

BOVA Intensive Master Course

Agrifood Supply Chains in the Baltic Sea Region

9-13 March, 2015

Course venue: Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia

3 ECTS

Course description: Agrifood sectors in the Baltic Sea region are strongly interrelated and diverse: Germany, Russian Federation and Poland are large food producers and consumers; relatively small Denmark has an efficient export-oriented food industry; farmers in Northern parts of Sweden and Finland are facing climatic disadvantages; in Baltic countries, agrifood sectors have shown strong growth after the EU accession. Several reports have pointed out that in the Baltic Sea region climate change could improve the conditions for agricultural production, implying that the Baltic Sea region has a potential to strengthen its contribution to the global food security.

Therefore, this course aims to enhance the capacity of students in better understanding interrelations of agrifood sectors in the Baltic Sea region, and interrelations between agrifood sectors of the Baltic Sea region and the global agrifood value chains. After the course, students have ability to analyse the competitive situation of the agrifood sectors in their home country and also in the Baltic Sea region, EU and global contexts.

This year's course pays special attention to the relationships between the agrifood supply chains in the Baltic Sea region and in the Russian Federation.

The course will cover the following topics:

- Competitiveness of agrifood sectors.
- Market structures and concentration.
- Downstream industries – agricultural input sector.
- Upstream industries – food wholesale and retail.
- Interlinkages between agrifood sectors in the Baltic Sea region.
- Baltic Sea agrifood sectors in the EU and global context.
- Linkages with agrifood supply chains in the Russian Federation.
- Challenges related to finding new export markets for Baltic products.



The course consists of three parts: (1) Individual or group (max. 3 persons) pre-course assignment from 2-8 March 2015; (2) Meeting in person from 9-13 March 2015 and; 3) post-course assignment from 16-20 March (upgrade and extension of the pre-course assignment). Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of pre- and post-course assignments, and participation during the course.



Requirements: The course is primarily targeted to maximum 25 Baltic and Nordic master students. General background in the fields of agricultural economics, economics, management, agribusiness or food science, as well as good English skills are required.

Financing: Accommodation and meals will be provided by the hosting institution. For covering travelling expenses please contact your home institution.

Teaching team includes lecturers from Natural Resources Institute Finland and University of Helsinki, Estonian University of Life Sciences and Latvia University of Agriculture.

Course leader: Researcher Ants-Hannes Viira, Institute of Economics and Social Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences. If you have any questions regarding the content and organization of the course, please contact Ants-Hannes Viira: ants.viira@emu.ee.

Information for registration: Fill in the BOVA Mobility Registration Form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/158sKM2K5toxz-InGRN0E_em6ae17N9dottpyhWwdb7E/viewform or consult your local BOVA or NOVA coordinators. Please write a short letter of motivation (max. 200 words) and send to ants.viira@emu.ee.

Don't miss the registration deadline – 16 February, 2015!