for promoting sustainable and resilient agroecosystems in different environmental contexts.

Module III: Agroecology

This module introduces agroecology as both a scientific discipline and a transformative approach to the design and management of sustainable agricultural systems. While recognising that agroecology encompasses environmental, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of food systems, the module primarily focuses on the ecological principles that underpin agroecosystem functioning and support the transition towards sustainable and resilient agriculture.

Students will examine the interactions among biodiversity, ecological processes, natural resource management, and agricultural production, exploring how these relationships influence the delivery of ecosystem services, including soil fertility, nutrient cycling, pollination, biological pest control, water regulation, and climate regulation. Particular emphasis is placed on the core principles and practices of agroecology at the farm level, including biodiversity management, diversification strategies, soil health, ecological interactions, and nature-based solutions that improve resource-use efficiency while enhancing the resilience of agroecosystems to climate change and other biotic and abiotic stresses.

The module also discusses the contribution of agroecology to the sustainable management of natural capital and the conservation of biodiversity, highlighting the role of ecological processes in reducing external inputs and supporting long-term agricultural sustainability. Through practical examples, case studies, and farm-based assessments, students will develop the knowledge and analytical skills needed to evaluate farming systems from an agroecological perspective, assess the implementation of agroecological practices using appropriate indicators and assessment tools, and identify pathways for farm-level agroecological transition that strengthen ecosystem services and overall agroecosystem resilience.

Aims

- ❖ Understanding the value of the agroecological approach for improving rural livelihoods and promote social equity;
- ❖ Explaining agroecosystem functioning;
- ❖ Examining the agroecosystems' complexities and challenges;
- ❖ Reviewing agroecological practices that enable a more sustainable production and sustainable management options to mitigate and adapt to climate change and other global drivers of change.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the module, students will:

- ✓ Become knowledgeable about ecosystem functioning, principles of agroecology and related practices;
- ✓ Acquire practical skills in integrated, multiscale agroecosystem analysis;
- ✓ Achieve basic knowledge on nature-based solutions for biodiversity and for the provision of ecosystem services;
- ✓ Become familiar with social and cultural values promoted by agroecology;

Module IV: Sustainability Assessment of Agri-food Systems

This module introduces students to the principles, frameworks, methods and tools used to assess the sustainability of agricultural and agri-food systems across environmental, economic, social, and governance dimensions. It provides an integrated understanding of how sustainability assessment supports evidence-based decision-making, policy development, and the design of more sustainable agri-food systems.

Students will explore internationally recognised assessment frameworks, including the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEB AgriFood), the Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems (SAFA) framework, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA), and Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). The module examines how these approaches evaluate trade-offs and synergies across the agri-food value chain by considering environmental integrity, economic resilience, social well-being, governance, and the multiple forms of capital that underpin sustainable development.

Particular emphasis is placed on selecting appropriate indicators, data collection protocols, analytical methods, and the interpretation of assessment results. Students will gain practical experience in applying sustainability assessment methods and tools, including LCA software (e.g., SimaPro), to compare agricultural production systems and identify environmental and socio-economic hotspots, opportunities for improvement, and potential trade-offs. Through case studies and applied exercises, the module develops students' ability to critically evaluate the sustainability performance of agri-food systems and to support management decisions, innovation, and policy strategies that foster the transition towards more sustainable and resilient agriculture.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce the principles, frameworks, and methods used to assess the sustainability of agricultural and agri-food systems across environmental, economic, social, and governance dimensions.
- ❖ Provide practical experience in selecting indicators, collecting and analysing data, and applying internationally recognised sustainability assessment frameworks and tools.
- ❖ Develop the capacity to critically interpret sustainability assessment results and identify opportunities for improving the performance of agri-food systems.
- ❖ Develop an understanding of how sustainability assessment supports evidence-based decision-making, policy development, and sustainable agri-food system transformation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the principles and multidimensional nature of sustainability assessment in agricultural and agri-food systems.
- ✓ Apply internationally recognised sustainability assessment frameworks and tools (e.g. TEEB AgriFood, SAFA, LCA, S-LCA, and CBA) to evaluate agri-food systems.
- ✓ Select and interpret appropriate environmental, economic, social, and governance indicators to assess sustainability performance and identify trade-offs.
- ✓ Compare the sustainability performance of different agricultural systems and propose strategies to improve their environmental, social, and economic sustainability.
- ✓ Critically evaluate how sustainability assessment can inform farm management, innovation, and policy decisions in support of the sustainable transformation of agri-food systems.

