

## Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title Sustainable Food Production  
Course Code BENC2021  
ECTS Credits 5,0  
Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2026	11-12-2026	X		X		L

Level no level  
Coordinator Koen Verhees For more information:koen.verhees@maastrichtuniversity.nl  
Language of instruction English

Goals Students will be able to:  
\* Describe current challenges of food production ecosystems  
\* Apply tools and methods for sustainability assessment within food production  
\* Analyse consumer acceptance of new innovations in food

Description The aim of this course is to give you insights into the current challenges of sustainability in food production ecosystems. You gain a deeper understanding of the role of food in health and the economy, on the pressures on maintaining an adequate food supply and the factors that can affect future food availability. You apply some of the tools and methods used in sustainability assessment (Life Cycle Assessment, Cradle-to-Cradle), and use them to analyse several existing more complex case studies where these tools were applied. Issues of scale (case studies at global, regional and local level), stakeholders (who to involve) and future-proofing (scenario studies) are addressed. The role and impact of biotechnology on sustainable food production is evaluated and consumer acceptance of GMOs and key innovations such as the CRISPR genome editing tools in food production is also discussed.

Literature

Prerequisites It is NOT possible to register for this course as 'exam only'.

Keywords

Transitional Regulations

Teaching methods PBL / Lecture

Assessment methods Written Exam / Presentation

Evaluation in previous academic year For the complete evaluation of this course please click <http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM>

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation