**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL CHANGE**

**Module aims and learning outcomes**

*Aims*

This module introduces students to definitions of and perspectives on sustainable development and links the sustainable development discourse to contemporary and emerging issues in rural areas. The aim is to enable students to develop a better understanding of the concept of sustainable development and its implications for policy and decision-making, with particular reference to the rural development sphere. The module also touches on agricultural cross-border trade facilitation as driver of sustainable and inclusive rural livelihoods, with particular emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa. Examples and media from IFAD, World Bank Group and other relevant actors are integrated into the lectures to provide a practical perspective.

The specific aims of the module are:

* To define sustainable development.
* To set out key principles, questions and critiques of sustainable development
* To present alternative perspectives and approaches to sustainable development
* To illustrate some important, current issues and debates rural areas and how these link to the sustainable development agenda.
* To understand what agricultural cross-border trade is, and how it can contribute to sustainable and inclusive rural livelihoods

*Learning outcomes*

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

* define, understand and evaluate critically the concept of sustainable development
* understand and evaluate critically the main principles of sustainable development
* understand that there are a range of alternative approaches and perspectives towards sustainable development
* understand and evaluate critically some of the most important current issues and debates in relation rural areas and view these in the context of the sustainable development agenda
* describe implications of current trends and debates for United Nations system engagement in rural areas.
* understand the features, drivers, prevailing challenges, and potential policy/project solutions of/to agricultural cross-border trade facilitation

**Assessment**

This module is assessed by:

* Participation in class (attendance, group presentations/discussions etc.) - 25%
* An essay of approximately 1500 words – 75%

**Reading list**

1. IFAD. 2016. Rural Development Report 2016. Overview*.* Rome: IFAD. Available at: https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/4bcb3209-0773-489a-b93a-57fae6581b69

1. IFAD. 2017. Investing in rural livelihoods to eradicate poverty and create shared prosperity. Available at: [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39148759/Policy+brief++Investing+in+rural+livelihoods+to+eradicate+poverty+and+create+shared+prosperity.pdf/fcea3409-05c7-45aa-a6a2-92c7d624490e](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39148759/Policy%2Bbrief%2B%2BInvesting%2Bin%2Brural%2Blivelihoods%2Bto%2Beradicate%2Bpoverty%2Band%2Bcreate%2Bshared%2Bprosperity.pdf/fcea3409-05c7-45aa-a6a2-92c7d624490e)
2. ICTSD [2018] – ‘’*Supporting Small-Scale Cross-Border*

*Traders Across Africa*’’, Bridges Africa, Vol. 7, n. 4, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), June 2018. <https://www.ictsd.org/sites/default/files/bridges_africa_june2018.pdf>

Brenton P., N. Dihel, M. Hoppe, and C. Soprano[2014] – ‘*’Improving Behavior at Borders to Promote Trade Formalization: the Charter for Cross-Border Traders’*’, Africa Trade Policy Note n. 41, July 2014, World Bank, Washington DC, USA. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/894601468346146304/pdf/894730BRI0Char0Box0385291B00PUBLIC0.pdf>

Mvunga N. and Kunaka C. [2021] – ‘*’Eight Emerging Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small-Scale Cross-Border Trade in the Great Lakes Region’’*, 17 February 2021, World Bank Group, Washington DC, US.

https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/35159/Eight-Emerging-Effects-of-the-COVID-19-Pandemic-on-Small-Scale-Cross-Border-Trade-in-the-Great-Lakes-Region.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

1. [*Optional*] UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and Development [2018] – ‘*’Borderline: Women in Informal Cross-border Trade in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia’’*, UNCTAD, Geneva, Switzerland.