Masters in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

With the world's population fast approaching seven billion, one of the main challenges facing the human race is how to feed its people. It's estimated that a rise in food production of at least 50% will be needed by 2030 to meet increasing food demands, against a backdrop of accelerating climate change and increasingly unpredictable weather extremes. Furthermore, society expects that this additional food be delivered with reduced environmental impact and without greatly increasing the world's cropping area. The challenge is a truly sustainable agriculture that meets both production and environmental targets.

However, food production itself is only part of the problem. Food security isn't just about exploiting scientific and technological advances to increase crop yields, it's also about addressing the associated economic and social factors to enable people to access sufficient, safe and nutritious food. If we are to successfully address the issue of food insecurity, then some understanding of a broad range of underpinning issues is necessary. Increasingly, interdisciplinary training and research with an international focus will be required.

Recognising the need to train a new generation of researchers and policy makers in this developing area, Lancaster Environment Centre is launching a new Master's course in association with colleagues from other institutions and faculties across the University. The course comprises 6 months of specialised course work, followed by an individual piece of research, leading to an M Sc. (A two year option comprising a 12 months overseas research placement leading to an M Sc Research is also available)

Core Modules:

Sustainable Soils Management
Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change
Data Analysis and Interpretation
Crop Protection

Optional Modules include:

Right to Food
Food Safety
Catchment Protection
Environment and Development
Habitat Management

For further details, please contact
Prof Bill Davies (Director of Study) :
W.Davies@lancaster.ac.uk