

Food Security and Sustainability: Food Access

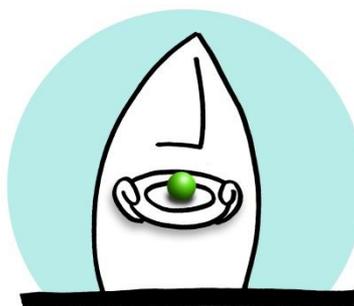
Course Syllabus

<https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:WageningenX+FSSFAx+3T2019/course/>

Topic

What does it take to provide access to safe and nutritious food every day? In this course, you'll explore how key actors at the household, local, national and international levels negotiate and make choices on access to food.

You will learn how an individual's food accessibility depends on social and economic dynamics at the household level. Next, you will unravel the interactions between traders, retailers, producers and buyers in markets shaping food access at the local level. At national level, you will see how politics and policies influence access to food by negotiating and aligning goals, instruments and modes of governance. You will also learn how debates and negotiations in international organisations create conditions in food trade that influence how access to food is arranged. Finally, you will combine your insights in food access at different levels for composing the big picture, and demonstrate how different levels are interrelated. Overall, the course enables you to critically reflect upon what's on your plate and who influences that selection.



Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- understand the basic principles of food access;
- understand actors' choices influencing food access;
- discern dilemmas at household, local, national and international levels;
- unravel the connections between levels and actors regarding access to food.

Level & Prerequisites

The level of the course is introductory. The prerequisites are secondary school or a first/second year BSc.

Time Commitment

The course consists of 6 weekly modules, with an average effort of 6 to 8 hours studying per week.

Course Structure

1: Setting the Scene



In the first module, we will introduce food access as one of the pillars of global food security.

2: Households Accessing and Allocating Food



Social and economic determinants are shaping access to food between and within households. We will focus on the question: How does food accessibility within and between households depend on socio-cultural and economic dynamics at the household level?

3: Traders Arranging Food Access in Local Markets



In this module, we focus on the distribution and trade of food at the local level. We will unravel the interactions between traders, retailers, producers and buyers in markets shaping food access at the local level.

4: National Policy Makers Governing Food Access



Let's discuss food policy and how political choices at the national level affect access to food. At this level, we will see how politics and policies influence access to food by negotiating and aligning goals, instruments and modes of governance.

5: Negotiators Setting International Trade Rules for Food Access



Introducing the role of international trade for food access, we will look at its economic, social and cultural implications. We will learn how debates and negotiations in international organisations create conditions for food trade that influence how access to food is organised.

6: Connecting the Ingredients



In the final module, it is time to integrate levels and actors. We will combine our insights into food access at different levels to compose the big picture, and demonstrate how different levels are interrelated.

Course Calendar

EVENT	MODULES	DATE	TIME*
Opening course	All	3 September 2019	0:00 UTC
Due date section exams	Module 2 to 5	20 February 2020	23:00 UTC
Due date submitting paper final exam	Module 6	6 February 2020	23:00 UTC
Due date reviewing 4 papers final exam	Module 6	20 February 2020	23:00 UTC
Closing course	All	20 February 2020	23:00 UTC

* Please be aware that these are UTC times; check when this is for your time zone.

All modules are published at once and so are the section exams. The deadline for completion of all section exams is the closing date of the course. In other words, you may choose to complete the section exam of Module 2 at the very end, if you wish. However, we would advise you to complete the assignments and exams as you move your way through the course.

Grading Policy

The assignments of the course that contribute to your final mark can be found at the end of modules 2 to 5 under Section Exam. They are multiple choice questions on the content of each module. Module 6 contains a final exam, the so called 'Essay and peer review for grading'. You will write a paper and review four papers of other students. For those of you who are taking the course to obtain a verified certificate, a minimum grade of 60% is required for the exams. Each exam (both the section exams and the final Exam) counts for 20% of your overall grade.

What's the difference between audit and verified track?

The course offers two possibilities: an audit track and a verified learner track. The audit track comprises most of the course but also lacks important information. In every module there is content that is only available to verified learners, for example extra video's and exams. The verified track provides the complete course and the full experience. Below you see the differences, per module for audit and verified learners.

Topic / activity	Module	Available in audit track (free)	Available in verified track (paid)
Welcome	0	✓	✓
Setting the Scene	1	✓	✓
Households Accessing and Allocating Food	2	✓	✓
Diversity and Trade at the Local Level	3	✓	✓
National Policy Makers Governing Food Access	4	✓	✓
Negotiators Setting International Trade Rules for Food Access	5	✓	✓
Connecting the Ingredients	6	✓	✓
Section Exam (graded)	2 to 5	✗	✓
Final Exam – Peer Review (graded)	6	✗	✓
Certificate (if you receive a passing grade)	N/A	✗	✓

If you are looking for some basics about food access, we welcome you in the audit track. However we encourage everyone who want to use this course for a career enhancement and who's looking for more in-depth knowledge about food security and food access, to upgrade to the verified track to get access to all course materials.

Academic Policy

We expect each student to complete the section exams on their own, not in collaboration with other students. In addition, the submitted essay in module 6 should be your own written work, not the result of collaboration with other students or written by someone else.

Discussion Forum Participation

As a student of this course you are part of a diverse learning community that is at the heart of a meaningful learning experience. The discussion forum is an essential part of this online course. In many assignments you are asked to discuss your findings on the forum with other learners. Moderators are participating in the forum to help in the learning community. Their role is to help facilitate an effective dialogue and support the forum guidelines. You will see comments from them in topic threads, and get messages directly from them if they have moved your post to a more appropriate thread.

There are a few things to consider when posting on the discussion forum:

- *Read before posting.* If you have a question, scan through to see if it's already been addressed and use the search function to avoid creating duplicate threads and find the most appropriate topic thread to post in.
- *Use informative titles.* Keep your post titles short and on-topic so the forums are easier to navigate. If you're asking a question, it should go in the title.
- *Make it easy to read.* Present facts and background in your post. Don't capitalize or bold entire sentences since this makes the forums harder to read. Check your posts for spelling or grammatical errors.
- *Stay on topic.* Don't change the topic of a thread or split a thread into multiple discussions. And please, don't post the same post/question in more than one forum.
- *Help keep the site friendly.* If you think a post or comment is mean, insulting, too violent, or otherwise inappropriate, click "Report" to let us know about it.