

Agricultural Economics 3271
International Agricultural Development – Spring 2015
9:30-10:45 a.m., TR 320 Mumford Hall

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Who may be interested in this course?

If you are interested in international issues and understanding how policy impacts individuals and rural communities in other countries, this may be the course for you. We can make the world better but need to understand other cultures and their bases for decisions. This would include:

- Students interested in international, environmental and global sustainability issues.
- Students considering the CAFNR International Agriculture Minor.
- Students in the Public Policy option of Agricultural Economics.
- Students who want to learn about the agriculture of developing countries, such as those with interest in Peace Corps, and those interested in other cultures and contexts.

What is it about?

This course examines the world food problem and economic development in developing countries around world. You learn about development perspectives, as well as concepts and analytical tools to evaluate the food problems and strategies to improve agriculture and wellbeing in developing countries. We start with global trends and downscale to the agricultural systems in tropical ecologies, and their local economic and social systems. We explore decision making in developing countries using a simulation game to understand farming decisions in small communities facing new technologies, such as India's green revolution. This course will provide an understanding of real world contexts where farming and rural livelihoods are pursued to achieve economic development.

What will you take away?

An understanding of the complexity of development issues around the world. You will learn tools to assess the food and agriculture problems in developing countries, and to contrast it with developed countries like the U.S. You will be able to think critically about development by comparing diverse contexts – economies, cultures, ecologies. You will learn about development policies, and the role agricultural research and technical change can play in developing countries. Participants will be able to apply these tools and concepts to analyze development problems and potential policies to improve the agricultural sector of developing countries.

What are the requirements?

This undergraduate course requires a principles of microeconomics course, such as Ag Econ 1041, or Econ 1014, and junior standing.