



# Bringing Sustainability Science to Cambodia

## *Enabling Transformative Learning and Education through Joint Development of a Curriculum on Sustainable Development*

**Isabelle Providoli<sup>1</sup>, Sophea Tim<sup>2</sup>, Nicole Harari<sup>1</sup>, Karl Herweg<sup>1</sup>, Hanspeter Liniger<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Centre for Development and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland

<sup>2</sup>Royal University of Agriculture, Cambodia

# Initial collaboration between CDE and RUA

**CDE and RUA established a partnership** in 2016 through the IFAD funded project

***Scaling-up sustainable land management (SLM) practices by smallholder farmers in Cambodia: working with agricultural extension services to identify, assess and disseminate SLM practices”***

**Component A:** SLM knowledge base for agricultural extension service

**Component B:** Evidence-based Decision Support for adoption and scaling-up of SLM practices

**Component C:** Enhancing policy frameworks for scaling up SLM

**Little knowledge at HEI on topic of sustainability and no focus on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**



# Grant opportunity

***“Bringing sustainability science to Cambodia – Develop a Sustainable Development and Sustainable Land Management curriculum at higher education institutions in Cambodia”.***

## Collaborative process

-> co-creation of knowledge / joint-learning for the RUA and other agriculture-focused higher education institutions in Cambodia.

**Integrates Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) approaches**, combination of

- innovative didactics, new teaching-learning arrangements, and
- thematic issues of SD and SLM

Funded by ETH Zürich,  
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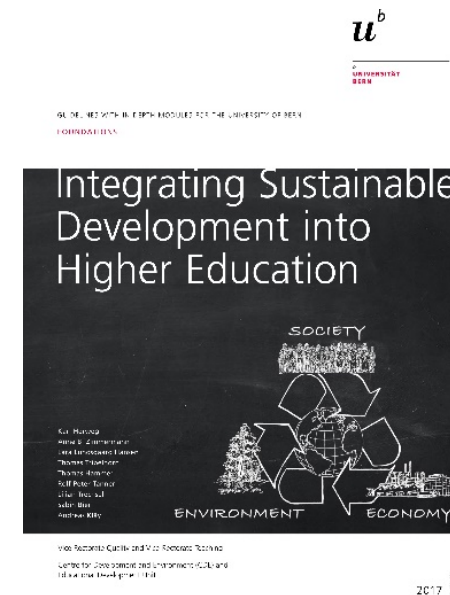


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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI

**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



CURRICULUM FOR AGRICULTURE EDUCATION	
Supported by: TBC	
<b>SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Place	University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), Switzerland
Date	30 Apr - 04 May 2018
Participants	1. Dr. Ursula Harnisch, CDE 2. Ms. Nicole Harari, CDE 3. Dr. Isabella Probst, CDE 4. Dr. Karl Henning, CDE 5. Dr. Anne Zimmermann, CDE 6. Mr. Soheon Kim, RUA 7. Mr. Sophia Tim, RUA
Subject	Sustainable Land Management for Sustainable Development
Credits	3 Credits (2/3) = 64 hours
Hours for theory	32 Hours
Hours for practice	32 Hours
Aim	To provide students in higher education, government and non-government officials with necessary RSA (Knowledge, Skills, and Attitude) on SLM to contribute to sustainable development in view of the three UN conventions (UNCCD, UNECCC, UNCSD) and the SDGs.

# National Education 2030 Roadmap in Cambodia

- **National Education 2030 Roadmap for SDG 4**, which provides the overarching framework for long-term holistic education services of good quality, in which:
  - **SDG target 4.7** ensures that **all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles**;
  - **SDG 4.C** substantially **increases the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training**.
- Together with SDG 15 on “Life on Land”, it is an opportunity for Cambodia to **address quality issues in education in combination with addressing the unsustainable use of natural resources and land degradation and to assure life-long learning and employment**.





# Joint development of SD-SLM curriculum

## 5 Thematic chapters

- Chapter 1: Introduction to SD, LD and SLM
- Chapter 2: SLM Technologies and Approaches, and Ecosystem Services
- Chapter 3: SLM and Climate Change
- Chapter 4: Mapping land degradation and SLM by using different tools
- Chapter 5: Decision-support tools for SLM and assessment of ecosystem services
- Chapter 6: Concluding session

## Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Approach

- Competences needed for Sustainable Development (SD)

**Systems-Thinking Competence:** analyse complex systems across different dimensions (ecological, social, economic) and scales (from local to global) related to sustainability issues and problem-solving

**Anticipatory Competence:** analyse, evaluate, and summarise future visions (rich pictures) related to sustainability issues and sustainability problem-solving

**Normative Competence:** collect, specify, harmonise, and negotiate actors different sustainability values, principles, goals, and targets

**Strategic Competence:** design and implement interventions, measures, transformations, and governance strategies toward sustainability.

