



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO elearning
ACADEMY



Online event

FAO elearning Academy: Methodologies and good practices for designing and delivering e-learning solutions

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FAO elearning Academy: Methodologies and good practices for designing and delivering e-learning solutions

15 July 2021

Recording Link: <https://youtu.be/y5Elnwwx9iM>

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) Does FAO have free e-learning courses and how can one attend them?

The FAO elearning Academy multilingual elearning courses are offered free of charge, available as global public good. They are accessible here: <https://elearning.fao.org/>

2) Do you have any suggestion for Monitoring eLearning Results?

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.

3) Which eLearning platform (tool), does FAO use to provide eLearning courses?

Learning Content Management System (LCMS)

The FAO elearning Academy is based on MOODLE, that is a free and open-source learning content management system, widely used throughout the world by private sector, universities and UN agencies. The access to the courses from the Moodle platform requires a registration (database driven) and this is crucial to track learners and generate relevant statistics.

Authoring Tool Articulate 360 Storyline

In addition, for the creation of its elearning courses the FAO elearning Academy uses an Authoring software named “**Articulate 360 Storyline**” that is the number one industry, award-winning authoring solution, widely adopted worldwide.

The software allows to produce the courses in a **SCORM format**, and this enables interoperability between systems. In other words, since the courses are produced in a SCORM format, FAO is able to share them directly with universities, academic and research institutions, UN agencies, European Union, IFRC, NGOs, and international development agencies to support their capacity development efforts.

4) Is it also connected to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration?

The FAO elearning Academy has contributed to this initiative through the development of a number of relevant courses:

Introduction to forest and landscape restoration

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=703>

Monitoring forest and landscape restoration

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=687>

Sustainable financing of Forest and Landscape Restoration

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=675>

Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=587>

Climate Smart Forestry <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=578>

A guide to developing a resilient watershed management plan

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=649>

Sustainable land management and land restoration

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=454>



5) Do you use any kind of group activities in your e-learning classes?

The FAO elearning Academy supports member countries, through a number of different capacity development interventions and elearning courses, offered free of charge, as a global public good. The overall objective is to ensure the transfer of know-how, skills and competencies using different methodologies: self-paced elearning courses, blended learning programmes, massive open online courses (MOOCs), technical webinars, online tutored courses, mobile learning, International Hackathons on the SDGs, Global 24h Marathons on Sustainability, University University Master's Degree programmes and Post graduate degree, as well as face to face training workshops.

For many of our pedagogical models mentioned above, we use different group activities in e-learning classes, including discussion forums, collaborative writing using Google tools, collaborative activities and assignments through wikis, whiteboard tools (e.g. Mural), and live sessions using breakout rooms.

6) Is the Guide available in Arabic language?

At the moment, the guide is only available in English. It is foreseen to be translated into French, Arabic and Spanish by the end of the year.

7) Does FAO have free e-learning course for everyone? Do we need to adopt any requirement before taking these courses?

All our courses are free and provided as open access to all. Please visit the FAO elearning Academy to browse the courses: <https://elearning.fao.org/>

Or visit the FAO elearning Academy Course

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

8) Do you have any specific soft skills that FAO e-learning is targeted at?

The FAO elearning Academy also offers courses on interpersonal skills: advocacy, negotiation, communication.

9) Can other organizations run their courses over the FAO platform?

The FAO elearning Academy complies with a number of elearning international quality criteria and standards. The courses will be assessed for their quality both in terms of content and design, and if they comply with the quality criteria, FAO could envisage to offer them through the FAO elearning Academy.

10) Are FAO Certificates offered after each e-learning course relevant when one applies for any job opportunities with FAO?

The digital badges are considered an international accreditation and a reliable, evidence based, transparent certification of competencies, therefore they are relevant for worldwide employment opportunities and to progress talents within organizations.

11) Are there e-learning topics for food safety, agroecology and agrochemicals residues in foods?

Please visit the FAO elearning Academy Course Catalogue:



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

12) Do you have free software/tools/canva to facilitate the creation of such e-learning? and have you identified the cost to provide technical assistance to teams interested to develop an online training?

We are using the Articulate 360 for course production, which is a proprietary tool. We use an open-source platform (Moodle) for course delivery, please refer to item 3 above. We would be pleased to collaborate on course design and development if the thematic areas are of interest to FAO.

13) What is a hypothetical estimate of producing an e-learning tool?

This really depends on the amount and type of content (level of interactivity and media), however, within the FAO elearning Academy the estimate cost per lesson varies between USD7,000 to USD8,000.

14) How are e-learning assessments organized?

