

FAO elearning Academy: Innovative learning methodologies and digital inclusion for sustainability

14 July 2022

Questions and Answers

For more information about the international technical webinars series, please visit the FAO elearning Academy website

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. I am very interested to hear about your strategy to provide access for those in conflict areas. Is there any efforts for Tigrayans excluded from education for the last 3 years?

We always try to reach audiences that are in very remote areas, sometimes audiences that are not computer-savvy, who do not have access to technology. How do we reach out to them? Thanks to our partners, extension officers, and institutions like AFAAS, who work with extension officers to transfer competencies for example to farmers, and audiences who do not have access to technology. Being our courses accessible online for free everywhere, one of our main targets are vulnerable people in conflict areas. In this regards, Open badges can facilitate social inclusion of disadvantaged groups such as migrants, refugees or those who are disenfranchised with traditional schooling and face unequal access to education.

1) For ICBA: How do you collaborate with start-ups and entrepreneurs launching businesses in agriculture and food domains?

At ICBA we have a technology testing platform to help private-sector companies to test their agricultural innovations and products in harsh environmental conditions joinly with our scientists. You can find more information at https://www.biosaline.org/content/call-testing-and-demonstration-agricultural-inputs-and-technologies-suitable-use-marginal. To develop the competences and skills of new agripreneurs, ICBA also offers a certified agri-entrepreneurship professional diploma in partnership with the Gracia Group and the Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy.

2) Will the materials and recordings be shared or accessible later?

Yes, the video recording of this webinar, presentations and Q&A document will be available at the FAO elearning Academy webpage: https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=828

3) As a lecturer, may I use the materials provided through the platform for some private lectures?

Of course. Our learning materials are available to anyone completely free of charge, as a global public good.

4) How we can I follow the certified courses provided by the FAO elearning Academy? All courses are available here https://elearning.fao.org/ in the courses section. There you can also find e-learning courses categorized by thematic areas.

5) I am currently studying MSc AgroFood Chain. I would like to know if there any internships opportunities offered in this programme.

At the Paideia Campus. Sara.Roversi@futurefoodinstitute.org

6) How can one cite the digital badge on CV?

FAO digital badges are issued on passing (75%) a final scenario or competency-based test. For people who do not have access to formal education, badges can present a

granular skill and knowledge showcase of what someone has learned over time in various contexts. We are currently working within the organization for providing in future also printable certificates with the name of the learner, which could be more easily cited in CVs.

7) As a development worker that is project-based livelihood dependent, will there be an initiative that this skillset offered will provide an edge over the others in terms of job application? because we keep promoting sustainability but we cannot even sustain our job as a development work.

Digital badges have been proposed as a system to recognize and communicate achievement in a variety of learning contexts, particularly informal frameworks. As such, digital badges have the capacity to bridge formal and informal learning environments and to make learning in each context visible.

8) My question is for Sara, in the present consequences and increasing population graph and increasing food scarcity sustainability can be adopted and this approach can meet the requirements?

I believe so, and I believe there are no options. However, we need to change mindset and have courage to change models and governance.

9) Do courses focus only on knowledge acquisition or are there courses that incorporate the goal of behaviour change? I've explored several courses, but not all, but haven't seen this important focus.

Our courses are primarily focused on developing competences and skills among our stakeholders, including smallholder farmers, in a variety of fields, including biosaline agriculture and sustainable natural resources management. But our ultimate goal is, of course, to contribute to behavior change. And we can only achieve that by showing what is best for our stakeholders in terms of the challenges they face.

10) How can one be involved with the booth camp series organized by Future Food Institute?

<u>Sara.Roversi@futurefoodinstitute.org</u> please reach out to us!

here you find some info:

FFI/FAO UN Climate Shapers Boot Camp - OCEANS - ICELAND http://bit.ly/33lbK5i
FFI/FAO UN Climate Shapers Boot Camp - CITIES - NEW YORK http://bit.ly/2YU7paD
FFI/FAO UN Climate Shapers Boot Camp - FARMS - TOKYO https://bit.ly/2ZjaKQz
FFI/FAO UN Climate Shapers Boot Camp - KITCHENS - POLLICA/MEDITERRANEO https://bit.ly/2Y88Slo

11) Could you please give us a walk through or instructions of how to log in and enroll in the courses offered by the FAO elearning Academy?

To join the FAO elearning Academy and access our free courses, please register here: https://elearning.fao.org/.

12) Can you offer more courses in Arabic?

We do offer Arabic version of some of our courses, and more will come. We acknowledge the fact that language can be a barrier to learning, so it is important to make the resources available in different languages. What we always try to do is to localize, by adapting the content to different language environments.

13) Very interesting certificates. Would it be possible to improve their content by displaying the name and surname of the beneficiary? Would it be possible to validate the acquired knowledge through the certificates for the creation or the delivery of another type of certificate even higher?

We are currently working within the organization for providing in future also printable certificates with the name of the learner, which could be more easily cited in CVs.

14) How can we engage though youth farmers including women who are in rural areas without access to internet and unstable connection? please clarify the "no-one left behind" in considering these vulnerable groups in remote area specially in developing countries.

We have programs and grants dedicated to Women in Agriculture! It is an issue that is very close to my heart.

