

Universities in Helsinki, Finland



HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL spells high quality academics combined with a wide range of cultural and social activities. Our multidisciplinary courses, all taught in English, aim at stimulating thought and intellectual development in an open and diverse environment. A city known for its design, technology and vibrant cultural life, Helsinki is sure to be the experience of a lifetime.



HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL

August 9 to 25

2011

Thinking Allowed



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Organizer



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURE

6 ECTS

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The sustainability of agricultural production will be claiming an ever-increasing significance because of rapidly growing population, the dwindling resource base, and the imperatives of conserving healthy environment and viable ecosystems. The role of natural processes and their utilization for sustained production are and will be receiving increasing attention from practitioners, policy makers as well as public. The ecological intensification of production of food, fiber, and energy from land is to become a cornerstone in tomorrow's agriculture.

Ecosystem services are the goods and services derived from natural and managed ecosystems upon which human welfare depends. Ecosystem services include highly diverse phenomena, from the production of food to recreational benefits. And the range of performance varies from microbes to landscapes. Therefore, the major challenge is to be able

to recognize and value the flow of services to better accommodate the agricultural land use to the functioning of ecosystems. The crucial question is: Are we ready to deal with these demands?

This course is designed to provide students with a solid understanding about the concept of ecosystem services and their use in agriculture in a cross-disciplinary framework. The course will demonstrate students how natural processes in ecosystems used for agriculture support the continuous provisioning of food and other biomass, how to contribute to the purification of waters and soil, and how to create recreational and cultural experiences in farmland.

On a practical level, the course will equip students with relevant skills in the field and in the lab. In addition, the course provides students with information on the environmental policies as well as agriculture-related research in Finland.

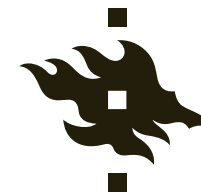
This year, the focus will be especially but not exclusively on organic systems.

The course will be highly interactive and rich in practical learning. It will be organized around a project for a real case farm. Lectures, interviews with experts, fieldwork, and excursions will provide students with the relevant theoretical concepts and practical approaches needed for the project work. The course will also introduce students of different educational cultures to principles and practices of reflective learning, in which learners are engaged actively in optimizing their learning according to own local situations and personal objectives.

The course will be led by Dr Irina Herzon, University Teacher in Agroecology in the University of Helsinki. The course is based on collaboration among three departments (Agricultural Sciences, Food and Environmental Sciences, and Forest Sciences) and top experts in their specific

fields will be involved in the teaching.

Course prerequisites are basic studies in agricultural, environmental, or soil sciences, or other appropriate field. The course is intended for Master's and advanced level students, as well as professionals in agriculture or other related fields.



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

University of Helsinki
Department of Agricultural Sciences
and Department of Food and Environmental Sciences
MENV1 – Master's Degree Programme in Environment
and Natural Resources