

2019 FSC Summer School Announcement

Theme: *Transformative Changes in Agriculture and Food Systems*

**SEARCA Headquarters, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines
9 – 27 September 2019**

Context: Global population is expected to surpass 9 billion by 2050. But resource constraints (land, water, etc.) and the changing climate is reducing farm productivity. These put much pressure for transformative changes to agriculture and food systems to meet the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2) of ending hunger, achieving food security and promoting sustainable agriculture by 2030. This Summer School will consider advances in technology and discuss three pathways for how changes in food and agriculture systems could contribute to meeting SDG 2.

Organizers: This Summer School is jointly organized by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) and the Food Security Center (FSC) of the University of Hohenheim in Germany, with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the frame of the Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation (EXCEED) program.

Venue and dates: The course will be held at the SEARCA Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines on 9 – 27 September 2019.

Scholarships: FSC will offer up to 16 scholarships for ongoing PhD students from Africa, Asia, and Latin America to participate in the course. The scholarship covers roundtrip economy-class air ticket, accommodation, meals, and domestic travel related to course activities in the Philippines. Other expenses (such as visa fees, if any) shall be borne by the students.

Modules: The following modules will be organized:

- **Module 1 (9 – 13 September 2019): Precision Agriculture.** This module will discuss farm management that uses information technology applications such as GPS-guided control systems, sensors and remote sensing technology to make production more efficient, profitable and sustainable, while protecting the environment.
- **Module 2 (16 – 20 September 2019): Vertical and Urban Farming.** The rapid growth of cities and diminishing arable land gave rise to vertical farming as an ingenious method to produce food. While vertical farms save considerable space and soil, it also lowers water requirements and is seen as more sustainable. This module will look into vertical farming innovation systems like the use of hydroponics and plant towers.

- **Module 3 (23 – 27 September 2019): Edible Insects - The Future of Food.** While people used to eat insects because of its palatability and its established place in local food culture, consuming insects has become more relevant with the increasing demand for protein and for food security and environmental concerns. Insects are highly nutritious with protein, vitamin, fiber, and mineral content. A discourse on the conservation of habitat, rearing of insect species, and processing of insects into food and feed products while looking into the opportunities and challenges in marketing of insect-based food will be discussed in this module.

Language: The course will be delivered in English. Participants must be fluent in English.

Applications: Motivated PhD students from Africa, Asia and Latin America must fill up the online form by clicking the link to the FSC Summer School application at <https://ischo.searcaapps.org/ischo/form> and upload a copy of handwritten motivation letter, a CV indicating education and work background, and certificate of enrolment from the university. The motivation letter should also describe the applicant's preparation for the Summer School and the relevance of the Summer School topics to the applicant's study program. For inquiries or other details, contact us at mcnc@searca.org.

Important dates: Deadline for application is on **30 June 2019**. Successful applicants will be notified via email by **9 July 2019**. Prospective participants will need to confirm their participation to the course and submit e-copy of their passport details via email to mcnc@searca.org not later than **12 July 2019**.