

Module Title:	Organic Food and the Environment
Language of Instruction:	English
Credits:	5
NFQ Level:	7
Module Delivered In	2 programme(s)
Teaching & Learning Strategies:	This module will be delivered using a learner-centred approach with a strong emphasis on the sustainability of current practices in organic food production. A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be used such as lectures, guest lecturers, group workshop, case-studies, group discussions and group activities.
Module Aim:	The aim of the module is to develop learners critical thinking and understanding of the complex interrelations between food production in organic systems and: -The environment -Social, and political stimulus -Human health and nutrition -Food security and -Climate change
Learning Outcomes	
<i>On successful completion of this module the learner should be able to:</i>	
LO1	Comprehend the advantages and limitations of organic agriculture as a food production system, with regard to the effect on agri-ecosystem services
LO2	Critique the interrelations between agriculture, food and climate change
LO3	Understand the societal expectations of organic food production
Pre-requisite learning	
Module Recommendations <i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is recommended before enrolment in this module.</i>	
No recommendations listed	
Incompatible Modules <i>These are modules which have learning outcomes that are too similar to the learning outcomes of this module.</i>	
No incompatible modules listed	
Co-requisite Modules	
No Co-requisite modules listed	
Requirements <i>This is prior learning (or a practical skill) that is mandatory before enrolment in this module is allowed.</i>	
No requirements listed	

Module Content & Assessment

Indicative Content

Organic Production Systems

Historical Background, Principles of Organic Agriculture, Evolution of Food Production Systems, The Sociology of Agriculture and Food, Food Safety and Security, Food and Agriculture Policy, Adoption of Organic Agriculture, Issues and Challenges, Local and Global Food Systems, Nutrition and Health Effects of Organic Foods, etc

The Impact of Organic Food Production

Production within Planetary Limits, Food Quality and Nutrient Density, Product (Carbon) Life Cycle and Global Trade, Environmental Impact of Food and Food Processing, Introduction to Food Supply Chains (FSC), Production Quantities and Food Security, Sustainable Consumption, Commodity and Product Premiums, Cost of Production, etc

Environmental Impact

Land Use Efficiency, Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Soil – Air – Water Quality, Biodiversity, Carbon Sinks, Pesticides, Organic Fertilisers, Ecological Services, Climate Change etc.

Assessment Breakdown	%
Continuous Assessment	40.00%
Project	60.00%

Continuous Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Examination	In class assessment examining the students understanding of Learning Outcomes.	1,2,3	40.00	n/a

Project

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Project	Research report on an aspect relating to the sustainability of organic food production systems and factors that can improve the sustainability.	1,2,3	60.00	n/a

No Practical

No End of Module Formal Examination

Continuous Assessment

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Examination	In class assessment examining the students understanding of Learning Outcomes.	1,2,3	40.00	n/a

Project

Assessment Type	Assessment Description	Outcome addressed	% of total	Assessment Date
Project	Research report on an aspect relating to the sustainability of organic food production systems and factors that can improve the sustainability.	1,2,3	60.00	n/a

No Practical

No End of Module Formal Examination

SETU Carlow Campus reserves the right to alter the nature and timings of assessment

Module Workload

Workload: Full Time		
<i>Workload Type</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Average Weekly Learner Workload</i>
Lecture	12 Weeks per Stage	2.00
Lecturer-Supervised Learning (Contact)	12 Weeks per Stage	1.00
Independent Learning	12 Weeks per Stage	3.00
Total Hours		72.00

Workload: Part Time		
<i>Workload Type</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Average Weekly Learner Workload</i>
Lecture	12 Weeks per Stage	2.00
Lecturer Supervised Learning	12 Weeks per Stage	1.00
Independent Learning Time	12 Weeks per Stage	3.00
Total Hours		72.00

Module Delivered In

Programme Code	Programme	Semester	Delivery
CW_SWOAG_B	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Organic Agriculture	5	Mandatory
CW_SWOAG_D	Bachelor of Science in Organic Agriculture	5	Mandatory