

# Seminar "Empirical Development Economics"

## *Aim*

This course aims to equip master's students in international economics with the practical skills and knowledge required to apply impact evaluation methods in the context of sustainable rural development economics. The course emphasises integrating theoretical concepts with real-world applications, preparing students to design, implement, and assess the impact of interventions promoting sustainable development in rural areas.

## *Learning objectives*

1. Understanding sustainable rural development economics
  - Students are familiar with core issues/themes in sustainable rural development economics.
2. Program evaluation in rural development
  - Students understand the role of program evaluation in rural development and how IE fits into the project cycle of rural development initiatives.
  - Students are able to understand, interpret and communicate impact evaluation findings
  - Students are able to engage in group discussions, workshops, and presentations.

## *Teaching methods*

- Input sessions at the beginning of the term
- Remaining sessions → Seminar sessions in which empirical application on impact evaluations (published paper/reports) will be presented by the students and discussed in class.
  - What type of project was evaluated?
  - What IE method was used? Would there have been an alternative approach?
  - What are the main findings? What implications can be derived from the evaluation?

## *Examination approach*

- Presentation of a paper in class – 30% of the grade
- Homework/Written assignment (70% of the grade)
  - 3-5 page proposal for pre-specified problem

	Topic	
<b>Session 1</b>	Introduction to the course	Lecture
<b>Session 2</b>	Impact evaluation methods recap	Lecture
<b>Session 3</b>	Perspectives on sustainable rural development	Lecture
<b>Session 4</b>	Natural resource management	Seminar
<b>Session 5</b>	Climate adaptation and mitigation	Seminar
<b>Session 6</b>	(Agricultural) Technology adoption in rural areas	Seminar
<b>Session 7</b>	Market access and rural infrastructure	Seminar
<b>Session 8</b>	Access to financial services	Seminar
<b>Session 9</b>	Rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation	Seminar
<b>Session 10</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	Seminar
<b>Session 11</b>	Education and skill development	Seminar
<b>Session 12</b>	Gender and female empowerment	Seminar
<b>Session 13</b>	Proposal exercise	Seminar