

Agroecology, Agrobiodiversity, Permaculture and Regenerative Farming

Applying for this course

This course is targeted at those learners who wish to learn more on organic farming. Either emerging organic farmers who would like to further enhance their existing skills or individuals who are passionate about organic produce and would like to find a related job. Eligible individuals would be **persons who completed compulsory schooling** up to 64 years of age, who know how to communicate in Maltese or English.

Course Duration

This course is of 50 hours duration and consists of one Module.

General pedagogical guidelines and procedures for this course:

The delivery of this course will be mainly held through a series of presentations, discussions, case studies, visits, and hands-on training.

General assessment policy and procedures for this course:

The learner will be assessed through an ongoing assessment in the form of discussion, oral questions, multiple choice questions, assignments and/or case studies depending on the learners' ability. The ongoing assessment does not carry any marking but rates the performance of the learner in class.

Module 1 Learning Outcomes – Agroecology, Agrobiodiversity, Permaculture and Regenerative Farming

<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Provide an overview of plant and soil biology✓ Describe the Microclimate✓ Define regenerative farming✓ Describe the benefits of regenerative farming✓ Define common terminology used in regenerative farming✓ Choose the correct units of measures✓ List different categories of plants and classify plants for different organic farming strategies✓ Be familiar with plant chemistry; explain different nutrient in plants and their interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ List and apply different natural fertilisers✓ Provide an overview of permaculture✓ Describe different design principles✓ List common practices✓ Assess an agroecosystem for its level of sustainability based on indicators of a sustainable system✓ Describe ways of converting to a sustainable system through the redesign of a conventional agroecosystem✓ Propose solutions to case studies✓ Describe the importance of applied health and safety; PPE when using machinery or solutions, precautions when mixing solutions or using machinery, following instructions and recognising different labels
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Apply natural remedies and botanical pesticides from plants✓ Ensure the cropping of different plants which complement each other✓ Ensure best practices of pest control in organic farming; identify pests and disease, describe different natural pest management, produce liquid fertilizer - which can be used in organic farming, describe and carry out weeding technique, list companion plants, describe the process and carry out interplanting	
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Module 1 Assessment: There is no assessment for this module.

This course was designed in collaboration with MCCA, MOAM and various organic farmers. This course is not accredited through MFHEA and hence it is not pegged at an MQF level. Learners who attend at least 80% of the course, will receive a confirmation of attendance. This confirmation of attendance can be used to eventually apply for the certificate of achievement once all modules of the *Organic Farming* course are complete.