



# Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between  
BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZFH

	<b>Rural and Regional Development in Practice</b>
<b>Code</b>	MSLS_AF-33
<b>Degree Program</b>	Master of Science in Life Sciences (MSLS)
<b>ECTS Credits</b>	5
<b>Workload</b>	150 h: Contact 40 h; Group Exercise 20 h; Self-study 90 h
<b>Module Coordinator</b>	<p><b>Name</b> Dr. Dominique Guenat</p> <p><b>Phone</b> +41 31 910 21 74</p> <p><b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:dominique.guenat@bfh.ch">dominique.guenat@bfh.ch</a></p> <p><b>Address</b> Bern University of Applied Sciences, School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Laenggasse 85, 3052 Zollikofen</p>
<b>Lecturers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Dominic Blättler</li> <li>• Dr. Dominique Guenat</li> <li>• Nathalie Oberson</li> <li>• Dr. Pascale Waelti</li> </ul>
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Learning Outcomes and Competences</b>	<p>After completing the module students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explain various approaches of rural development, resp. regional development, underlying paradigms, their evolution over time and their influences at household level and beyond;</li> <li>• analyse and evaluate rural and regional development approaches, in different places and under different circumstances;</li> <li>• measure effects and impacts of rural development initiatives;</li> <li>• identify and assess potentials and limitations for development in a given environment, both in terms of natural resources and in terms of institutions and people;</li> <li>• propose strategies and organisations to support sustainable rural development.</li> </ul>
<b>Module Content</b>	<p>The module takes into account the participants' prior knowledge and experiences. It is based on real examples (in which the lecturers have been personally involved), and these examples are presented as so-called "problem cases". Problem cases are used in "Problem based learning" (PBL) which is the didactic method used in this module.</p> <p>The following topics are addressed in the 5 problem cases of this module:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rural and regional development:</b> with aspects such as decentralization, community development, migration, governance, center vs. peripheral regions, and the role of agriculture and forestry</li> <li>• <b>Transition processes and rural development in practice:</b> how can rural development approaches support transition processes, how do they interact in practice?</li> <li>• <b>Community forestry and forest economics:</b> role of communities for sustainable management of natural resources, especially forest resources</li> <li>• <b>Rural development from a welfare economic perspective:</b> addressing issues such as equity and access to resources, income distribution, role of remittances, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Safety nets and rural development:</b> poverty in rural areas, social safety nets to mitigate the effects of liberalisation and development</li> <li>• <b>Watershed management:</b> including aspects of compensation mechanisms (upstream – downstream) for environmental services.</li> </ul>

<b>Teaching / Learning Methods</b>	Introductory lectures, <b>Problem Based Learning</b> (there will be 5 PBL problem cases submitted to the participants) each problem case has been formulated by a specialist who will also provide the coaching. In addition to the problem cases studied in the PBL, there are also 4 skills labs (1/2 day events) focusing on specific subjects where the participants will learn how to apply methods or instruments related to the problem cases, such as cost-benefit analysis, stakeholder analysis, do no harm approach, etc.
<b>Assessment of Learning Outcome</b>	1) Written exam to assess the ability of students to apply the concepts of rural development to new situations (60%) 2) Two individual working papers (20+20%)
<b>Bibliography</b>	SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), 2001. Guide to Decentralization. SDC, Bern, 28 p. SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), 2012. Conflict-Sensitive Programme Management CSPM: Integrating conflict sensitivity and prevention of violence into SDC Programms - A handbook for practitioners. SDC, Bern, 24 p. Van Huylenbroeck G, Durand G, 2003. Multifunctional agriculture: a new paradigm for European agriculture and rural development. Ashgate Publishing Limited, Hampshire. IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute Washington, DC), 2002, Methods for Rural Development Projects, Edited by John Hoddinott A selected list of references and documents related to the different problem cases will be made available before the start of the module.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Comments</b>	The following sequences are compulsory for students: All PBL tutorials. For details on compulsory sequences, please refer to the detailed schedule of the module, which will be uploaded on Moodle 4 weeks before the start of the module.
<b>Last Update</b>	26.04.2021 / Dominique Guenat