Module V: Remote Sensing and Geospatial analysis

This module introduces students to the principles and applications of remote sensing and geospatial analysis for monitoring agricultural systems, assessing climate change impacts, and supporting

sustainable natural resource management. It explores how satellite imagery, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS/GPS) provide spatial information for analysing agricultural landscapes, monitoring environmental change, and supporting evidence-based decision-making.

The module focuses on the use of geospatial technologies to assess land-use and land-cover changes, land degradation, crop performance, water resources, and the impacts of climate change on agroecosystems. Students will explore methods for integrating spatial and temporal datasets to analyse landscape dynamics, identify environmental trends, and evaluate future scenarios for resilient and sustainable agriculture. The potential of digital technologies to support landscape planning, climate adaptation, and ecosystem management is examined, together with the ethical and practical considerations associated with their adoption.

Particular emphasis is placed on the acquisition, processing, analysis, and interpretation of geospatial data for agricultural and environmental applications. Through practical exercises and case studies, students will gain hands-on experience in the use of GIS and remote sensing tools to analyse agricultural landscapes, interpret satellite imagery, produce thematic maps, and support decision-making for sustainable land management and agroecosystem resilience. The module also highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in applying geospatial technologies to address complex agricultural and environmental challenges.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce the principles and applications of remote sensing and geospatial analysis for monitoring agricultural systems, natural resources, and climate change impacts.
- ❖ Develop an understanding of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and positioning technologies as tools for analysing agricultural landscapes and supporting sustainable land management.
- ❖ Provide practical experience in the acquisition, processing, analysis, and interpretation of geospatial data for evidence-based decision-making in agriculture.
- ❖ Explore the role of digital geospatial technologies in supporting agroecosystem resilience, landscape planning, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Interpret and analyse geospatial data derived from remote sensing, GIS, and GNSS/GPS technologies to assess agricultural systems and environmental change.
- ✓ Apply GIS and remote sensing tools to produce thematic maps, analyse landscape dynamics, and evaluate climate change impacts on agroecosystems.
- ✓ Collect, manage, and integrate spatial data from different sources to support sustainable natural resource management and agricultural decision-making.
- ✓ Critically evaluate the potential and limitations of geospatial technologies for monitoring agroecosystems, informing land-use planning, and supporting resilient agricultural development.

Module VI: Farming System Development

This module introduces the farming systems perspective, examining agriculture as part of interconnected territorial systems in which farmers, natural resources, institutions, markets, and communities interact to shape agricultural development. It explores how farming systems evolve in response to environmental, socio-economic, and policy drivers, highlighting the importance of integrated and participatory approaches for fostering sustainable and resilient rural livelihoods.

The module presents Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) as key mechanisms for strengthening farmers' capacities, facilitating knowledge exchange, and promoting the co-creation and adoption of sustainable innovations. Students will analyse the roles and interactions of research institutions, advisory services, farmer organisations, private-sector actors, policymakers, and civil society in supporting farming system transformation. Particular attention is given to participatory innovation processes, business development services, and farmer organisations as drivers of collective action, capacity building, and innovation uptake.

The module also examines agri-food value chains and market systems as essential components of farming system development. Through the analysis of different business models, value chain relationships, quality standards, and market opportunities, students will explore how sustainable production, value addition, and inclusive market participation contribute to resilient farming systems and rural development. Drawing on practical examples from different agricultural contexts, the module develops students' ability to evaluate strategies that integrate innovation, market development, and institutional support to strengthen the sustainability and competitiveness of farming systems.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce the farming systems perspective as a framework for understanding agricultural development within territorial and socio-ecological contexts.
- ❖ Explain the role of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), farmer organisations, advisory services, and business development services in supporting sustainable farming system transformation.
- ❖ Examine the contribution of agri-food value chains, market systems, and innovative business models to sustainable rural development and green economy transitions.
- ❖ Develop an understanding of participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches that foster knowledge exchange, innovation, and collective action in agriculture.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Analyse farming systems by identifying their key actors, interactions, opportunities, and constraints within a territorial context.

- ✓ Identify and evaluate the roles of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS), farmer organisations, and other stakeholders in promoting sustainable agricultural innovation.
- ✓ Assess the innovation needs of farms and agri-food enterprises and propose appropriate support mechanisms for capacity development and innovation uptake.
- ✓ Evaluate how agri-food value chains, market systems, and business development services contribute to the sustainability, resilience, and competitiveness of farming systems.
- ✓ Critically discuss participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches for supporting farming system development and sustainable rural transformation.

