

Master of Applied Science in System Agriculture

The Master of Applied Science in Systems Agriculture is offered as an "on-the-job" study program, undertaken for a minimum period of four semesters (or two years). The major learning activity in this program is the conduct of an Action Research.

A significant feature of the program is an on-campus live-in residential period, during which the students undergo intensive lectures, workshops and library research. This residential period offers the students the opportunity to program their office and home activities and focus their attention on program-related learning tasks. Residential periods are scheduled from Thursday to Saturday of the last week of every semester month.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective applicants must be graduates of agriculture or agriculture-related baccalaureate degree programs with a Quality Point Average (QPA) of 2.50, or show above satisfactory level of performance in the agricultural industry. The applicant must present a letter of endorsement from the head of the office (if employed) stating, among others, that sufficient arrangements have been made by the prospective student to undertake the residential period as required in the program.

CURRICULUM

Semester I		Units
SA 102	Foundation Studies in Systems Agriculture	3
SA 104	Agricultural Systems	3
SA 106	Research Methods in Systems Agriculture	3
Semester II		
SA 202	Agricultural Production in Tropical Farming	3
SA 204	Qualitative and Quantitative Techniques in Research Analysis	3
SA 206	Special Problems	3
Semester III		
SA 302	Issues in Agricultural Systems	3
SA 304	Social Context of Agricultural Systems	3
SA 306	Systems Agriculture Seminar	3
Semester IV		
SA 402	Agricultural Systems Management	3
SA 404	Action Research	6

*Will be enrolled on staggered basis every semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SA 102 FOUNDATION STUDIES IN SYSTEMS AGRICULTURE 3 units

A general introduction to systems thinking and practice. Includes principles and philosophies of systems thinking, problem solving methodologies, and systems modeling. Emphasis on group learning activities in the form of workshops and seminars.

SA 104 AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS 3 units

Description and definition of agricultural systems. Concepts of an agro-ecosystem, and the consequences of human interventions in an agro-ecosystem.

SA 106 RESEARCH METHODS IN SYSTEMS AGRICULTURE 3 units

Principles and techniques in agricultural research. Emphasis on Action Research as applied to agriculture.

SA 202 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN TROPICAL FARMING SYSTEMS 3 units

Discussion of issues emanating from activities relevant to tropical farming systems. Role of animal and plant sub-systems in agriculture; economic and environmental considerations of agricultural practices.

SA 204 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES IN RESEARCH ANALYSIS 3 units

Discussion and application of sampling techniques, statistical analyses, and the coding and treatment of data from interviews and qualitative surveys. Application of selected qualitative and quantitative research techniques designed to analyze and modify practices in an agricultural systems context.

SA 206 SPECIAL PROBLEMS 3 units

Issue generation and problem identification in the conduct of Action Research as applied to a specific agricultural situation. Learners will formulate and execute an action to solve a problem or improve a situation in collaboration with a client.

SA 302 ISSUES IN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS 3 units

Independent studies in support of issues of special interest arising from an identified agricultural situation, e.g.

- crop residue utilization
- the greenhouse effect
- organic farming
- watershed management
- extension strategies
- adult education
- rural development
- cooperatives
- post harvest technology
- Philippine values and traditions

SA 304 SOCIAL CONTEXT OF AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS 3 units

Agricultural systems will be explored in relation to the Filipino context, embracing socio-cultural and politico-economic facets and their impact on such systems. Soft systems methodology will be introduced as a means of grappling with complex problem in an agricultural system and promoting change by organizational learning.

SA 306 SYSTEMS AGRICULTURE SEMINAR 3 units

Preliminary presentation of ongoing Action Research. Learners will communicate, critique, review and co-learn from learning experiences.

SA 402 AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT 3 units

Formulation of alternative management strategies of resources within an agricultural system considering the demographic and economic factors, the natural resources, and environment impacts of various human interventions. Field work, data gathering (RRA), assembly of data, assessment of results, and writing of reports are components of the course.

SA 404 ACTION RESEARCH DOCUMENTATION 6 units