UCLouvain

# lbrai2213

*2026*

# Impact evaluation in agriculture

| 4.00 credits | 30.0 h + 8.0 h | Q2 |
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| Teacher(s) | Van den Broeck Goedele ; |
| Language : | English<br>> French-friendly |
| Place of the course | Louvain-la-Neuve |
| Prerequisites | Micro-economics (e.g., LBIR1260 Principles of Economics) and Introduction to econometrics (e.g., LECGE1316 or LINGE1221 Econométrie) |
| Main themes | Importance of impact evaluation, different evaluation methods (randomized assignment of treatment, instrumental variable estimation, difference-in-difference estimation, propensity score matching, regression discontinuity design), implementation of impact evaluation. All illustrations and applications are drawn from agricultural policies, programs and projects. |
| Learning outcomes | **At the end of this learning unit, the student is able to :**<br>1<br>a. Contribution de l'activité au référentiel AA (AA du programme)<br>1.3-1.4: selection of evaluation method<br>2.1-2.5: impact evaluation, survey design<br>3.2-3.5: evaluation design<br>4.2: evaluation design<br>6.1-6.2: discussion of scientific articles<br>7.1: exposure to profession, non-academic experts<br>8.1-8.3: evaluation design, giving and receiving feedback by peers and teacher<br>b. Formulation spécifique pour cette activité des AA du programme<br>At the end of the course, students will be able :<br>- to understand the importance of impact evaluation for developing sound agricultural and food policy<br>- to know, understand and explain the different evaluation methods and how to construct a convincing counterfactual<br>- to critically compare the advantages and disadvantages associated with the different evaluation methods<br>- to know, understand and explain how to implement an impact evaluation in agriculture, specifically how to collect data, design a farm survey and develop a sampling strategy |
| Evaluation methods | Students need to prepare and write an evaluation plan for an agricultural intervention of their own choice. This evaluation plan contains i) Description of agricultural intervention, ii) Objective of evaluation, iii) Evaluation methodology, iv) Sampling and data, and v) Data collection plan. The plan is submitted at the end of the semester and will be discussed through an oral exam with the student during the normal examination period. Students get the opportunity to present their evaluation plan during the semester to receive feedback from the teacher and their peers.<br>**Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools**<br>The use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is only permitted to improve the writing of the text.<br>AI tools must not be used to generate content or results, nor to add references.<br>AI tools must be used responsibly and critically. You must never copy and paste an AI tool's response without critically reflecting on it.<br>If improper use of AI tools is detected during the evaluation of the report, sanctions will be applied, which may result in a final grade of zero out of 20 for this course. |
| Teaching methods | Teaching in class room, directed reading, group discussions, presentations |
| Content | - Students are exposed to the theory behind impact evaluation, illustrated by many real-life applications of agricultural policies, programs and projects.<br>- Students read and discuss selected scientific publications that use different evaluation methods to critically reflect about the implementation of impact evaluations in various contexts.<br>- External guest speakers from various NGOs, development agencies and research institutes will share their professional expertise with impact evaluation to familiarize students with a non-academic perspective on impact evaluation. |

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| Inline resources | Moodle |
| Bibliography | Slides, articles, handbooks (announced and distributed via Moodle) |
| Other infos | Course taught in English |
| Faculty or entity in charge | AGRO |

| Programmes containing this learning unit (UE) | | | | |
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| Program title | Acronym | Credits | Prerequisite | Learning outcomes |
| Master [120] in Environmental Bioengineering | BIRE2M | 4 | | |
| Master [120] in Chemistry and Bioindustries | BIRC2M | 4 | | |
| Master [120] in Agriculture and Bio-industries | SAIV2M | 5 | | |
| Master [120] in Agricultural Bioengineering | BIRA2M | 4 | | |