



International Executive Programme on Sustainable Sourcing & Trade

Edition 2023

Starting 26th September to 7th November

Online & Field Visit



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The International Executive Programme (IEP) on Sustainable Sourcing & Trade is organised by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in partnership with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform (SAI Platform) and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL). The programme is built in collaboration with a network of leading academic institutions in the field of sustainable agriculture and global value chains.

Following yet another successful edition of the International Executive Programme in 2022, which brought together 62 professionals from around the world, we continue to offer an engaging programme for professionals across the food industry to tackle different aspects of sustainability.

The topics of the IEP 2023 include:

- **Megatrends** impacting supply chains globally
- **Nature positive economy & sustainable trade:** towards carbon-neutral and climate-resilient agri-food systems, including tools to improve sustainable management of agriculture supply chains
- **Sustainability leadership** as a key skill set to manage sustainable development
- **Regenerative Agriculture** from theory to practice: learning from the field

WHY ATTEND THE IEP 2023

This course offers heads of sustainability, procurement executives, strategy and brand marketing professionals a practical set of tools to:

- Identify **sustainability risks and opportunities** within global value chains.
- Integrate sustainability with **corporate agendas** and personal development.
- **Learn** from and **network** with the experts and leading sustainability practitioners.

Engage with **leading experts** on critical topics relevant to your business

Gain relevant competencies and recognition from an **international network of academic institutions**

Enjoy a personalised online **mentoring and coaching** experience to support your 'deep digging' on a specific issue

Get exclusive access to NovoEd, an **online learning platform** that facilitates interaction among professionals

DATES AND ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2023

Tuesday 26th | 15:00 to 16:00 PM CET: **Welcome & Introduction**

OCTOBER 2023

Tuesday 3rd | 13:00 to 16:00 PM CET: **Session 1 | Megatrends**

Friday 6th | 16:00 to 17:00 PM CET: **Alumni Networking Event**

Tuesday 10th | 13:00 to 16:00 PM CET: **Session 2 | Nature Positive Economy & Sustainable Trade**

Friday 13th | 16:00 to 17:00 PM CET : **Peer Learning Groups meetings**

Tuesday 17th | 13:00 to 16:00 PM CET: **Session 3 | Sustainability Leadership**

Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th October | **Field trip - Regenerative Agriculture | Portugal**

Friday 27th | 16:00 to 17:00 PM CET : **Peer Learning Groups meetings**

NOVEMBER 2023

Friday 3rd | 15:00 to 16:00 PM CET: **Closing session**

MODULES OVERVIEW

MEGATRENDS

High-level presentation on megatrends impacting supply chains globally

NATURE POSITIVE ECONOMY

Key drivers, transitions, strategy and implementation

SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Role of business in society, perception and implications for leadership - Supply chains complexity, transparency and business responses

PROGRAMME

LIVE SESSIONS

MODULE 1 | MEGATRENDS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday 3rd October, 1:00-4:00 PM CET

In a period marked by uncertainty, the sustainability agenda has taken an increasingly central position in global debate forums.

The limits on the ability of the planet are visible even to the most sceptics and the calls to scale up measures to keep temperature rising are being heard from all sectors of society, especially younger generations. Systemic inequalities in income, wealth, employment, and access to healthcare have been at the centre of mass demonstrations around the world. Loss of biodiversity and deforestation challenges remain as large as ever in many countries. Child labour is a reality still in many agri-food supply chains.

Still, amid this bleak context, there are also signs of increased momentum towards a nature positive and socially relevant agenda. An increasing number of large companies have announced 'Net Zero emission by 2050' pledges and have taken a new interest in the environmental consequences of their raw materials sourcing. Creating social impact is also rising to the top of many corporate agendas. The legal framework for a sustainable economy implemented by the EU and enforced by new regulations on Environmental Social Governance (ESG) reporting, also introduce new rules of the game to a sphere long dominated by voluntary corporate or industry actions.

Which of these trends are relevant? What is the level of 'stickiness' of these trends? Will they really transform how we live, how we consume products, how we interact with nature and society? How will these evolve in the future? What are the implications of these megatrends?