Module VII: Territorial development and local food networks

This module examines territorial approaches to sustainable rural development, exploring how local food networks, collective action, and stakeholder collaboration contribute to resilient agri-food systems and vibrant rural communities. It adopts a place-based perspective, recognising that sustainable development depends on the interactions among farmers, local institutions, businesses, civil society, and consumers within specific territorial contexts.

The module explores the role of social capital, governance, and multi-stakeholder networks in supporting agroecological transition, strengthening local economies, and enhancing food security and community resilience. Attention is given to local food systems, short food supply chains, farmers' cooperatives, producer organisations, community-supported agriculture, and other forms of collaborative action that create social, economic, and environmental value.

Students will examine agri-food value chains as drivers of territorial development, analysing how value chain organisation, market relationships, quality schemes, and sustainable business models influence the competitiveness and sustainability of local food systems. The module also introduces approaches for analysing stakeholder networks, promoting local markets, and supporting community-led rural development initiatives, including examples such as bio-districts and Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). Through case studies and applied exercises, students will develop the capacity to analyse territorial food systems, evaluate collaborative governance models, and identify strategies that strengthen sustainable local development, agroecological transition, and resilient food networks.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce territorial development approaches and their contribution to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.
- ❖ Examine the role of social capital, stakeholder networks, and collaborative governance in supporting local food systems and rural development.
- ❖ Explore sustainable agri-food value chains, local food networks, and community-based initiatives as drivers of territorial development.
- ❖ Develop practical skills for analysing territorial food systems and stakeholder relationships.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Analyse territorial food systems by identifying key stakeholders, networks, and governance arrangements.
- ✓ Evaluate the contribution of local food networks, value chains, and collective action to sustainable rural development and agroecological transition.
- ✓ Apply stakeholder and value chain analysis tools to assess opportunities for strengthening local food systems.
- ✓ Critically assess community-based approaches and collaborative initiatives that promote resilient, inclusive, and sustainable territorial development.

Module VIII: Methodologies for Rural appraisals

This module introduces the principles and methods of social research for the analysis of farming systems and rural development processes. It provides students with the theoretical foundations and practical skills needed to investigate the social, economic, institutional, and environmental dimensions of agroecosystems through participatory and interdisciplinary research approaches.

The module explores qualitative and participatory research methodologies commonly used in rural appraisal, including stakeholder analysis, participant observation, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and participatory rural appraisal techniques. It also introduces the principles of survey design, questionnaire development and administration, sampling strategies, and basic approaches to qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Students will examine how different methods can be combined to generate reliable, context-specific evidence for understanding rural livelihoods, farming systems, and agroecological transitions.

Practical activities are central to the module. Through workshops and field exercises, students will develop skills in designing research protocols, collecting and analysing data, interpreting findings, and communicating results. These competencies are applied through an Action Learning Project, in which multidisciplinary student teams investigate a real farming system or rural territory. Guided by participatory research principles, students will formulate research questions, engage with local stakeholders, collect and analyse field data, and produce evidence-based recommendations. The project culminates in the preparation of a professional research report and an oral presentation, providing students with hands-on experience in conducting applied rural appraisal to support sustainable agricultural development and agroecosystem resilience.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce the principles and methods of social research and rural appraisal for the analysis of farming systems and rural development.
- ❖ Develop practical skills in participatory, qualitative, and survey-based data collection and analysis.
- ❖ Build students' capacity to design, conduct, and communicate applied research using appropriate methodological approaches.
- ❖ Provide hands-on experience in interdisciplinary teamwork through the analysis of real farming systems using an Action Learning approach.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Design and implement a rural appraisal using appropriate qualitative, participatory, and survey-based research methods.
- ✓ Collect, organise, analyse, and interpret social research data to assess farming systems and rural development processes.
- ✓ Critically evaluate research findings and communicate evidence through professional reports, presentations, and stakeholder-oriented outputs.
- ✓ Work effectively in multidisciplinary teams to investigate real farming systems and formulate evidence-based recommendations that support agroecosystem sustainability and resilience.

Module IX: Project design

This module introduces the principles and methods of project design for sustainable rural development and agricultural initiatives. It provides students with the knowledge and practical skills needed to develop projects that respond to local needs, address development challenges, and promote sustainable and resilient agroecosystems.

