



Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between
BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZFH

Module	Rural and Regional Development in Practice
Code	MSLS_AF-33
Degree Program	Master of Science in Life Sciences (MSLS)
ECTS Credits	5
Workload	150 h: Contact 40 h; Group Exercise 20 h; Self-study 90 h
Module Coordinator	<p>Name Dr. Dominique Guenat</p> <p>Phone +41 31 910 21 74</p> <p>Email dominique.guenat@bfh.ch</p> <p>Address Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Laenggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen</p>
Lecturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hochuli Andreas • Dr. Dominique Guenat • Hans Schaltenbrand
Entry Requirements	<i>None</i>
Learning Outcomes and Competences	<p>After completing the module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain various approaches of rural development, resp. regional development, underlying paradigms and their influences at household level and beyond; • analyse and evaluate rural and regional development approaches, in different places and under different circumstances; • identify and assess potentials and limitations for development in a given environment, both in terms of natural resources and in terms of institutions and people; • propose strategies and organisations to support sustainable rural development.
Module Content	<p>The module content will address those aspects of rural development that will be of highest relevance to the participants. It will be more applied than theoretical, and offers a set of problem cases (Problem Based Learning). Therefore the contents can be adapted and resource persons (lecturers) selected according to the specific needs. The following main topics will be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural and regional development: with aspects such as decentralization, community development, migration, governance, center vs. peripheral regions, and the role of agriculture and forestry • Transition processes and rural development in practice: how can rural development approaches support transition processes, how do they interact in practice? • Community forestry and forest economics: role of communities for sustainable management of natural resources, especially forest resources • Rural development from a welfare economic perspective: addressing issues such as equity and access to resources, income distribution, role of remittances, etc. • Safety nets and rural development: poverty in rural areas, social safety nets to mitigate the effects of liberalisation and development • Watershed management: including aspects of compensation mechanisms (upstream – downstream) for environmental services.
Teaching / Learning Methods	Introductory lectures, Problem Based Learning (there will be 5 PBL problem cases submitted to the participants) each problem case has been formulated by a specialist who will also provide the coaching.
Assessment of	1) Written exam to assess the ability of students to apply the concepts of rural development to new situations (60%)

Learning Outcome	2) Two individual working papers (20+20%)
Bibliography	<p>SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), 2001. Guide to Decentralization. SDC, Bern, 28 p.</p> <p>SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), 2012. Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management CSPM: Integrating conflict sensitivity and prevention of violence into SDC Programms - A handbook for practitioners. SDC, Bern, 24 p.</p> <p>Van Huylenbroeck G, Durand G, 2003. Multifunctional agriculture: a new paradigm for European agriculture and rural development. Ashgate Publishing Limited, Hampshire.</p> <p>A selected list of references and documents related to the different problem cases will be made available before the start of the module.</p>
Language	English
Comments	The following sequences are compulsory for students: All PBL tutorials. For details on compulsory sequences, please refer to the detailed schedule of the module, which will be uploaded on Moodle 4 weeks before the start of the module.
Last Update	12.02.2016 / Dominique Guenat