

BOVA Intensive Master Course

Agri-food Supply Chains in the Baltic Sea Region

27-31 March, 2017

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

3 ECTS

Agri-food sectors in the Baltic Sea region (BSR) are strongly interrelated and diverse: in Baltic countries, agri-food sectors have shown strong growth after the EU accession, but face challenges related to finding new markets due to the embargo of Russian Federation; Germany, Russian Federation and Poland are large food producers and consumers; relatively small Denmark is famous for efficient export-oriented food industry; farmers in Northern parts of Finland, Sweden and Norway have to cope with long distances from main markets, as well as climatic disadvantages. Several reports have pointed out that in the BSR, climate change could improve the conditions for agricultural production, implying that the BSR could increase its agri-food exports.

This course aims to enhance the capacity of students in better understanding interrelations of agri-food sectors in the BSR, and interrelations between agri-food sectors of the BSR and the global agri-food value chains.

This year's course pays special attention to agri-food co-operatives in the Baltic countries.

The course will cover the following topics:

- Competitiveness of agri-food sectors.
- Market structures and concentration.
- Downstream industries – agricultural input sector.
- Upstream industries – food wholesale and retail.
- Interlinkages between agri-food sectors in the BSR.
- The role of cooperatives in agri-food business.
- 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 20-24 March 2017; (2) Meeting in person from 27-31 March 2017 and; 3) post-course assignment from 3-7 April. 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. Motivated bachelor students are also encouraged to participate.

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

Teaching team includes lecturers from Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE), Estonian University of Life Sciences, Latvia University of Agriculture, and Aleksandras Stulginskis University in Lithuania

Course leader: Ants-Hannes Viira, Director of the Institute of Economics and Social Sciences of the Estonian University of Life Sciences. If you have any questions regarding the content and organization of the course, as well as pre-course assignment, 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/10FYEJq6ZynxPcT8CtsstN8-506PREOX6AVpEc088BYQ/viewform?edit_requested=true 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 – 13 March 2017!

Preliminary course schedule

Date	Time	Topic/Activity
Monday, 27 March	09:15-10:45	Introduction to the course. Definitions, terminology, globalisation of the food industry.
	10:45-11:00	Break
	11:00-12:30	European food sector, international comparison of food industry competitiveness.
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	Presentations of pre-course assignments
	15:00-15:15	Break
	15:15-16:45	Presentations of pre-course assignments
Tuesday, 28 March	09:15-10:45	Development of the Baltic Sea region's agri-food sectors in the context of global development
	10:45-11:00	Break
	11:00-12:30	Logistics and Agri-Food Supply Chain
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	Raw milk supply logistics
	15:00-15:15	Break
	15:15-16:45	The case of raw milk trade in Baltic countries
	19:00-21:00	Social dinner
Wednesday, 29 March	09:15-16:45	Field trip
Thursday, 30 March	09:15-10:45	Grain Supply Chain Comparison – Country Cases
	10:45-11:00	Break
	11:00-12:30	Dairy Supply Chain Comparison – Country Cases
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	Short supply chains
	15:00-15:15	Break
	15:15-16:45	Downstream industry – agricultural input sector
Friday, 31 March	19:00-20:00	Upstream industry – food industry. Foreign direct investments
	10:45-11:00	Break
	11:00-12:30	Food wholesale, retail and consumption
	12:30-13:30	Lunch
	13:30-15:00	Summary and closing