Advanced Agriculture and Rural Development Monitoring and Evaluation Course

7 – 11 March 2027
Chicago

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Training Center

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Ref: 1164_186006 **Date:** 7 – 11 March 2027 **Location:** Chicago **Fees:** 12000 Euro

Overview

Advanced Agriculture and Rural Development Monitoring and Evaluation Course is a one-week practical course for programme managers, monitoring and evaluation specialists, policy analysts, donor teams, researchers, extension leaders, and implementation partners. Participants build an Agriculture and Rural Development M&E and Learning System Pack connecting context analysis, theories of change, results chains, indicator design, baselines, targets, sampling, field data, geospatial monitoring, mixed methods, process and impact evaluation, contribution, inclusion, learning, adaptive management, management response, and reporting. The course addresses agricultural and rural realities rather than generic project monitoring. Agile Leaders Training Center develops evidence-led programme management.

Who Should Attend

- Agriculture and rural-development programme managers responsible for results and adaptation
- Monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning specialists
- Government, donor, development-finance, and implementing-partner teams
- Researchers, statisticians, data managers, and field-enumeration leaders
- Extension, value-chain, food-security, livelihoods, and natural-resource professionals

Participants should understand programme design and basic data analysis. The course does not teach introductory project management, advanced econometrics, or evaluation procurement rules for a specific donor.

Departments and Industries

The course supports organisations delivering agricultural, livelihood, food-system, and rural-development interventions.

- Agriculture, rural development, food security, and extension agencies
- Development banks, donors, foundations, and international organisations
- Government ministries, local authorities, and national statistics offices
- Non-governmental organisations, producer organisations, and cooperatives
- Research institutes, consultancies, agribusiness, and value-chain programmes

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Develop agriculture and rural-development theories of change and results chains
- Design indicators, reference sheets, baselines, targets, and disaggregation plans
- Build field, administrative, survey, geospatial, and qualitative data systems
- Select monitoring, process, outcome, impact, and contribution methods
- Assess relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability
- Convert evidence into learning, adaptation, management responses, and reporting

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Course Agenda

Day 1: Rural Context, Theory of Change, and Results

- Rural System, Stakeholder, and Constraint Map
- Agriculture Programme Theory of Change
- Input-to-Impact Results Chain
- Assumption, Risk, and External-Factor Register
- Evaluation Question and Evidence-Use Matrix

Day 2: Indicator, Baseline, and Data System Design

- Indicator Portfolio and Results-Level Balance
- Indicator Reference Sheet and Calculation Rules
- Baseline, Target, Disaggregation, and Frequency Plan
- Administrative, Survey, Field, and Geospatial Source Map
- Data Flow, Ownership, Storage, and Access Controls

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Day 3: Field Measurement and Data Quality

- Sampling Frame and Rural Coverage Strategy
- Questionnaire, Observation, and Qualitative Protocols
- Enumerator Training and Field Supervision Plan
- Accuracy, Completeness, Timeliness, and Consistency Tests
- Triangulation, Bias, Missingness, and Data Correction Log

Day 4: Evaluation Design and Credible Judgement

- Process, Outcome, Impact, and Contribution Design Choice
- Counterfactual and Comparison Strategy Options
- Mixed-Methods Evidence Integration Matrix
- Evaluation Criteria and Unintended-Effects Framework
- Inclusion, Differential Outcomes, and Ethical Safeguards

Day 5: Learning, Adaptation, and Accountability

- Exercise: Repair a Rural Programme Results Framework
- Exercise: Design an Indicator and Field Data Plan
- Exercise: Select a Credible Evaluation Approach
- Exercise: Build a Learning and Management-Response Cycle
- Capstone Exercise: Agriculture and Rural Development M&E and Learning System Pack

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Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities that connect rural context, measurement design, field evidence, and management action.

- Suggested activity: trace assumptions from extension delivery to farmer outcomes
- Suggested activity: write reference sheets for productivity, adoption, income, and resilience indicators
- Suggested activity: diagnose bias and missing coverage in a rural household survey
- Suggested activity: prepare an evidence briefing and adaptation decision for programme leaders

FAQs

Who suits agriculture and rural development M&E training?

Programme managers, M&E specialists, policy analysts, donor teams, researchers, extension leaders, and implementation partners suit the course. Participants should understand programme design and basic data analysis.

How does rural-development M&E differ from generic project monitoring?

It addresses dispersed populations, seasonal livelihoods, environmental shocks, value chains, farmer adoption, extension quality, geographic variation, difficult field access, and outcomes that depend on external conditions.

Which agriculture indicators are developed?

Participants design measures for reach, adoption, production, productivity, income, market access, food security, resilience, natural resources, service quality, inclusion, institutional capacity, and sustainability.

When is impact evaluation appropriate?

Impact evaluation is useful when decision-makers need credible causal evidence, outcomes can be measured, comparison is feasible and ethical, implementation is sufficiently stable, and the expected learning justifies the cost.

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How does evidence lead to programme adaptation?

A learning cycle schedules review, examines implementation and outcomes, tests assumptions, records decisions, assigns responses, tracks actions, and checks whether changes improve delivery and results.

Conclusion

Participants take back an Agriculture and Rural Development M&E and Learning System Pack containing a context map, theory of change, results framework, indicator sheets, baseline and target plan, data architecture, sampling and field protocols, quality controls, evaluation design, inclusion safeguards, learning agenda, management-response tracker, and reporting templates. The pack turns dispersed data into credible evidence for accountability and adaptation.