

SHORT COURSES

ICE offers already designed and tailor made short courses in a wide range of agricultural related disciplines and cross-cutting issues including governance of natural resources, gender and rural development, mass media, research design and methodology.

Short course on Management of Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture (MNRSA)

The MNRSA is among popular courses that ICE has offered at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA). This course was designed to help participants to acquire knowledge and skills required for addressing problems of natural resources, so that the present and future generations can benefit sustainably from the resources. At the end of this course participants become aware and understand complexity of factors that are involved in the management of natural resources and acquire skills to communicate with rural people so they can adopt and adapt natural resources management practices.

The MNRSA was designed in 1992 for broad range of people including rural development practitioners, professionals, researchers and trainers who from time to time require re-orientation in contemporary knowledge and skills for facilitating innovation process for effective management of natural resources. The course constituted three modes which conforms to Kolbe (1994) learning cycle: (i) Theoretical orientation which aimed at exposing participants to basic concepts of natural resources and sustainable agriculture (ii) application of theoretical concept to the Tanzania context, which was offered in the form of case studies, seminars and workshops for linking the concept to real situation (iii) Fieldwork which enable participants to put into practice the principles and insights acquired in the class. The fieldwork reports serve as means of verification for the participants' ability to apply the tools learned

Since 1992 to 2004, the course was conducted under the support of Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and attracted participants from within and outside Tanzania including those from Eritrea and Sudan. During the period, the course trained about 250 people including about 50% females and 30 foreigners. After the NORAD support had come to an end in 2004, the course can now be offered as tailor made to accommodate more contemporary knowledge and skills required for addressing new challenges in the management of natural resources including climate change.

To mention a few, depending on the need of a client, the course can now be offered by including concepts and skills on decentralization in natural resources management, modes of natural resources governance, climate change (including mitigation and adaptation), negotiation, innovation and technology, social learning, learning, facilitation of management of natural resources, institutions in the management of natural resources in the face of climate change (including socially embedded and bureaucratic institutions and theories for assessing institutional change and institutional performance, including Multiple Institutional Logic of Action (MILA), institutional bricolage. Another topic is research methodology for conducting studies on assessment of management of natural resources interventions.

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