Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Integrated Crop Management (ICM)

Integrate sustainable crop management principles into practice and policy

Starting date: September
Duration: Nine months (10 hours per week)

The CAS-ICM courses address today’s critical agricultural and environmental challenges, such as increasing pesticide usage and associated risks, loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, and the effects of changing climate.

cabi.org/cas-icm
What is ICM?

Integrated Crop Management (ICM) is a holistic approach to improving agroecology in our food systems. It involves managing crops to optimize safe yields and insures eco-friendly and long-term profitability by anticipating problems, analysing the environmental and socio-economic conditions and by using natural assets. The CAS-ICM courses are intended to highlight the importance of ICM and to extend its adoption as a strategy for sustainable crop management.

What is a CAS?

The three postgraduate CAS-ICM courses offer specialized and applied knowledge. CAS courses are completed through part-time study and participants receive a university accredited Certificate of Advanced Studies.

Each CAS requires about 300 hours of work (10 hours per week for 9 months) and is worth 10 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), which is typically equivalent to 5 American credits.

A Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) can be obtained on completion the 3 CAS-ICM courses and a technical report. In total, this is worth 36 ECTS credits (18 American credits).

Online Instructor-led courses

- Online exercises and activities with supporting documentation, presentations and information
- Includes field assignments and online course assessments
- Regular interactive live sessions
- Personalized and professional support from the course tutors
- Networking opportunities to share knowledge and experiences
- Access to high-quality scientific information through online platforms

“The course has surpassed some of my expectations. It provides examples and case studies on how to approach various issues in integrated crop farming.”

Skeeter Gichunge, CAS-ICM participant 2022, student, Kenya
Course description

The courses are taught online and in English. Each course is organized around thematic topics towards practical ICM solutions. They are led by ICM experts from the co-organizing institutions (CABI and the University of Neuchâtel) and feature interdisciplinary guest contributions from around the world.

The courses are:

**CAS 1: ICM – Sustainable Production Practices**
**CAS 2: ICM – Understanding context and support strategies to make ICM work**
**CAS 3: ICM – Biological Control and Ecosystem Services**

Fees:

**CAS ICM:** CHF 3,950 (approx. USD 4,400) per course

**DAS ICM (3 CAS + technical report):** CHF 2,000 (approx. USD 2,200)

Course requirements

- A bachelor’s degree or adequate professional training and at least three years of relevant professional experience
- At least a B2 level of English or equivalent

Course overview

Participants must register for each CAS-ICM separately. These courses may be taken concurrently or in different years. They can be combined into a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS).

With the CAS-ICM, we are making a high-quality Swiss university education available to practitioners and students across the world.
Who should apply?

CAS-ICM courses are designed for working professionals and students with a background in biological or agricultural sciences. We educate participants in preparation for advanced career opportunities in the public and private sectors.

Successful participants enhance their scientific understanding of and technical skills and scientific backgrounds in ICM and will develop a broad and integrated vision of agricultural food production and environmental sustainability. Participants become change agents in their fields of activity, such as:

- **Agricultural advisors** to support farmers with integrated measures to address their needs.
- **Postgraduates** to develop a career in an international agricultural context.
- **Researchers** to identify and address knowledge and skills gaps for local ICM implementation.
- **Teachers** to disseminate knowledge and skills that are centred on good practices.
- **Industry professionals** to improve safety and quality of produce and provide expert guidance.
- **Policymakers** to promote innovative and sustainable approaches to food production.

The development of the CAS/DAS-ICM course(s) has been made possible through financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Canton of Jura and the PlantwisePlus programme.