The module presents Project Cycle Management (PCM) as a structured framework for the identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development projects. Students will explore how projects originate from the analysis of local contexts, problems, opportunities, and stakeholder needs, applying participatory approaches and rapid rural appraisal techniques to support inclusive, context-specific, and evidence-based planning. Attention is given to stakeholder identification and analysis, partnership building, communication, negotiation, and relationship management, recognising that effective collaboration among farmers, local communities, public institutions, NGOs, researchers, and private-sector actors is fundamental to successful project implementation and long-term sustainability.

Students will gain practical experience in translating rural assessments into project concepts using the Logical Framework Approach (LFA). Working on real case studies, they will prepare project concept notes and proposal components by defining objectives, expected outcomes, activities, indicators, assumptions, and monitoring frameworks. Particular attention is given to the Logical Framework Approach (LFA) as a key tool within project design and planning. Students will learn how the different elements of a project are logically connected.

The module also provides a brief overview of other project management approaches, including the Theory of Change (ToC) and Results-Based Management (RBM). This overview is intended to familiarise students with alternative or complementary ways of thinking about project change and results, without introducing additional methodologies in depth. ToC highlights the causal pathways and assumptions through which a project is expected to contribute to change, while RBM focuses on defining, monitoring, and managing towards results. These approaches will be presented as complementary perspectives to PCM and the Logical Framework, which remain the main methodological focus of the module.

Students will also develop communication products—including concept notes, policy briefs, presentations, visual materials, and project pitches—to effectively communicate project ideas and expected impacts to donors and stakeholders. Through applied exercises based on real development initiatives, students will strengthen their capacity to design, communicate, and critically evaluate projects that support sustainable agricultural development and rural transformation.

Aims

The module aims to:

- ❖ Introduce the principles and tools of Project Cycle Management (PCM) for sustainable rural development.
- ❖ Develop competencies in participatory project design, stakeholder analysis, and the application of the Logical Framework Approach (LFA).
- ❖ Build practical skills in preparing project concepts and proposals based on real rural development cases.
- ❖ Provide a basic understanding of other project management approaches, particularly Theory of Change and Results-Based Management, and their relationship with PCM and LFA
- ❖ Develop effective written, visual, and oral communication skills for presenting project ideas and expected impacts to diverse audiences.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- ✓ Apply Project Cycle Management tools to design rural development and agricultural projects.
- ✓ Conduct stakeholder, problem, and needs analyses to inform project design and planning.
- ✓ Develop a Logical Framework Matrix, and a concise project concept note for a real development challenge.
- ✓ Design appropriate objectives, indicators, monitoring frameworks, and implementation plans for project proposals.
- ✓ Prepare and present professional communication products that effectively communicate project rationale, expected outcomes, and results to technical and non-technical audiences.
- ✓ A brief overview of other project management approaches

Module X: Internship

The internship is designed to strengthen students' practical knowledge and professional skills in a real working environment. It provides an opportunity to bridge academic learning with professional practice while contributing to sustainable agriculture, agroecosystem resilience, and rural development initiatives.

Students are encouraged to actively identify, with the support of the Master's staff, a host organisation that best matches their academic interests and career aspirations. Internships are carried out under the supervision of the host organisation and involve participation in ongoing projects or the implementation of a specific assignment relevant to the host institution. Activities may include rural appraisals, field surveys, sustainability assessments, stakeholder engagement, agroecological analyses, project design, monitoring and evaluation, geospatial analyses, communication activities, or the preparation of technical reports and other knowledge products.

Throughout the internship, students will develop practical competencies in project implementation, teamwork, stakeholder engagement, problem-solving, communication, and professional practice within multidisciplinary and multicultural environments. The internship also offers valuable

opportunities to build professional networks and gain first-hand experience of different organisational contexts.

At the end of the internship, students will prepare a professional report describing the host organisation, the activities undertaken, the methods applied, the results achieved, and the lessons learned. They will present their work before an international academic board as the final step of the Master's programme.

Potential Host Organisations

Internships may be carried out in:

- ✓ International organisations and development agencies
- ✓ Government ministries and public agencies working in agriculture, environment, rural development, or natural resources
- ✓ Universities, research institutes, and innovation centres
- ✓ National and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- ✓ Farmers' organisations, cooperatives, producer organisations, and rural development associations
- ✓ Private companies operating in agriculture, agri-food systems, environmental services, precision agriculture, or sustainability consulting
- ✓ Local authorities, regional development agencies, and bio-districts
- ✓ International research centres and networks working on agriculture, climate change, food systems, and natural resource management.