



University of
Zurich ^{UZH}

ETH zürich



University
of Basel

Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

Summer School

Sep 11 - 16 and Sep 19, 2016

Einsiedeln and Agroscope Reckenholz



Agriculture in Transformation

New concepts for an agricultural
production that is socially fair,
environmentally safe and
economically viable

Agriculture in Transformation:

New concepts for an agricultural production that is socially fair, environmentally safe and economically viable

Future demand in agricultural output is supposed to match the needs of 9-billion people with less input of resources. Can we transform our agricultural practices and move behind existing paradigms to develop innovative and sustainable agriculture production systems? The aim of the 2016 summer school is to facilitate an intensive interaction between students and stakeholders from federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, scientists and industry to discuss ideas, concepts, trends and share opinions on how different sustainable agriculture productions systems might develop. We will explore how current examples of a transition towards a sustainable agriculture production system on different scales can be assessed in the dimensions of socially fair, environmentally safe and economically viable.

The summer school integrates open social inquiry approaches to understand the values, beliefs, interests and conflicts in our society when discussing about sustainable agriculture.

Learning objectives

- 1. Gain in-depth knowledge about global trends at the nexus of agriculture and society.**
- 2. Build skills in analyzing and evaluating trends and concepts of sustainable agriculture.**
- 3. Understand the values, beliefs, interests and conflicts of different stakeholder groups when discussing about sustainable agriculture.**
- 4. Develop scenarios for a transition to sustainable agriculture.**
- 5. Develop a stance about different options how a sustainable agriculture system should look like and write and present a position statement.**

“Our vision for sustainable food and agriculture is therefore that of a world in which food is nutritious and accessible for everyone and natural resources are managed in a way that maintain ecosystem functions to support current as well as future human needs. In our vision, farmers, pastoralists, fisher-folks, foresters and other rural dwellers have the opportunity to actively participate in, and benefit from, economic development, have decent employment condition and work in a fair price environment” FAO 2014

Program

During the summer school study week (Sep 11 - 16, 2016) invited speakers will give input presentations, take part in plenary discussions, workshops and act as mentors. A list of confirmed speakers can be found on the summer school website.

The program of the summer school study week will include sessions on:

- Assessment of Agro-ecological Farming Systems: Concepts and Best-practice Examples
- Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture: Concepts and Governance
- Sustainable Access to Plant Breeding Material
- Frameworks to Protect and Improve Rural Livelihoods, Equity and Social well-being
- The Ethics of Sustainable Agriculture
- Transition to Sustainable Agriculture Systems

Participants of the summer school will work in small groups on case studies and be guided by mentors. The results of the group work will be presented in the form of position statements at the follow-up symposium (Sep 19, 2016).

In addition to the summer school, MSc students, PhD Students and postdocs will have the opportunity to complete a 1 - 2 days site visit at the institutions that take part in the summer school. This optional opportunity is a chance for knowledge transfer and networking for young scientists.

Summer school study week

Sep 11 - 16, 2016

Einsiedeln

- input presentations
- plenary discussions
- workshops
- group work on case studies

Follow-up symposium

Sep 19, 2016

Agroscope, Reckenholz, Zürich

- keynote speaker
- group work presentations of position statements

Site visit

optional, 1 - 2 days during fall term 2016

at institutions that take part in the summer school

Outcome

Summer school participants will be guided to produce a position statement on a case study in small groups with a mentor. A position statement is a scientifically based argumentation about an applied problem, i.e. a question of practical, societal concern. The position statement provides an expert opinion on the current debate, indicates points to consider in the decision process, compiles the existing knowledge relevant for the problem. It is prepared for a clearly defined audience, e.g., administrative officers at a federal agency.

Duration

Six day summer school study week	Sep 11 - 16, 2016
One day follow-up symposium	Sep 19, 2016
<i>Optional: 1-2 days site visit</i>	<i>Fall term 2016</i>

Eligibility

MSc students, PhD students and postdocs at University of Zurich, ETH Zurich or University of Basel. Preference will be given to students in one of the following PhD programs: Plant Sciences / Science & Policy / Ecology. Additional places are available for PhD students of the CerealPath European Training Network.

Recognition

3 ECTS for participation in the summer school study week (Sep 11 - 16, 2016) and preparation of a position statement as group work, including presentation at the follow-up symposium (Sep 19, 2016).

Poster session

Participants will present posters about their current research projects.

