

Post Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Food Systems

Level 9 - 30 credits

25th August 2020

Target audience:

- Those in industry with full or increased levels of responsibility in sustainability within their businesses. Working in a variety of functions with various 3rd level qualification, but without a qualification in Sustainability.

Key learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of policies, best practice, sustainable tools and theories that shape the world of food sustainability systems.
- Apply systems thinking approaches to critically and creatively evaluate the complexity of food systems and identify current and future challenges that may arise when adopting a sustainable system.
- Identify, assess and propose sustainable solutions to real-world systems.

Programme Structure and Content

- 2 x Semesters
 - Semester 1 – Oct – Dec 2020
 - Module 1 – 10 credits / Module 2 – 5 credits
 - Semester 2 – Jan – April 2021
 - Module 3 – 10 credits / Module 4 – 5 credits
- 3 x group workshops
- 3 hours lectures per week (online)

Module 1 – Sustainability and Food and Drink Manufacturing - 10 CREDITS

- Sustainability and Sustainable Development.
- Sustainable Development Goals.
- Environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- Ecosystems and natural capital.
- Circular economy and sustainability and opportunities for food manufacturers.
- Circular economy models – EU Farm to Fork Strategy.
- Sustainability in practice and sustainable systems.
- Irish and EU Policy including the common agricultural policy and the European Green Deal.
- Sustainable development indicators.
- Economic methods for measuring sustainability.
- Measuring sustainability beyond money.

Module 2 – Systems thinking – 5 CREDITS

- What is systems thinking?
- Global food systems.
- Systems thinking tools – LCA, Systems Maps, Input-Output Analysis.
- Using systems thinking – fixing broken systems, designing systems and closing material loops.
- Problem solving in a systems context.

Module 3 – Sustainable Food Production – 10 Credits

- Resource (energy, water, raw materials) use and management worldwide and in Ireland.
- Current status of energy, water and material reserves and usage patterns.
- Pressures on the food sector to improve environmental performance and reduce costs and how resource efficiency achieves both.
- Relevant EU and Irish policy.
- Environmental licensing process including categories of licence (IE, IPC, Waste activity, GHG)
- Resource efficiency frameworks
- Waste management hierarchy.
- Audit development and best practice for the food and drink sector.
- BAT guidance documents.
- Audit implementation, recommendations and management review.
- Applying the principles of life cycle thinking and life-cycle assessment to the food sector.

Module 4 – Sustainability across the supply chain – 5 Credits

- The principles of sustainable food supply chains, including packaging.
- The role of traceability on sustainable food production.
- Food waste vs food loss.
- Food waste valorisation and recover.
- Contribution of packaging and labelling on food waste.
- Food Labels related to sustainability including front-of-pack, country of origin and voluntary labelling.
- Food choices of consumers including sustainable diets.

Assessment

- A combination of module specific projects (individual and group based) along with 1 large project that links the programme learning with the practical application within the business.

Price

- Non-member Price - €4,500
- Funded Price through Food Drink Ireland Skillnet - **€1,950 per participant**

To book your place or if you require further information,
please contact mark.skinner@ibec.ie