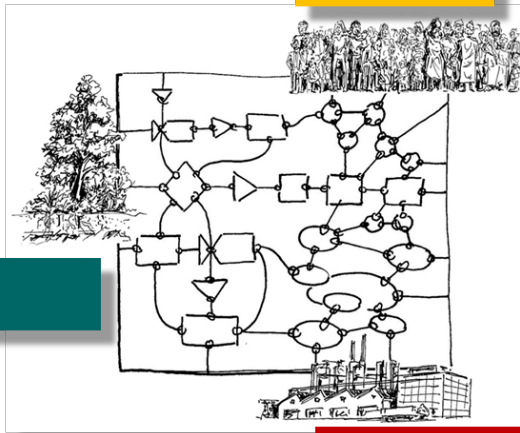
**Interpersonal Competence:** motivate, enable, and facilitate collaborative and participatory sustainability research and problem solving; communicate adequately

*Adapted from Wiek A, Withycombe L, Redman CL. 2011. Key competencies in sustainability: a reference framework for academic program development. Sustainability Science 6(2):203-218.*

Interdisciplinary perspective

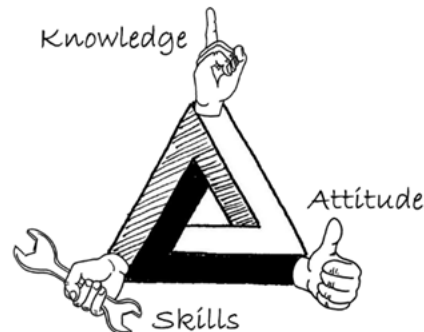
Society

Environment



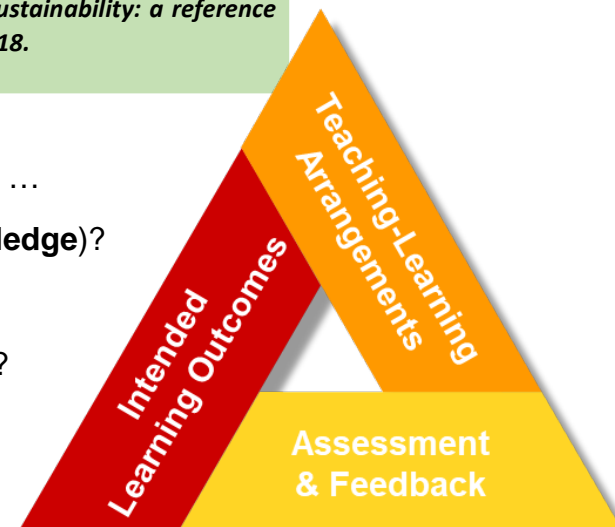
Transdisciplinary perspective

Economy



At the end of the programme/course ...

- What do students know (**knowledge**)?
- What can they do (**skills**)?
- What is their **attitude (values)**?



# High-level Launching of SD-SLM curriculum and Training of Trainers (ToT)

- The **High-level official launching event** of the SD-SLM curriculum held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Phnom Penh
  - 64 participants: policy-level officials, donors, HEI lecturers and researchers

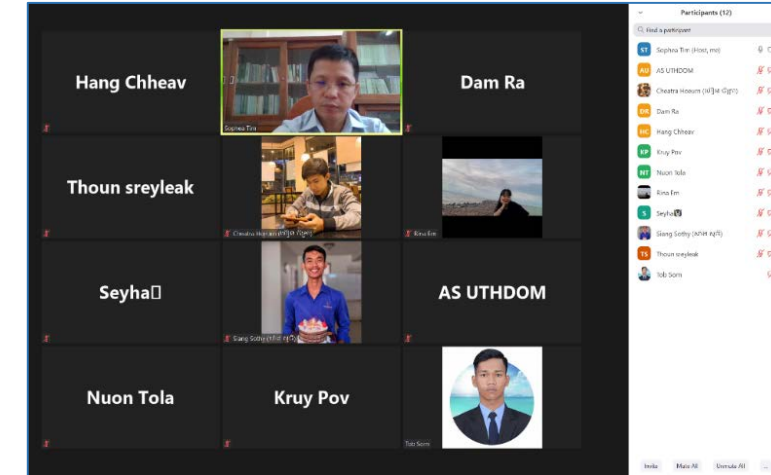


- Followed by a **4.5-days ToT** for 15 RUA's lecturers and researchers, delivered by CDE senior research scientists
  - innovative didactics, new teaching-learning arrangements, and
  - thematic issues of SD-SLM



# Piloting the SD-SLM course at RUA

- **Pilot teaching** the SD-SLM course at RUA Faculty of Forestry Science, **BSc. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**, since May 2020
  - 3 Credits, 64 hours
- **Challenges faced...**
  - Lecturer is teaching this course for the first time
  - A lot of content to cover for the BSc level
  - Absorption level of the students limited
- **Covid-19 problems:**
  - Online teaching – less interaction, internet connection issues
  - ESD in online format is challenging
  - Field work not possible.



*A screenshot during the class via Zoom*





# Outlook: institutionalising ESD approaches at RUA and other HEIs

- Plan to integrate the SD-SLM course in **other relevant BSc Faculties** (*Agronomy, Agriculture Engineering, Rural Development and Land Management and Administration*) and in **MSc programmes**
- Course will be applied in other agriculture based HEIs
- The future vision is that the RUA will become a leading research institution in the field of SD and ESD.