Fee

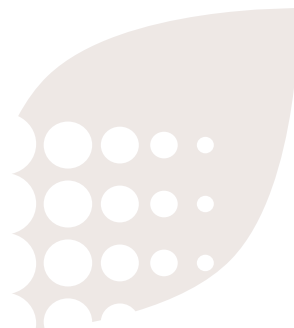
Fees cover board, lodging and activities during the summer school study week and the follow-up symposium. For CerealPath students: no fee applies. For all other: PhD students: CHF 150; MSc students: CHF 60. Travel expenses are not covered.

Registration

Registration will be open Mar 1, 2016 - Apr 15, 2016. Applicants will submit the following items as a merged PDF: (1) CV, (2) short motivation statement (5 - 10 sentences), (3) latest publication or chapter of dissertation (if applicable). Evaluation of the incoming registrations will be based on the participant's education, link of personal research work to topics in the summer school and motivation statement.

For registration please visit:

<https://spsw.registration.ethz.ch/default.asp>



Locations

Summer school study week, Sep 11 - 16, 2016

Schweizer Jugend - und Bildungszentrum (SJBZ), Hotel Allegro

Lincolnweg 23, CH-8840 Einsiedeln

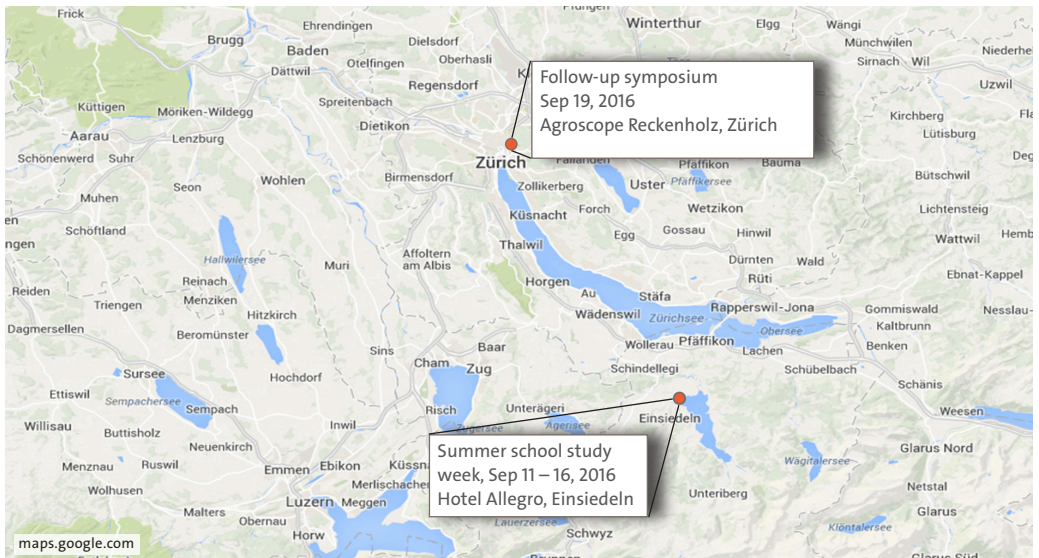
www.hotel-allegro.ch

Follow-up symposium, Sep 19, 2016

Agroscope Reckenholz, Zürich

Reckenholzstrasse 191, CH-8046 Zürich

www.agroscope.admin.ch



The study week venue in Einsiedeln. Photo: Hotel Allegro



The venue for the follow-up symposium in Agroscope Reckenholz, Zürich. Photo: Agroscope

Organizers

The summer school is organized by the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center (PSC).
Hosting PhD Programs are:

- Plant Sciences (Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center)
- Science & Policy (Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center)
- Ecology (Institute of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, UZH)

About the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

The Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center is a competence center linking and supporting the plant science research community of the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and the University of Basel. The center promotes fundamental and applied research in the plant sciences. We seek creative approaches to research mentoring and coursework for students and postdocs, and we provide platforms for interactions with peers, policymakers, industry, stakeholders and the general public.

www.plantsciences.ch

Funding

This summer school is part of the Sustainable Development at Universities Programme of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences with funding by the Swiss University Conference (SUC), the ETH Critical Thinking Initiative and the Graduate Campus, University of Zurich. PSC is program partner of CerealPath with support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 674964.

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Contact

Dr. Liselotte Selter

liselotte.selter@usys.ethz.ch

Phone: +41 (0)44 632 633 91 48

Dr. Carole Rapo

carole.rapo@usys.ethz.ch

Phone: +41 (0)44 632 89 50

www.plantsciences.ch/teaching/summerschool.html