

The VOICES of our STUDENTS

Master Programme

SUSTAINABLE AGRO-ECOSYSTEMS AND RESILIENCE
(SARe)



Academic Year 2022 – 2023
CIHEAM Bari

Welcome message



Are you planning to become an actor who will contribute to the sustainable development of farming and agri-food systems? Are you interested in agricultural development processes at territorial level?

The SARE Master's course is a 2-year programme that will enable you to build knowledge and competences to facilitate agroecological transition and the resilience of agroecosystems.

Throughout your training, you will attend lectures and develop projects, interacting with scientists, practitioners and market players. You will develop your skills to interpret the complexity of agroecosystems and to facilitate development processes aiming to protect the environment and promote participation and networks development. In the 1st year, you will stay on CIHEAM campus in Bari, taking courses and living in an international environment, with students from many countries. The second year, on the other hand, you will carry out practical research in an agro-ecosystem in your own country, under the supervision of technical experts.

This booklet features the experience of our students from A.Y. 2022/23. We hope it will provide useful insights to lead interested students wishing to apply for the SARE Master's course.

Lamberto Lamberti
Course coordinator

Salima Aloui

Algeria



1 About the Master course

The course provides a holistic and interdisciplinary training in sustainable agriculture that would highly benefit new candidates. The course not only teaches the classroom concepts of economic, social and environmentally friendly food systems patterns, but also reinforces these principles through hands on farm visits.

2 My research in Miliana mountainous area, centre west of Algeria

I worked on researching and implementing the Living Lab approach in Miliana area. This provided me valuable first-hand experience applying theoretical concepts, participating directly in testing innovations through workshops and surveys with stakeholders. Networking with others practicing Living Labs may lead to future collaboration opportunities. This research experience developing tangible solutions strengthened my problem-solving skills.

3 The Campus experience

The most thing I enjoyed at CIHEAM Bari campus is international environment. Coming from a relatively homogeneous cultural background, it was a unique and enriching experience to live and learn alongside students from all over the world. I greatly appreciated being able to make close friends from many different cultures and exchange perspectives on our diverse lived experiences. Discussing everything from food and languages to values and traditions opened my eyes to both our shared humanity and rich cultural variations.



Muhammad Hammad

Egypt



1 About the Master course

I would recommend the SARE course because it offers a comprehensive approach and covers a wide range of topics, including agroecology, sustainability assessment, climate change, and social aspects of agriculture. The most valuable thing is the practical field visits experiences that provide valuable insights into challenges and how to solve them, as well as tangible examples about the theoretical information.

2 My research in El-Sharkia Governorate, Egypt

The value of my research activity lies in its potential to address sustainability challenges in agriculture and highlights how regenerative agricultural practices can mitigate environmental degradation and improve soil health. By focusing on assessing the impact of regenerative agriculture practices on soil fertility, this research has the potential to support farmers in adopting these practices.

3 The Campus experience

The campus provides a collaborative environment with more than 50 international students from different countries, where I had the opportunity to interact with colleagues and professors from a variety of language backgrounds, which has allowed me to obtain strong interpersonal and collaboration skills. Additionally, CIHEAM Bari staff is exceptional and very friendly.



Achamyeleh Anteneh

Ethiopia



1 About the Master course

I recommend the participation to SARE Master program for its global relevance, and because it focuses on overall sustainability, resilience-building, policy implications, professional development opportunities, and interdisciplinary approach.

2 My research in Northwestern Ethiopia

It explains the woody tree species diversity, management, and importance of Agroforestry practices for livelihoods in the unexplored areas of Northwestern Ethiopia. It should highlight the impact, relevance, and potential implications of the findings within the context of the specific field. It aims to communicate with academic community, NGOs, and society at large.

3 The Campus experience

My favorite aspects of my stay at the CIHEAM Bari campus were the deep cultural exchanges I had with students from other nations with different culture, and religion. In addition, the insightful field trips where I learned from deferent lecturers, farms, and companies.



Moses Mahugu Kenya



1 About the Master course

The SARE Master course is ideal for its collaborative approach and interdisciplinary nature. The teaching units are delivered by lecturers and experts in their respective fields, from different institutions within Italy and beyond. Participating to several fields' trips solidify the theoretical knowledge taught in class.

2 My research in Turkana North Sub County

My research regards the Effectiveness of adoption of drip irrigation technology on pastoral livelihoods in remote areas. It provided the opportunity to connect my knowledge learnt in Italy with the situation on the ground in Kenya, through observation as well as collaborating with supervisor from a Kenyan University. It also gave me the chance to apply concepts and explore regions of the country I haven't visited before.

3 The Campus experience

Hospitality, accommodation, and related services are great, including the catering services.



Maroun Bou Matar

Lebanon



1 About the Master course

The SARE course has critical knowledge, current relevance, practical application, interdisciplinary approach, global perspective, and environmental stewardship. The course includes fundamental ideas in sustainable agriculture and agroecosystem management, as well as current concerns and solutions that contribute to food security. It also includes practical components that allow candidates to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world circumstances. The course also provides a worldwide perspective, providing insights into sustainable techniques used in diverse regions. Overall, the insights given by this course contribute to a healthier planet.

2 My research in Mount Lebanon

My research aims to assess the entrepreneurial resistance in the agri-food sector and its impact on the sustainable development. Despite economic crises, political instability, currency devaluation, some entrepreneurs adapted strategies, explored new markets, and found innovative solutions, demonstrating resilience. My research activity shed lights on the entrepreneurial ecosystem, the challenges this sector faced, and the strategies adopted for its resilience. The research can provide practical strategies and applications and contributes to academic knowledge.

