

An aerial photograph showing a vast agricultural field. The field is divided into long, parallel rows of crops, likely corn or a similar grain. The rows are separated by narrow paths or furrows. The crops are in various stages of growth, with some appearing as dark green and others as lighter, more mature plants. The overall scene depicts a large-scale, organized farming operation. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY (005GS)

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Why take this module?

Because you eat and drink multiple times a day and that simple action has one of the biggest impact on our planet.

Because it is an interdisciplinary module.

Because food is the biggest challenge that humanity faces.



What's the module about?

Level 6, 30 credit

We mainly focus on the following questions:

- How can we achieve food security for 9-12 billion people while reducing the environmental footprint of agriculture and ensuring the social and economic welfare of those who produce and process food is a major challenge of this century?
- Why are there so many people suffering from obesity while many are hungry?
- How can we develop a sustainable food system?



By the end of the module, you should be able to:

- discuss and analyse the complexity of the current food system, from seed to the plate, from the local to the global
- describe the various metrics, definitions and dimensions of food security and highlight their limitations and strengths by using current research literature research,
- explain the various factors influencing food security within the Earth System
- appraise in detail scientific papers by assessing their significance, assumptions, and limitations of arguments
- work in a group environment to formulate arguments, develop and share ideas, reflect critically on scientific papers, and communicate to various audiences.



How will it be taught?

- Weekly 3 hour sessions
- Lecture followed by student-led seminars
- Guest speakers
- Non-exhaustive list of key topics that we will try to cover:
 - What is food security?
 - Globalization: The economics, finance, trade of food
 - Impact of climate change: mitigation and adaptation potential of agriculture
 - Livestock
 - Emerging issues in food security: biofuels, GMOs, labels, diets, urban agriculture, organic agriculture, permaculture
- Assessment
 - Coursework (20%): 10 weekly summaries of two academic papers (2% each)
 - 4000 word essay (80%)



Who am I?



- Dr. Pedram Rowhani
I like eating food and my research focuses on global land use dynamics and the interaction between human society and their environment. I am currently working on the impacts of natural hazards on agriculture, the environmental and nutritional outcomes of the Common Agricultural Policy, mapping global irrigated areas, and land use change driven by Quinoa in Bolivia.
- Questions?
Email: p.rowhani@sussex.ac.uk (or see me in my office in Chichester 1).