



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO elearning
ACADEMY



Online event

FAO elearning Academy pedagogical models and
learning solutions: First Anniversary

Wednesday 23 June 2021

14:30 - 15:30 (Rome time)

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FAO elearning Academy pedagogical models and learning solutions: First Anniversary

23 June 2021

Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/gcPRImPIZ1w>

Questions and Answers

For more information about the international technical webinars series, please visit
the [FAO elearning Academy website](https://elearning.fao.org)

DISCLAIMER

This document is a compilation of questions relevant to the topics covered during the International Technical Webinar, raised by the participants, and answers provided by the experts from FAO or partner institutions during the event. The answers provided in the Q&A document only reflect the personal views of the experts and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever, endorsement, nor recommendation on the part of FAO or the partner institutions involved in the webinars. FAO reserves the right to alter, limit or discontinue any part of this service at its discretion. Under no circumstances shall FAO be liable nor held responsible for any loss, damage, liability or expense suffered that is claimed to result from the use of information posted on this site, including without limitation, any fault, error, omission, interruption or delay.

1) Do you have or use competency frameworks? You say you build your courses from competencies, but I am under the impression that FAO doesn't really use them.

The FAO elearning courses are designed based on specific competencies and professional profiles.

Our design approach is learner-centred, collaborative, multiplatform and multilingual. Course design starts with a detailed target audience analysis, is based on realistic and measurable learning objectives, includes knowledge assessment tests. A final evaluation certifies the acquisition of competencies, by granting a digital badge.

A preliminary thorough multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary collaborative learning needs assessment, involving field practitioners and target audience representatives, is conducted to design a comprehensive curricula and target specific competencies.

The curricula is based on a detailed analysis of the target audience groups, including their roles, job functions and responsibilities, their key job tasks, and the knowledge, skills and competencies required to improve their performance and reach the overall learning intervention objectives.

Each course has a clear purpose, realistic objectives that are measurable through knowledge tests and a final evaluation that certifies the acquisition of competencies, through the Digital Badges system. Our pedagogical model for identification of competencies is fully described in our publication: FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707>

2) You say you are competency oriented, but where are the competency coming from? Who is determining them and how are they being assessed or established?

See response 1 above, the competencies are defined through a collaborative learning needs assessment conducted with the target audience representatives. The curricula is based on a detailed analysis of the target audience groups, including their roles, job functions and responsibilities, their key job tasks, and the knowledge, skills and competencies required to improve their performance and reach the overall learning intervention objectives. Our pedagogical model for identification of competencies is fully described in our publication: FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707>

3) Who is the archetypal participant? Who is the learning competency taxonomy and rigor-relevance targeted to?

The FAO elearning courses cover a number of different thematic areas: Sustainable Forestry, soils restoration, sustainable fisheries, Climate Smart Agriculture, Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition, food safety, food losses, child labor, Responsible Governance to tenure among others, and are fully aligned with the SDG Agenda 2030. The target audience varies and is extremely different for each course.



4) Do you provide custom e-learning development services to sister UN agencies?

Indeed we are supporting and contributing to a number of United Nations initiatives and networks:

- **UN-SDG Learn** supported by the UN Deputy-Secretary-General: www.unsdglearn.org/ to share the FAO SDG Indicator courses
- United Nations Statistical Department (UNSD): **Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)** <https://unstats.un.org/gist/> to share the FAO Nutrition and Food Security courses as well as the FAO SDG Indicator courses
- **UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition Movement** <https://scalingupnutrition.org/> to contribute to their capacity development strategy, share the FAO Nutrition and Food Security courses and coordinate advocacy activities related to Nutrition.
- **UN-SDG Help Desk**: <http://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/> to share the FAO Nutrition and Food Security courses as well as the FAO SDG Indicator courses
- **UN elearn group** to share experiences on innovative pedagogical models and adult learning strategies.
- **United Nations Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)** to share the FAO Nutrition and Food Security courses GLOPAN (Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition) to share the FAO Nutrition and Food Security courses

In addition we provide guidance and support on the pedagogical models that are fully described in our publication: FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707>

5) How to use storytelling and microlearning in elearning? Could you give me an example please?

For each type of content specific learning strategies are required, our pedagogical models are fully described in our publication in Part III: "Creating Interactive Content" of FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707>

6) What do you think is the future of Universities as we know it today and given the impact of COVID and this kind of model. Do you think we still need degrees at the end of the day if we can package knowledge like this. Then how do you "certify" knowledge?