3 The Campus experience

The CIHEAM Bari campus provides a great experience distinguished by a welcoming setting that fosters community and collaboration. The atmosphere supports pleasant encounters with approachable staff, an inclusive attitude, engaging social activities, and collaboration areas. The campus prioritizes student support, offering a wide range of services, including academic guidance and local assistance. It provides a great balance for a successful academic journey.

Fatsani Chimutu

Malawi



1 About the Master course

SARe is a multidisciplinary program that cultivates and fortifies the spirit of coordination and an eye for synergy identification in agriculture. By equipping individuals with the knowledge of how well agroecosystems can be managed, it enables students to be in a possession of generating interventions to help agricultural systems navigate through different adversities. Additionally, the program imparts system-thinking traits to decision-making processes, guiding resource utilization based on the situation at hand while ensuring their longevity. Furthermore, it is a program that considers the entire spectrum of the food system, examining it from economic, social, and environmental perspectives. This comprehensive arrangement builds adept practitioners who are rational in their decision-making.

2 My research in Nsanje District, Malawi

My work addresses the issue of land degradation, a phenomenon that is escalating rapidly despite various intervention programs being implemented. The goal is to understand what farmers know about land degradation and the mitigation measures being employed. By filling in the literature gap, my research aims to help local practitioners improve and develop interventional programs that are specific to the local context.

3 The Campus experience

The campus offers a conducive environment for learning. The friendly culture of the staff members allows international students to adapt easily and concentrate on their studies. The learning atmosphere is well-rounded, with high-tech equipment and experienced professors. Seasoned with festivities that are thrown at right intervals, comprising both local dishes and music, it relaxes the minds of students. This creates an environment one can only dream of, that is what makes studying at CIHEAM- Bari unforgettable experience.

Fatima-Zahra Fahim

Morocco



1 About the Master course

SARe Master program is an attractive option for candidates passionate about contributing to sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly agricultural practices. It adopts an interdisciplinary approach, offering a comprehensive education that integrates various fields, including agroecology, sustainable agricultural practices, climate change and its impact. Practical experience and field visits give the chance to gain real-world insights into sustainable agriculture, contributing to an enriched learning experience for candidates. The program actively promotes collaboration and networking among students and facilitates connections with professionals and researchers. This collaborative environment enhances the learning experience and establishes valuable connections for future career opportunities.

2 My research in Azilal Region, Morocco

My research regards the carob cultivation in Azilal region with an analysis of its effect on local communities. Analyzing the key actors and stakeholders involved in carob production offers a thorough understanding of the interaction between them and possible opportunities to strengthen partnerships. Moreover, by investigating the socioeconomic impacts, the study highlights carob farming's significance for rural communities. The findings can guide more effective policies, programs and initiatives that empower smallholder carob producers. This comprehensive analysis generates valuable knowledge for stakeholders to invest in improving livelihoods through sustainable carob activities in Azilal province.

3 The Campus experience

I appreciate the rich diversity of cultural backgrounds represented among students at CIHEAM Bari. The fact that we come from different countries means that each of us brings our own unique perspectives, experiences, and ways of thinking to the learning environment. Collaborating with peers from varied nationalities and cultures exposes me to new ideas. Also, engaging in campus activities such as yoga, fitness sessions and collaborative work in the garden not only provides refreshing breaks but also exposes me to healthy activities that offer enjoyable opportunities for socializing.

Jovana Askrabic

Serbia



1 About the Master course

I would like to recommend the SARE course to the students who are eager to broaden their knowledge and develop comprehensive understanding of complexity of agroecosystems, encompassing environmental, social, and economic dimensions. This course takes a system thinking approach, offering a diverse learning experience facilitated by both university professors and practitioners from different backgrounds and countries. This interdisciplinary program encourages teamwork and creativity, combines theory and practice, and equips students with different skills and knowledge preparing them to address the challenges of sustainable food production.

2 My research in Celinac Municipality in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In my research, I assess the impacts of sustainable land management practices at the farm level, linking them to the watershed level. I utilize a range of tools and approaches, gaining hands-on research experience, conducting field and lab soil analysis, engaging with land users, and employing drone imagery and GIS software for watershed analysis. The research findings aim to provide valuable insights for policy makers, land users, and land use planners, promoting a watershed management and landscape approach in sustainable land management strategies.

3 The Campus experience

What I enjoyed the most in CIHEAM Bari campus was the diversity of cultures and the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds, spend daily lives together, sharing experiences and forming lasting friendships.



Amina khader

Tunisia



1 About the Master course

The course underscores the importance of sustainable practices for environmental conservation, food security, economic viability, and societal well-being. It equips individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of modern agriculture while promoting a more sustainable and resilient future. The course encompasses a diverse range of subjects simultaneously, making it multifaceted. Additionally, it features numerous field trips aimed at enhancing your knowledge. Recognizing that practical experience fosters a deeper understanding of reality, this is especially crucial in the context of agriculture.

2 My research in El Kef–Siliana, northwest of Tunisia

The value of my research activity lies in its potential to contribute to sustainable agriculture, food security, and environmental conservation while addressing the specific challenges faced by farmers in Tunisia. The insights gained can inform policies and interventions that support the transition to more sustainable farming practices.

3 The Campus experience

Living independently in a foreign country is a transformative journey that significantly contributes to my personal growth and self-reliance. The experience presents unique and specialized programs that might not be accessible in my home country, offering an enriching academic environment. Adding to that networking with individuals from diverse backgrounds broadens my perspective and creates opportunities for collaboration and friendships. The challenges of adapting to a new environment push me beyond my comfort zones, fostering personal development and providing a deeper understanding of the world. Exposure to new customs, traditions, and languages become an educational and personally enriching aspect of my international experience, contributing to a more comprehensive and culturally diverse worldview.

Contact Us



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