

Trade, Agriculture and Food Security

Course description

This course will focus on current trends and issues relating to agriculture in the global trading system. In addition to covering the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and its application and implementation, students will have the opportunity to take a closer look at the way agricultural trade policy interacts with other policy areas, such as climate change, food security, and the sustainable development goals. Based on this background, students will examine the nature of agricultural policies in major developed and developing countries and their impact on agricultural trade in order to understand the political economy of agriculture negotiations in the WTO and the reasons for the failure of the Doha Round. They will further discuss the impact of agricultural policies on different types of farmers, processors and consumers, provide an overview of the trade and income implications of reforms in the area of agricultural trade and discuss policy approaches for enabling inclusive agricultural trade and SDG1 (ending hunger). Other issues affecting agriculture trade, such as non-tariff measures, water policies, fish subsidies, gender issues, and technological innovation will also be examined.

Course details

Participants: Open course (MILE, TRAIL+, DAS, CAS and à la Carte)

Requirement: Optional

Price: CHF 1'200 (only for à la Carte participants)

Format: Modular, expository-interactive lecture

ECTS: 3 (only for MILE, TRAIL+, DAS and CAS)

Lecturers: Lee Ann Jackson, Christian Häberli

Biographies

LeeAnn Jackson: Lee Ann Jackson is a Counsellor in the Agriculture and Commodities Division at the World Trade Organization and Secretary to the

Committee on Agriculture. Based in Geneva, she advises WTO Member countries on issues related to agricultural trade policy and multilateral negotiations, manages the organization and delivery of multilateral meetings on agriculture and represents the WTO in key agricultural policy fora. She was previously a Research Fellow in the School of Economics at the University of Adelaide in South Australia and a researcher in the Environment Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC. Dr. Jackson completed her Ph.D. in applied economics at the University of Minnesota; and has a joint Masters' degree in public policy and environmental studies from Yale University. She earned certification as a mediator through the Center for Effective Dispute Resolution. She has served as a consultant for leading international organizations involved in agriculture policy and trade, including the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research.

Christian Häberli: Christian Häberli is a Senior Research Fellow at the WTI/NCCR (Bern University) and a lecturer and consultant in Europe, Asia, Africa, and in the Americas. He has produced over 50 publications on trade, agriculture and development policy issues, more recently with a focus on food security from a trade and investment perspective. He graduated in 1977 with a PhD on the subject of African Investment Law (Basel University). Christian also has a degree in Development Sciences from Geneva (1975) and in Theology from Bern (2009). His professional career has included working for the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Swiss Government, involving assignments in Madagascar, Thailand, Nepal and Switzerland. He also served as trade negotiator for Switzerland in the GATT and the WTO during the Uruguay and the Doha Rounds (1986 to 2007) and chaired the WTO Committee on Agriculture (Regular Session, 2005-07). He has been a WTO Panellist since 1996 without interruption in 18 stages of 5 dispute settlement cases, namely EC – Bananas III, Japan – Apples, EC – Biotech (GMO), China – Trading Rights and United States – Country of Origin Labelling (COOL