



## Specialisation Economics

Master's programme:

# AGRICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS AND FOOD (ECODEVA)

co-accredited with the University of Montpellier (UM) and L'Institut Agro Montpellier.  
This Master offers the possibility to pursue a research career (PhD studies).



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE MONTPELLIER



L'INSTITUT  
agro Montpellier



## OBJECTIVE

This educational programme is aimed at students who wish to take on roles requiring autonomy, the ability to show individual initiative, and strong knowledge in economic sciences. Focused on delivering fundamental theoretical and methodological knowledge (both quantitative and qualitative), it places significant emphasis on the use of advanced modelling techniques in contemporary economic analysis, as well as on approaches from institutional economics, management sciences, and economic sociology.

This Master's degree prepares students—through research and teaching—for a variety of professional careers in the fields of economic and management research and studies applied to development in the agricultural, agri-food, and rural sectors, as well as in the areas of environmental management and natural resource management.

It enables students to acquire advanced expertise in the fields of agri-food sectors and natural resource management through the available specialisations.

Prerequisite courses are offered in September.

## MASTER 2 PROGRAMME (60 ECTS)

The training begins with a session of common courses enabling students to acquire the general thematic knowledge and the necessary methodological and theoretical bases before starting the more operational courses provided in the optional courses. It ends with seminars and the redaction and presentation of a research report.

### COURSE UNIT 1 - Thematic courses (3 ECTS)

#### Module 1: Economics and agricultural, food and rural policies

Objective: to make a synthesis of the main economics aspects of the agricultural and agri-food area and its management by the public policies.

#### Module 2: Environment economics and policies

Objective: to enable students to get the basis of economic analysis of environmental and of natural resources management issues.

#### Module 3: Development economics and policies

Objective: to develop the theories of economic development in the framework of agri-food and rural development. This course draws a parallel between contemporary problematics and theories.

#### Module 4: Circular economy and food systems

Objective: to provide the theoretical foundations, the concepts and necessary methods to the understanding and analysis of the food system and its dynamic, in France and in the world.

## ORGANISATION

### Master 2 (5 years of higher education)

12 months (from Sept. 26 to Sept. 27)

Fifteen units 34 ECTS

Internship and report 26 ECTS

### Master of Science (6 years of higher education)

Additional 12 months

Master of Science thesis 60 ECTS

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

This course is open to economists or agronomists wishing to specialise in agricultural, environmental development economics and food.

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: 7 students enrolled at CIHEAM Montpellier, within a cohort of 18 students (UM, Institut Agro).

## DEGREES

Master's degree awarded by CIHEAM Montpellier, UM and L'Institut Agro Montpellier.

Master of Science degree awarded by CIHEAM

## EMPLOYMENT RATE AT 24 MONTHS

Employment rate: 73 %

Study continuation rate: 21 %

## MAIN CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Pursuing doctoral studies in economics, management, or research engineering ; Consultant in France or abroad ; Economic or sustainable development analyst in the public or private sector, in France or abroad (Ministries, Chambers of Agriculture, professional associations, INAO, etc.)

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

## **COURSE UNIT 2 - Methodological courses (each student has to chose 3 modules – 3 ECTS /module)**

### **Module 1: Applied econometrics**

Objective: to introduce students to a stochastic approach of complex phenomenon and to the use and processing of real data. More particularly, the course aims at leading students to carry out, by themselves, an empirical economic work through an individual project.

### **Module 2: Modeling of the agricultural and environmental policies**

Objective: to master the mathematical programming techniques and know how to use them to develop optimization models.

### **Module 3: Qualitative and quantitative methods**

Objective: to provide elements to economists who want to integrate a qualitative dimension in their future research work, through debates on field study matters.

### **Module 4: Topic in experimental and behavioral economics**

Objective: to study the main themes of experimental economics focussing on social interactions. This course analyses the behaviour of economic agents.

## **COURSE UNIT 3 - Theoretical courses (each student has to chose 3 modules – 3 ECTS /module)**

### **Module 1: New institutional economy**

Objective: to study the various trends of institutional economy (the “New institutional economy”, the “Property Rights Theories”, etc.), and to link them to the various objectives, research positions, hypothesis and methods used in the analysis of institutions.

### **Module 2: Economic public calculation**

Objective: to provide to students the basis of public policies and some notions on the “theory of incentives”.

### **Module 3: Economical sociology and anthropology**

Objective: to present the origins and construction elements of the political economy, from both a scientific and a political point of view. This course also studies the main evolutions in the European and Anglo Saxon bodies, in the framework of the “great sharing” between economy and sociology, and provides some examples of debates, especially the one of the “New economic sociology”.

### **Module 4: Theoretical approaches in management sciences**

Objective: to introduce to students the theoretical approaches in management sciences with an overview of different fields of management. A specific focus is placed on organisational theory, strategy and consumer theories, linking them with subsequent courses (entrepreneurship, etc.).

## **COURSE UNIT 4 - Specialization courses (each student has to chose 3 modules – 3 ECTS /module)**

### **Module 1: Consumers, food and sustainability**

Objective: to update knowledge on the debates about the sustainability of food systems, more specifically the questions of the contribution to the environment management and the social equity through a responsible consumption.

### **Module 2: Institutions and development**

Objective: to present some of the important applications to the agricultural and agri-food sectors, to provide courses of institutional economy.

### **Module 3: Coordination in the firms and agri-food chains**

Objective: to address coordination issues through the analysis of different cases that often raise questions about the food system sustainability (collective short supply chains, cooperatives, consumer participation in large-scale distribution, corporate social responsibility, etc.).

### **Module 4: Information and environmental certifications**

Objective: to understand the economic behaviour of companies and consumers relative to environmental issues and in particular differentiation strategies within the scope of “green” products. To understand that the policy measures can be implemented by a regulator (state, government, administration). As environmental certification plays a key role in providing consumers with information on environmental quality, there is a particular focus on the interaction between market prices and certification in the transmission of information.

### **Module 5: Economics of biodiversity and natural resources**

Objective: introduction to the economic analysis of the management of exhaustible natural resources (fossil fuels) and renewable resources (fisheries resources, forests).

## **COURSE UNIT 5 - Research seminars (2 ECTS /seminar)**

The students must choose 2 seminars out of the 4 that are proposed. These seminars deal with subjects related to researches from 3 teams involved in the Master (Mixed Research Units : MOISA, CEEM, Innovation) and can be oriented and developed to meet students specific needs for the preparation of their research master thesis.

### **Tutorials as guidelines to research process**

Objective: to prepare the students to the work that needs to be done during their research thesis. This class will enable each student to familiarize with the basic techniques related to a research work.

### **Research thesis and defense (26 ECTS)**

The research thesis is the result of the student’s personal work. Each student is supervised by a professor or a researcher involved in this Master. The main objective is to indicate the feasibility of a thesis project, insisting on the methods and tools of the selected discipline or disciplines. This work will be defended in front of a jury composed of the various disciplines part of the Master.

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE (60 ECTS)**

### **CIHEAM Master of Science thesis**

Writing and defense.

**CIHEAM Montpellier Scientific Coordinator**

Myriam KESSARI : (33) (0)4 67.04.60.36 - kessari@iamm.fr



**CIHEAM  
MONTPELLIER**