Section 5.3 of the guide covers Evaluation strategies, FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707>

15) Is the word ELEARNING equivalent to saying DIGITAL LEARNING or is it different?

"e" in elearning originates from "electronic". These days we call this "digital". So yes, it is equivalent.

16) Will this webinar be available afterwards?

The video recording of this webinar, presentations and Q&A will be available at the FAO elearning Academy webpage:

<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=721>


17) Is there information on Monitoring, Evaluating and Learnings following an online course anywhere else as this seems to not be included in the guide?

There is a section on evaluation in Chapter 5 of the FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707>

18) Do you follow-up with participants to analyse whether they have been applying the knowledge/skills acquired? If so, how this is done?

We find it very useful to conduct periodic surveys of our learners, in which we ask about the use and usefulness of our courses, through a self-assessment to evaluate the transfer of learning to the job. 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.

In blended/facilitated courses, learning assessments are conducted as part of the course activities, and allow to assess course impact.



19) I am wondering how does the feedback work for the assignments?

For online tutored courses, the tutor provides individualized feedback and guidance for the assignments and performance of learners.

For self-paced courses, our tests provide an automatic feedback based on the answer given by the learner. Generally, the feedback explains why the answer is correct or incorrect. This way the test is used also reinforce further the learning.

20) Has there been any collaboration with UN SDG: Learn on the development of the Elearning Academy? How do you see the two complementing each other?

Absolutely, we are contributing to the UN-SDG Learn platform and our courses are also offered through that platform.

21) Question related to Mobile E-learning: do you have any survey results regarding the achievement of learning goals in comparison to online learning in a more 'classic' style?

No, we have not conducted any survey to compare the effectiveness with respect to the achievements of the learning goals. However, it would be hard to have the same course in both formats, as not all the types of courses are suited for mobile learning. The choice between the two formats is mainly driven by the type of content and learners-related requirements (e.g. connectivity issues) and geographic location.

22) Does FAO provide certificates for completing the webinars?

Our webinars do not foreseen certifications of attendance, but you can obtain digital badges taking the FAO e-learning courses related to the topics of the webinars and passing the evaluation with a score of 75% or higher.

23) Is FAO working with national research and extension systems and schools to help them use your approaches to develop their own materials?

We do support some of our partner organizations. The FAO elearning Academy Guide on Methodologies and Good Practices <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=707> Has precisely been developed to document the FAO elearning experience and for the purpose of supporting institutions worldwide, by providing step-by-step guidance on our pedagogical approaches.

24) Does the guide cover a topic on how to design and deliver paid online courses?

Please note that in the guide we focus on the methodologies and pedagogical models, and that the FAO elearning Academy fully support SDG 4 which is Universal Education, therefore free access to anyone, anywhere and at any time.

25) Are there some RBA - inter UN collaboration on such kind of e-learning academy & certification? do you accept other e-learning tools on your platform or which conditions to develop joint e-learning which can be hosted for instance both on FAO and IFAD learning platforms?



Please note that the FAO elearning Academy is the result of a collaborative effort involving over **200 partners** throughout the world: You can visit the partners page at this link:

<https://elearning.fao.org/mod/partner/view.php?id=4704>

All courses are developed with many partners and many have been designed and developed in collaboration with the RBA and many UN agencies

26) A l'exemple de l'initiative en cours Amérique Latine, en existe-t-il en Afrique Subsaharienne? Si oui, est-il possible d'y avoir accès?

Non la même initiative n'existe pas en Afrique.

27) I am impressed by the wide range of partnerships with academic institutions and universities that the eLearning Academy was able to create, something that at my Unit are only beginning to explore now. How did you choose the diverse academic institutions to partner with? And how did you work towards creating specialized joint Master's and Post Graduate Degree? Do you have Long-term agreements with partners? How can I check which curricula are available?

Joint Masters and Post graduate Degrees are developed as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between FAO and the University. The Universities are selected on the basis of their expertise in the thematic area covered in the course and very often it is also the university, that contacts us to express interest in integrating the courses, as part of the learning programme offered. For example:

UNITELMA University in close collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy created and delivered two joint Masters Degree programmes in 2020:

"Vulnerability and Sustainability in the Global Society" in English and Italian

"International Cooperation, Finance and Development (ICO)" within the context of "Human Rights and Humanitarian Law" and "Governance for Development" in English

The **Open University of Catalonia** in close collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy created and delivered the joint Masters Degree programme on "Nutrition and Health" in 2020:

<https://www.uoc.edu/portal/es/news/actualitat/2020/388-nutrapp-nutricion.html>

The **Luiss University** in close collaboration with the FAO elearning Academy created and delivered the joint Masters Degree programme on Food Law in 2020, this is the 4th edition.

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>