This session will explore these questions with provocative reflections from our speakers followed by interactive sessions with participants.

AGENDA

13:00-13:15 | [Welcome and introduction](#) | **Dr. Gabriela Álvarez, Université de Lausanne (UNIL) – Faculty of Business and Economics**

13:15-13:30 | [Introduction](#) | **Jane Duncan, SAI Platform**

13:30-14:15 | [Panel: Megatrends impacting Agriculture and Supply Chains today](#) |

Dr. Jason Clay, WWF

Florencia Sarmiento, IISD

Francisco José Mendonça Marques, Veracruz Almonds

Dr. Catalina Martinez, Lecturer in Impact Investing, Geneva Finance Research Institute, Université de Genève

14:15-14:30 | **BREAK**

14:30-14:40 | [Roundtables: Introduction & Recap on 'ThoughtBoard'](#) | **Dr. Gabriela Álvarez**

14:40-15:05 | [Roundtables: Rotation 1](#) | **Panel Speakers**

15:05-15:30 | [Roundtables: Rotation 2](#) | **Panel Speakers**

15:30-15:50 | [Roundtables: Closing thoughts speakers](#) | **Panel Speakers**

15:50-16:00 | [Closing and preparation Session 2](#) | **Dr. Gabriela Alvarez**

PROGRAMME

LIVE SESSIONS

MODULE 2 | NATURE POSITIVE ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE

Tuesday 10th October, 1:00-4:00 PM CET

This module offers an exploration of the intricate relationship between economic activities, sustainable trade practices, and the emerging paradigm of a nature-positive economy. By delving into foundational concepts and practical tools, this module equips participants with the knowledge and strategies to navigate the evolving landscape of responsible and environmentally-conscious trade.

At its core, this module endeavors to unravel the fundamental principles of a nature-positive economy. Speakers and experts will elucidate the concept's underpinnings, emphasizing the integration of ecological considerations into economic strategies. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of how aligning economic activities with nature-positive practices not only contributes to environmental preservation but also enhances long-term economic resilience.

Integral to the discourse is the exploration of regenerative agriculture as a linchpin of a nature-based economy. Through comprehensive discussions, participants will grasp how regenerative agricultural practices can rehabilitate ecosystems, bolster agricultural productivity, and promote sustainable resource management. Real-world case studies will underscore the tangible benefits of implementing regenerative approaches, reinforcing their role in fostering a more sustainable and harmonious trade landscape. In the context of technological advancement, this module will also spotlight innovative tools and technology solutions that facilitate the pursuit of sustainable trade practices. Amidst evolving market access requirements, such as those outlined in the EU Green Deal, participants will gain insights into how cutting-edge technologies can streamline compliance and enable seamless integration of sustainability criteria into trade operations. By showcasing practical examples and technological innovations, speakers will demonstrate how technology serves as an enabler of responsible and future-oriented trade.

A notable feature of this module is the exploration of public tools that empower participants to embrace sustainability within their trade endeavors. ITC's Standards Map, a dynamic and user-friendly digital platform, will be spotlighted for its role in simplifying the landscape of sustainability standards. Participants will learn to navigate through the application of the Standards Map, gaining proficiency in identifying, comparing, and benchmarking standards to inform decision-making.

Furthermore, the module will delve into SAI Platform's suite of tools, tailored to facilitate the integration of sustainability practices at the farm level. By providing a framework for continuous improvement and the adoption of best practices, these tools empower organizations to effect positive change from the ground up.

PROGRAMME

LIVE SESSIONS

MODULE 2 | NATURE POSITIVE ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE TRADE

Tuesday 10th October, 1:00-4:00 PM CET

AGENDA

13:00-13:10 | [Session introduction](#) | Mathieu Lamolle, Senior Advisor, International Trade Centre

13:10-14:10 | [Panel Discussion](#)

Dr. Pascal Boivin, Professor, HES Geneva

U. R. Unnithan, Co-Founder & CEO, DIBIZ, Singapore

Dominik Klauser, SAI Platform

Joe Iveson, SAI Platform

Shemina Amarsy, Programme Officer, International Trade Centre

14:10-14:20 | **BREAK**

14:20-15:50 | [Roundtables and break-out sessions](#)