- **15) The digital certificate you get after completion. Is it downloadable?** Yes, it is.
- 16) I work as a Business Development Manager and provide training to SMEs on subjects such as Food Security. Can I use the content of e-learning during these training sessions?

Yes, of course.

- 17) Is there any restrictions for learners whom not FAO staff to access these courses?

 No, there is no such restrictions! The e-learning courses offered by the FAO elearning Academy are available to anyone, free of charge, as a global public good.
- 18) How can I share in academy as lecturer in Arabic language and also in English, I am already Professor of law and interests in this field especially in Africa and middle East

Many courses offered by the FAO elearning Academy are available not only in English, but also in Arabic, French, Spanish and Chinese. You can easily incorporate our courses into your syllabus by registering for free at the FAO elearning Academy platform.

19) For ICBA: How to join the training programs? is there any digital or other training mechanisms?

ICBA offers a wide range of capacity development opportunities, including CPD-certified e-learning courses. You can find more information about them at https://www.biosaline.org/content/capacity-development . If you have any inquiry

related to capacity development opportunities, please contact us at capacity-building@biosaline.org.ae.

20) Very interesting learning academy. I am specialised in applied agronomics and would like to join the academy. Any tips or links please

To join the FAO elearning Academy and access our free courses, please register here: https://elearning.fao.org/.

21) Very exciting conference. But I am very interested to know how to cover rural areas

The transformation that the FAO elearning Academy wants to bring in education is carried out through multi-competencies and multi-disciplinary programmes, with the transversal goal of offering a broad and free access to knowledge and opening the doors to greater employment opportunities for our learners. As previously said, in rural areas we can reach out to disadvantaged target audiences with the support of extension service agents and our partners, such as AFAAS.

ICBA has carried out research and development projects in around 40 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus. While we cater to the needs of diverse audiences, we give priority to helping smallholder farmers and supporting rural communities. To increase the reach and impact of our capacity development offerings, we always partner with local research and extension organizations. Partnership is crucial for reaching out to as many smallholder farmers as possible.

22) How do I access online Master's level courses?

In our Masters and post-graduate degrees that we do with Universities the huge advantage for students is that they can have both a formal certification, as well as a certificate of competencies provided by the FAO elearning Academy through the digital badge. Courses in partnerships by the FAO elearning Academy and accredited higher education institutions are directly accessible from the webpages of the Universities.

23) Je veux savoir comment utiliser les cours telechargés de FAO elearning pour un usage hors connexion?

C'est très simple, après vous être connecté au portail FAO elearning Academy, et après avoir sélectionné le cours qui vous intéresse, vous aurez deux options pour suivre le cours. Vous pouvez soit l'ouvrir sur une nouvelle fenêtre de navigateur, soit le télécharger sur votre ordinateur. En cas de problème technique, veuillez contacter l'email suivant : <u>elearning-support@fao.org</u>.

24) I like to know the criteria of having these courses?

The courses are accessible on the FAO elearning Academy platform https://elearning.fao.org/ upon registration, which is free. You can then obtain a digital

badge taking the e-learning courses of your interest and passing the evaluation with a score of 75% or higher.

25) The downloadable version of courses works only on PCs. Is the Mac version coming soon?

The online version of this course runs on the latest versions of the major browsers, such as Chrome, Safari, Edge and Firefox. The downloadable version only runs on Windows PC's and no additional software is needed.

26) Do subscribers require to get organizational approvals to participate and benefit from the courses offered by the FAO elearning Academy? can total marks be gathered and transferred to a conventional university or higher learning institution?

There is no approval need to participate in the courses we offer in our platform. However, grades from our courses cannot be transferred to a higher learning institution, unless this has a direct partnership with the FAO elearning Academy and has incorporated some of our courses into their syllabus.

27) Any specific course for fighting against food loss and food waste?

Yes, you can search by thematic area "food losses and waste" in the courses page.

28) Also for other affiliates institutes, are their courses also free? if not what are the catchments requirements? or are their scholarship opportunities?

All elearning courses in our platform are free and fully accessible to everyone. There are no scholarship opportunities with the FAO elearning Academy.

29) Is there any course related to digital agriculture extension programs?

You can check all of our available courses <u>here</u>.

- **30**) Je voudrais savoir si y a aussi les cours e-learning pour les francophones Oui, il y a version français
- 31) Les formations en ligne pour les renforcements des Capacités sont les bienvenues, mais les problèmes majeurs, c'est l'accès à la connexion internet dans le milieu le plus reculé du monde, le département de formation en ligne de FAO, peut avoir la possibilité de créer du bureau''formation'' régional pour les pays envoi de développement.

Les cours en ligne et leurs certificats ne sont pas considérés lors des sélections des candidats aux recrutement.

32) I would like to find out if the digital badges are still available for the Climate Smart courses? last time I tried, I couldn't find the digital badges after completing some course.

Some of them offer the possibility of obtaining the digital badge. Please have a look at our <u>courses section</u> in the thematic area "Climate change and environment".

33) Impressive reach in Madagascar! What follow up work is taking place or planned to see if/how they are using what they learned?

Yes, FCA, the local Extension Network is doing concrete follow ups.

34) Are there courses in Hindi too?

The FAO elearning Academy does not offer courses in Hindi.

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

You can access all webinar recordings here.



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