



Sustainable Investments in Agriculture 2022 VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM



Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

A JOINT CENTER OF COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL
AND THE EARTH INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Increased international investment in agriculture can support sustainable development and help meet food security needs at domestic, regional, and global levels. Yet, if not structured equitably or regulated carefully, investments may fail to provide expected benefits or may lead to social and environmental degradation. Despite these risks, investments in land for agriculture have remained attractive to foreign investors and host countries alike.

Countries concerned about sustainable development confront multiple challenges in managing international investment in agriculture. These challenges include developing robust legal and fiscal frameworks, negotiating equitable deals with investors, mitigating environmental impacts, and protecting human rights. This virtual program, hosted by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment, is designed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to address some of the key challenges posed by international investments in agriculture. Participants learn from each other as well as top subject matter experts from Columbia University and beyond.



This program presents an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable international investments in agriculture. Participants work with practitioners and experts, gaining substantive knowledge, analytical tools, and relevant skills.

While the program usually takes place in-person at Columbia University, the 2022 training has been redesigned for a virtual setting.

Who should attend

The program is designed for mid-level public sector officials and civil society representatives from low- and middle-income countries, whose responsibilities relate to investments, agriculture, land, or rural development. Representatives of bilateral donor agencies, foundations, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, and the private sector may also be admitted.

What past participants have said:

Shyamal Chandradathsingh, Vice President, Investor Sourcing, Invest in Trinidad & Tobago: “The quality of the presenters was top notch... I highly recommend it.”

Jeremy Agyemang, Head of Agribusiness Unit, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana: “The training at CCSI was phenomenal. It equipped me with knowledge that has enhanced my understanding of the investor-state relationship. Those delivering the training were experts in their field...I highly recommend the training to anyone working in the agricultural investment space.”

Yuliya Neyman, Land Governance and Legal Advisor, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID): “I found the CCSI Executive Training on Sustainable Investment to be practical, engaging and diverse. The topics presented were cutting edge ... the caliber of speakers was diverse and impressive ... [and] perhaps the most interesting part of the training was the diversity and experience of the participants, who hailed from five continents and spanned the range from private sector to government agencies and academia.”

Christian Schulze, Officer, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): “I can highly recommend the training course I gained new knowledge and practical skills to address some of the key challenges posed by international investments in agriculture, which will be valuable for my future work.”

Topics

The course provides an overview of pressing issues related to agricultural investments, as well as an introduction to relevant practical skills. Past topics have included:

- Agricultural investments and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Inclusive business approaches
- Attracting investment and understanding investment drivers
- Investment incentives
- Land rights and tenure security
- Domestic legal frameworks
- How to read, understand, and negotiate investment contracts
- International investment law
- Human rights law
- Fiscal regimes and modeling
- Long-term planning and linkages to agricultural investments
- Managing environmental and water impacts, and addressing climate change
- Gender impacts
- Transparency and accountability
- Addressing land grievances and legacy issues post-investment

Dates

May 3 - 13, 2022

Format

Interactive (live) online sessions and asynchronous preparatory material

Location

Online

Fee

Freely available for accepted participants from non-profit organizations and governments in low- and middle-income countries.

The program fee for other accepted participants is \$500.

How to apply

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the closing date indicated on the training website page.

To apply, please visit the application page on our website:

<http://ccsi.columbia.edu/work/projects/agtraining/>



Contact

Paulo Cunha
pcunha@law.columbia.edu