15:50-16:00 | [Closing session](#) | Mathieu Lamolle, Senior Advisor, International Trade Centre

PROGRAMME

LIVE SESSIONS

MODULE 3 | SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE

Tuesday 17th October, 1:00-4:00 PM CET

The complex environmental and social problems with which the world is faced, combined with a desire to 'build back better' following the COVID pandemic is creating shifting expectations of business. Perceptions of business as entities that focus on profit maximization are shifting to consider them as purpose-driven value networks that create interrelated forms of value.

This fundamental questioning of corporate value and culture and a need to address pressing societal challenges that are increasingly manifesting as business risk e.g., climate change, nature loss, pollution is leading to winners and losers.

This session will explore two governance implications. The first is leadership in governance at an organizational-level, the second is the emerging capabilities of individual leaders. This session draws on CISL's research, including a report that summarises how four leading businesses aligned their corporate purpose and strategy with sustainability, then integrated it across the business.

AGENDA

13:00-13:10 | [Welcome & Introduction](#) | Ben Kellard, Director of Business Strategy, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), University of Cambridge

13:10-14:20 | [Leadership in corporate governance](#)

Ben Kellard, Director of Business Strategy, CISL

Jeff Turner, Senior Advisor, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

14:20-14:35 | BREAK

14:35-14:50 | [The shifting role of individual leadership in a sustainable purpose-drive business](#) |

Gillian Secrett, Director of Leadership Programmes, CISL

14:50-15:50 | [How to lead change within your organisation](#)

Ben Kellard, Director of Business Strategy, CISL

Gillian Secrett, Director of Leadership Programme, CISL

15:50-16:00 | [Closing](#) | Ben Kellard, Director of Business Strategy, CISL

FIELD TRIP

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE | 23-25 OCTOBER

A practical and innovative component has been added to this year's edition of the Executive Programme: and option **field visit near Lisbon, Portugal** to experience **regenerative agriculture**: smart farming, conservation agriculture and sustainable agriculture practices.

The field trip will include visit to farms of **Veracruz Almonds and Monte Silveira Bio** with their experts and practitioners who will offer participants a hands-on training on sustainable agriculture.

There are **limited seats available** for the field trip activity allocated on a first come-first served basis. Please kindly note that the field trip activity is not a mandatory part of the executive programme, so you may also only register to participate in the online classes.



FEES AND APPLICATIONS

I) FULL PROGRAMME (including participation in the field trip Regenerative Agriculture)*:

SAI Platform members	€1,000
General fee	€1,300

*Seats for the field trip are limited

**Participants are expected to arrange travel and accommodation for the trip

II) ONLINE PROGRAMME ONLY (excluding participation in the field trip Regenerative Agriculture):

SAI Platform members	€500
General fee	€650

PREVIOUS EDITIONS 2019 to 2022

The first edition of the International Executive Programme took place in **November 2019**, combining online lecturing and on-site activities in Brazil and Italy. This pilot edition included a half-day field visit to offer on the ground insights into sustainability practices. **The 2020 and 2021 editions** were hosted fully online and brought together 155 professionals from backgrounds ranging from sustainability and procurement to marketing and branding.

The 2022 edition combined online learning with an optional on-site field visit to two farms close to Geneva on Regenerative Agriculture. Speakers included: Jason Clay, WFF; Carolina Castañeda, Federacion Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia; Mario Abreu, Ferrero; and Matthew Agarwala, University of Cambridge, amongst many others. The course also consisted of Peer Learning Groups (PLG), where participants had the opportunity to take a deep dive into a specific sub-theme related to the topics of the four modules relevant to their work.



It was an excellent experience that helped me understand what regenerative agriculture is (..) It was fantastic to have the opportunity to visit the field and understand the farmer's standpoints.

Grupo Bimbo
Mexico



Loved it! It was a great opportunity to get the vision of some of the biggest food companies related to sustainable trade and sourcing.

Yara International
Norway

For more information about the International Executive Programme, please contact:

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