

# Introduction to Agriculture, Practices, Technology and Policy

## Applying for this course:

This course is targeted at those learners who would like to work as a Gardener, Landscaper, Farmer or Horticulturalist. To successfully complete this course, learners need to learn about the various tasks and methods used in this field of work. This course is aimed at those individuals who wish to work in this profession for the very first time, or for those persons who are already working in this line of profession but wish to further enhance their existing skills.

Trainees should be 16 years of age, have an MQF Level 1 school leaving certificate and have an MQF level 2 qualification in Award in Principles of Gardening and Landscaping or other similar qualifications including the Certificate of Competence for Gardener and Horticulturalist.

## Course Duration

This course is of 12 hours duration and consists of one Module - (including 2-hours assessment).

## General pedagogical guidelines and procedures for this course:

The delivery of this Course will be mainly held through a series of discussions, hands-on exercises and fieldwork. The trainer will also be holding lessons with the learners which will consist of various presentations. Since this course will be pegged to MQF level 3, learners will be expected to do further research on the topics dealt with during the classroom activities.

## General assessment policy and procedures for this course:

The assessment will vary from one module to the other. The learner will be assessed through written assessments that will take place by the end of each module, to assess and consolidate the learning being covered. Assessments include written assessments, case studies, and projects.

Ongoing assessments will also take place throughout each module. These do not have a weighting on the total mark obtained.

For this module, the learner will be assessed through a written assessment.

## Module 1 Learning Outcomes – Introduction to Agriculture, Practices, Technology and Policy

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development and key agricultural practices in various contexts.</li><li>✓ Carry out tasks related to modern agricultural technologies to enhance farming practices and improve efficiency.</li><li>✓ Comply to sustainable farming techniques and good agricultural practices to promote soil health, water conservation, and biodiversity.</li><li>✓ Evaluate the economic and environmental impacts of different farming systems and make informed decisions to optimize agricultural practices.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Critically assess the ethical, environmental, and health implications of GMOs and make informed decisions regarding their use in agriculture.</li><li>✓ Deal with agricultural policies to assess their impact on rural development and agricultural practices.</li><li>✓ Ensure food safety standards are met and apply certification processes in agricultural production.</li><li>✓ Develop farm management plans, including budgeting and risk management strategies, to optimize farm operations and profitability.</li><li>✓ Operate and maintain agricultural machinery safely, ensuring its efficient use and minimizing environmental impact.</li></ul> |
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✓ Implement principles of soil health management, fertilization, and pest control to ensure effective crop growth and sustainability.	✓ Explore the role of technology in modern agricultural practices.
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### **Module 1 Assessment:**

Learners will be assessed through ongoing assessment by way of oral and written exercises throughout the entire course. The Ongoing Assessment will not have a weighting on the total mark obtained.

A written assessment will take place in the form of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. It is 2 hours long and the pass mark is that of 45%.

The Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) deems this certificate to be at Level 3 of the Malta Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning. This course comprises study modules to which a total of 28 ECTS points are assigned.