

# E-Learning Course: Food and Agricultural Trade

*Global course delivered via Internet*

*April 20 to May 15, 2009*

## Course Summary and Objectives

Agricultural trade is undoubtedly the single most important link between trade and poverty in many developing countries, where farming accounts for a large part of total employment and constitutes the main income source for the vast majority of the poor. The 4-week course focuses on key issues that are of special interest to developing country decision-makers and discusses the strategic agricultural trade issues associated with poverty reduction.

The main purpose of the course to strengthen the capacity of developing country policy makers, senior officials, advisors, and analysts to:

- understand the implications of recent trends and developments in agricultural trade flows, recent global market developments and how they can contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction;
- analyze policy issues related to food and agricultural trade; and
- design and formulate efficient unilateral domestic trade policies in the face of the challenges and opportunities presented by the developments in the international food and agricultural markets.

## Course Outline

The course will take place over a four-week period (April 20 to May 15, 2009) and includes 4 modules covering several important topics.

The modules for this course are:

<b>Module</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Resource Persons</b>
<b>E-Module 1:</b> Recent Developments in Private Food and Agricultural Sector	April 20 – 24	Miet Maertens (TBC)
<b>E-Module 2:</b> Standards in Food and Agricultural Trade	April 27 – May 1	Spenser Henson (TBC)
<b>E-Module 3:</b> Agricultural trade policies: Drivers and Stylized Facts	May 4 – 8	Ernesto Valenzuela
<b>E-Module 4:</b> Food and Agricultural Export Development and Other Strategic Issues	May 11 - 15	Alex McCalla Nicholas Sabwa

## Course Structure and Organization

Each module consists of one or two mandatory readings, accompanied by a number of PowerPoint presentations and recommended readings that will provide more in-depth treatment of each topic.

Participants will be expected to read the course materials at the beginning of the week. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week there will be an online discussion (not in real time) among participants guided by that week's resource persons. There will be at one mandatory question in each module that all participants will be required to respond to. The moderators will post a mandatory question every Thursdays in the discussion board. In addition, participants are requested to respond to end of module quiz (3 multiple choice questions) as a requirement for completion of each module.

To successfully complete the course and receive a certificate of course completion from the WBI, each participant is required to (i) review the mandatory materials, (ii) connect several times each week to participate actively in the online discussion (1-2 messages in "most" weeks/modules) and (iii) respond to the weekly mandatory question and the end of module quiz.

## Target Audience

In order to keep the discussions interactive and manageable, the number of participants in this version of the course will be limited to 50. Target audience includes:

- Government officials (from trade, agriculture, foreign, finance/economics ministries) directly involved in the conduct of agriculture policy and agricultural trade negotiations.
- Officials in development or planning ministries, whose tasks increasingly include keeping track of ongoing agricultural trade negotiations and fitting such efforts into the broader and longer-term process of development.
- Researchers in academia, think tanks and regional research networks concerned with food and agricultural trade.
- Representatives from professional associations and from consumer groups typically interested in the impact of agricultural trade policy/negotiations.
- World Bank and other international organization staff involved in analytical, advisory and technical assistance work related to trade in food and agriculture.

## Course Fee

Participation of government officials and academics from International Development Association (IDA) countries will be waived. Participants from non- IDA countries will be assessed a \$150 tuition fee. The cost for participants from developed countries will be \$250. (Refer to the attached excel file to identify your countries category)

## Technical Requirements

The course will be conducted in English over the internet, so the ability to participate in the online discussion is a key pre-requisite and mandatory requirement for participants. All participants must have access to the Internet.

## Application

### Application for Non Bank Staff:

Closing date for accepting applications is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Click the link below:

[http://info.worldbank.org/etools/wbi\\_learning/activity.cfm?sch\\_id=TRA09-01-143](http://info.worldbank.org/etools/wbi_learning/activity.cfm?sch_id=TRA09-01-143)

### Application for World Bank Staff:

Closing date for accepting applications is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Apply using the “my Learning” catalogue:

<http://lms.worldbank.org/topclass/tce730iis.dll?Plugin-catreg-offeringdetailsenrol-3044692>

## Instructions

- 1) Click the Apply button under the proper part/session and activity title
- 2) Complete the application form
- 3) Click Submit
- 4) A confirmation will be sent to those selected.

Admission will be confirmed only to selected candidates by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## Contacts

For questions related to applications, please contact Vasumathi L Rollakanty at email: [Vrollakanty@worldbank.org](mailto:Vrollakanty@worldbank.org), fax: 1-202- 676-9810

For questions related to the course content, please contact Gustavo Garcia-Benavides at email: [ggarciabenavides@worldbank.org](mailto:ggarciabenavides@worldbank.org), Nicholas Sabwa at email: [nicksabwa@aol.com](mailto:nicksabwa@aol.com) or Soamiely Andriamananjara at email: [sandriamananjara@worldbank.org](mailto:sandriamananjara@worldbank.org) , fax: 1-202-676-9810