We believe it is crucial for Universities to start envisaging also elearning as a delivery method. We believe the FAO elearning Academy fills a gap between universities, that provide the theoretical basis, and the professional competitive world that requires marketable competencies. We certify the acquisition of competencies, through the digital badges system. The digital badges system is a driver for educational reform, it is a transparent, verifiable, evidence-based, inclusive, equitable internationally recognized accreditation system, that certifies the acquisition of competencies. The system motivates life-long learning, allows to progress talents within organizations and offers greater employment opportunities.



Knowledge assessment tests are used throughout the courses to reinforce learning, increase active participation, increase retention and memorization of concepts and principles, increase interactivity and allow learners to have opportunities to practice their understanding of the materials.

Each course offered through the FAO elearning Academy has a clear purpose and realistic objectives that are measurable through knowledge tests and a final evaluation.

Certification granted by FAO, by passing the final scenario-based performance evaluation, with a score of 75% or more, is also associated to the FAO elearning courses. Certification is granted through the Digital Badges system, that **certifies the acquisition of competencies**.

7) As for badges, are you somehow cooperating with HPass initiative?

We are exploring possibilities of collaborating with the HP pass initiative which we believe offers interesting opportunities.

8) How can I join the FAO elearning Academy platform?

To join the FAO elearning Academy, please register here:

<https://elearning.fao.org/login/signup.php>

9) Are there any tools for disabled learners?

Digital inclusion is at the core of our workflows: the font size of the courses content is determined based on impaired vision, we have a downloadable version of the courses, to enable access to individuals with poor connectivity, we offer a printable version of the courses without the photographs and images. This is however an area where we have to dedicate more attention and effort.

10) How do you deal with suboptimal internet connections and with suboptimal learning conditions (e.g. equipment for practical sessions)?

The technical requirements for accessing our courses are extremely low, in addition, courses are kept on purpose very light, videos are uploaded on the FAO YouTube channel and only the links are included, and we have a downloadable version of the courses, to enable access to individuals with poor connectivity and low internet bandwidth, Individuals in these areas can therefore download the courses on their computer and on a local area network, in order to allow the entire institution to access the courses on their computer.

11) Which of the digital platforms you mentioned has been more accessible to farmers who have restricted access to the internet and who have minimal technological skills?

We work with farmers organizations, that are usually well-equipped and they are our intermediaries to reach farmers and enable them to acquire relevant competencies.

12) It would be helpful to know what a hackathon is. How is the learning from these measured?



Hackathons are described in our publication: FAO elearning Academy Major Achievements 2019 <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=595>

13) How about the people in Rwanda , how can I participate to bootcamps/hackathons?

Future Food Institute and FAO are organizing a series of International Boot Camps to create a new professional profile, and develop the skills and competences of a new class of professions: “*Climate Shapers*”, key figures in the circular and sustainable food chain, because the way we produce food, transform it, market it and consume it, has an impact on climate change.

These international Boot Camps, organized throughout the world, are life changing learning journeys, with the overall aim to develop the capacities of “*Climate Shapers*”, bringing together change-makers from around the world to co-design tangible strategies and innovation accelerating actions on climate, fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Full Sponsorships are also offered for participants from developing countries or deprived areas.

For more information on the FFI/FAO Climate Shapers International Boot Camps visit:

<https://futurefood.academy/digital-academy/digital-boot-camp/>

14) How have you been measuring the effectiveness and impact of the courses and what kind of post-training evaluations have you been applying to the different target audiences?

We find it very useful to conduct periodic surveys of our learners in which we ask about the use and applicability of our courses. We recommend carry out a survey 6 to 12 months after the course release date, in order to allow uptake and give the time for the professionals to apply what they have learned through the course.

15) I don't know if you are collaborating with anyone or Universities in Nigeria and how can I be part of everything we are talking about here?

Please contact us and we will explore and assess collaboration opportunities

16) Is there a programme for the Digital Inclusion Summit?

For more information on the Digital Inclusion Summit and Fair visit:

<https://www.itcilo.org/it/courses/digital-inclusion-summit-leaving-no-one-behind>

<https://www.itcilo.org/events/digital-inclusion-knowledge-fair>



Please visit the **FAO elearning Academy** elearning.fao.org, which offers free multilingual courses on the thematic areas covered in the Technical Webinar.

You can access all webinar recordings [here](#).



<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=715>

