



Sustainable Investments in Agriculture 2024 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.

The 2024 training will be held virtually.

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:

Vivion Scully, Chief Executive Officer, Agro-Investment Corporation of Jamaica: "Collaborating with participants from different continents was an enriching experience. We had the chance to exchange ideas, share success stories, and learn from the unique perspectives of our peers...As I reflect on this course, I am filled with enthusiasm and motivation to apply the knowledge and skills gained to drive positive change in sustainable agriculture investments in Jamaica. I am excited to collaborate with fellow alumni and professionals worldwide to advance sustainable farming practices, promote food security, and preserve our natural resources."

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."

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
- Land rights and tenure security
- Domestic legal frameworks
- How to read, understand, and negotiate investment contracts and community agreements
- International investment law
- Human rights law
- Managing environmental and water impacts, and addressing climate change
- Gender impacts
- Transparency and accountability
- Political challenges to sustainable investments in agriculture
- Legal empowerment
- Responsible business standards

Dates

May 7 - 17, 2024

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

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