Introduction course in meta-analysis
Nairobi, Kenya

Information for Applicants

General information

Dates: Nov 28 – Dec 4 2016

Venue: The course will be hosted by ICRAF in Nairobi, Kenya (www.worldagroforestry.org/)

Language of instruction: English. Fluency in both written and oral communication in English is a pre-requisite for the course.

Participants: The course is intended for post-doc students or senior researchers who have a demonstrated interest in scientific reviews and would like to learn meta-analysis methodology. Preference is given to participants involved in activities linked to or supported by AgriFoSe2030. PhD students in the final phase of their studies can also be accepted if highly motivated. Students from both natural and social science / economics backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

AgriFoSe2030: The AgriFoSe2030-program directly targets the SDG2¹ in low-income countries through a science-based approach on local, regional and global scales. AgriFoSe2030 contributes to sustainable intensification of agriculture for increased food production on existing agricultural land; the aim is to do so by transforming practices toward more efficient use of human, financial and natural resources. More information about AgriFoSe2030 can be found at www.slu.se/AgriFoSe

¹ UN Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) number 2: "End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".
Organizer: The course is organized by AgriFoSe 2030 together with the local partner ICRAF

Maximal number of participants: 30

Course credits: 2 ECTS

Course fee: The course is free of charge. Travel, accommodation and meals are included.

Latest application date: 1 Oct, 2016. See below for more information on application procedure.

Scope and Objectives
Meta-analysis is a powerful statistical methodology for synthesizing research evidence across independent studies. The method allows quantitative analyses of the magnitude of effects and has a high degree of objectivity because it is based on a standardized set of statistical procedures. Meta-analysis was originally developed in medicine and social sciences, but is nowadays also widely applied in areas such as ecology, agronomy and animal sciences.

The main teacher will be Professor Julia Koricheva at the Royal Holloway University of London. She is professor in ecology and has written a large number of scientific review papers using meta-analysis and she is lead editor of the recent book “Handbook of Meta-analysis in Ecology and Evolution, Princeton University Press. She is regularly running courses on meta-analysis for an international audience.

Outline of the course
The course will address meta-analysis via lectures, and group discussions and assignments. Critical evaluation of scientific literature will also be addressed. For this part of the course scientific articles will be sent to the participant for reading before the start of the course. Group work is conducted in both own-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary settings. Topics addressed during the course include:

- quantitative research synthesis
- question formulation and data collection
- type of data, effect sizes and moderators
- meta-analysis software
- non-independence, missing data and varying research quality
- meta-regression analysis, testing for publication bias and exploratory analyses

Each participant have to bring their own laptop, there will be internet facilities available during the course.
Application procedure

Please include the following information:

- Contact details
- Curriculum vitae
- One paragraph briefly describing your current position/research.
- One paragraph describing if and how you are involved in AgriFoSe2030 activities.
- A letter of motivation (max. 1 page) describing your interest in the topics of the course and what you hope to gain by participating in the course.

Applications should be sent to Johanna.Wetterlind@slu.se or Sofia.Boqvist@slu.se.

The selection of participants will be made by the course organizers.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact Johanna.Wetterlind@slu.se, Sofia.Boqvist@slu.se or Mattias.Jonsson@slu.se.

Anja Gassner (A.Gassner@cgiar.org) is the contact point at ICRAF.