



Specialisation Territorial planning and local development

Master's programme:

CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURAL AND TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT (CGAT)

Joint accreditation with Paul Valéry Montpellier 3 University (UPVM).

This Master's degree offers the possibility to pursue doctoral studies



OBJECTIVE

This postgraduate course is designed for holders of a university degree with at least four years of higher education (M1 or engineering degree) and with an initial training and/or professional experience in the field of agricultural and rural development (agronomy/agriculture, economics, geography, ecology).

The programme investigates the impacts of climate change on the management of rural territories, their agriculture and their resources. It investigates the functions of territorial agriculture and its adaptation to new constraints and standards within the context of global change.

The objective is to provide professional training in the development of new technologies for agriculture and analyse territorial adaptation policies and projects in agricultural and rural sectors. In practical terms, the training prepares graduates for jobs such as development manager for local authorities and chambers of agriculture, project and research manager for international organisations, and software designer for training in private enterprises. It enables students to master the new models and tools that structure territorial public action and farm management decisions.

The CIHEAM Montpellier training course helps economists, ecologists, geographers and agricultural engineers to learn to work together, by providing them with the common language required for teamwork. It offers both an apprenticeship in theoretical and practical tools and the acquisition of professional experience (individual and group courses), bringing trainees into contact with local actors and real-life situations so that they may be operational by the end of the course.

The course teaches:

- **Knowledge:** through the analysis of the technical and economic operating of a farm and the diagnosis of an agricultural territory within the context of climate change.
- **Know-how:** implementation of decision-support methods, forward analysis and strategic steering in individual and collective advisory approaches. Conducting surveys, map construction, landscape and spatial analysis, statistical analysis of data, analysis of territorial policies. Development of optimisation models for production choices at farm and regional level. Coupling of biophysical and economic models for decision-making support in the management of natural resources and diffuse pollution in agriculture.
- **Soft skills:** working in a multidisciplinary team, at the interface between technical and socio-economic aspects.

MASTER 2 PROGRAMME (60 ECTS)

E-learning prerequisites (July-August)

- Refresher training in micro-economics, cartography and French.

On-site prerequisites (September)

- Refresher training in micro-economics, accounting/financial analysis, cartography, agronomy and informatics.

Module 1: Integrated and sustainable development of territories (September-December) – 2 ECTS

- The perspective of territorial and spatial planning and management.

ORGANISATION

Master 2 (5 years of higher education) – 12 months (from Sept. 26 to Sept. 27)

Theoretical and practical modules	34 ECTS
Internship and dissertation	26 ECTS

Master of Science (6 years of higher education) – Additional 12 months

Master of Science thesis	60 ECTS
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ADMISSION CRITERIA

The course is open to economists, agronomists, geographers and ecologists who want to specialise in agricultural and territorial management in the face of climate change.

Admission level: at least a 4-year university degree or any qualification giving access to postgraduate studies.

Prerequisites in economics are required.

TUITION AND REGISTRATION FEES

Tuition fee: 3 527 € (applicants coming from a CIHEAM member country* are exempt from these fees)

Registration fee: 250 €

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available for candidates from CIHEAM member countries* to cover subsistence and training costs.

APPLICATION

Application to be submitted online **before 24 March 2026**: <https://apply.iamm.ciheam.org/>

NUMBER OF STUDENTS PER COHORT

Average: 20 students

DEGREES

Master's degree awarded by CIHEAM Montpellier and UPVM

Master of Science degree awarded by CIHEAM

EMPLOYMENT RATE AT 24 MONTHS

Employment rate: 84 %

Study continuation rate: 17 %

MAIN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Territorial Planner, project Manager (NGOs, International Organizations), Consultant (Consulting Firms), Agricultural Software Designer

* Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey.

Module 2: Politics, climate and territorial agricultural capital (September) – 2 ECTS

- Climate, sustainability and renewal of public action at the territorial level.
- Mobilising the concepts of vulnerability, adaptation and adaptive capacity.
- Approaches to agroecology and analyses of territories and agricultural households based on multiple assets.

Module 3: Mediterranean agriculture in the context of climate change (October) – 2 ECTS

- Sustainability of Mediterranean agriculture under climate change.
- Landscape analysis and production systems typologies: field trips in the Cévennes and in Camargue.
- Public agricultural and rural policies in the context of climate change.

Module 4: Diagnosis and cartographic analysis of rural areas (October - November) – 5 ECTS

- Using cartography for the territorial diagnosis and decision aid tool.
- Understanding a rural territory based on vulnerability and adaptive capacity approaches
- Learning rapid diagnostic methods applied to a rural area.

Module 5: Monitoring and evaluation tools for territorial resources (November-December) – 4 ECTS

- Data analysis.
- Territorial ecological accounting.
- Economic valuation of non-market assets.

Module 6: Agricultural business management (January) – 4 ECTS

- Mastering the techniques of farm business management using digital technology. Agri-environmental measures and management of externalities.
- Drawing up a development plan for a farming business using a multi-periodic simulator
- Operational experience in the field with farmers and professional representatives.

Module 7: Modeling and decision support (January) – 2 ECTS

- Optimisation and decision support model for farms.
- Biophysical models and bio-economic modelling

Module 8: Stakeholders and natural resource management (January-February) – 4 ECTS

- The economics of the environment and natural resources, environmental policy instruments.
- IWRM (Integrated Water Resource Management): irrigation techniques and control of inputs, management of water supply and demand.
- The transition from farm models to regional aggregated models
- Analysis of the interaction between individual and collective choices at the regional level.
- Simulation game for negotiating and evaluating collective choices in a small agricultural region

Module 9: Research workshop: problematics and methods (October - March) – 2 ECTS

- Research methodology: formulation of a problematic, conceptual framework and development of a working methodology.
- Training in documentary research.

Module 10: English language course (October - March) – 3 ECTS

Oral and written expression adapted to an academic and/or professional context

Thematic workshops and project development (March) – 4 ECTS

Preparation of a research project to structure the different aspects of the individual internship: fieldwork and analysis.

Research thesis or a 3- to 6-month internship and the writing of a dissertation (April - September) – 26 ECTS

This internship is carried out within the framework of development structures, consultancy firms, NGOs, etc. The internship continues on to the writing of a thesis and its presentation for the Master's degree.

MASTER of Science (60 ECTS)

CIHEAM Master of Science thesis

Writing and defense.

COORDINATORS

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