



BLEND

RURAL

# 2023 RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE  
AND PRODUCTIVE RURAL ECONOMIES

ON-LINE: 13 – 24 NOVEMBER 2023

FACE-TO-FACE: 4 – 8 DECEMBER 2023, TURIN, ITALY

*Information Note*



International  
Labour  
Organization



International Training Centre

## OVERVIEW

The 2023 Rural Development Academy takes place at a time of momentous change for rural economies worldwide. The global context dominated by the impact of multiple and interlinked crises has laid bare prevailing decent work deficits, with many rural workers living in poverty and working informally. This current context has once again showed the need to build resilience in rural populations and strengthen policies that can boost rural income and create decent jobs for women and men.

Rural communities find themselves at a crossroads of different development pathways. The agricultural sector needs to feed a growing population but it also has to become regenerative and climate-smart. Agri-food value chains need to become inclusive of rural workers and smallholder farmers but also have to meet environmental standards. Rural development pathways need to be rooted in social justice, responsive to the aspirations of young women and men and innovative in design.

Transforming, connecting and diversifying rural areas requires investments in people, technology and infrastructure. It requires decisive policy-making that takes into account social, economic and environmental aspects. The 2023 Rural Development Academy discusses different rural development pathways, proposes solutions for inclusive rural livelihoods and engages its participants in the design of strategies to broaden and expand decent rural employment opportunities.

## OBJECTIVES

The Rural Development Academy will present and discuss the latest thinking on social justice and decent work in the rural economy. It will allow participants to critically analyse policies, strategies and tools that can promote resilient livelihoods, secure decent income and wages, enhance productivity and develop the capacities of rural communities to tailor their own transformational pathways.

Participants in the Academy will increase their understanding of the ILO's rights-based approach to rural development and will internalize the power of social dialogue as a driver and governance instrument for sustainable rural development. They will familiarize themselves with the principles of a just transition towards environmentally sustainable rural economies and equip themselves to apply them in their own contexts.

The Academy will allow rural development policy makers and practitioners to gain knowledge and share views about policies and strategies to enhance skills, support sustainable enterprise development and promote rights at work for rural workers and producers. The curriculum will take into account challenges such as persisting youth unemployment and the impact of climate change on rural livelihoods, but also the opportunities deriving from innovation, technology and economic diversification, including rural tourism. Gender equality and leave-no-one-behind principles will be mainstreamed across all sessions.

The Academy will be an occasion to learn and to share experiences through highly interactive sessions that will benefit from the expertise and viewpoints of participants from different contexts and continents. Participants will be encouraged to share their expertise throughout the different sessions as well as in the dedicated Knowledge Fair and South South Working Groups.

## TARGET GROUP

The 2023 Rural Development Academy targets:

- ILO's tripartite constituents;
- Policy makers involved in rural development;
- Practitioners from development partner agencies and international organizations;
- Social innovators and entrepreneurs;
- Members from academia and civil society organizations.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The Academy will consist of two interconnected phases. The programme will start with a two-week on-line phase, followed by a one-week face-to-face programme at the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, Italy. In order to receive the Academy certification, the participants need to complete both phases of the programme.

### **On-line phase: 13-24 November 2023**

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During the two weeks on-line phase of the Academy, participants will participate in:

- Self-guided learning modules on essential aspects of decent work in the rural economy
- Webinars with renowned experts bringing the latest knowledge on key rural development topics

The time investment for participants in the on-line phase is estimated at 12 learning hours over the course of two weeks.

### **Face to face in Turin: 4-8 December 2023**

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During the five days face-to-face phase of the Academy in Turin, participants will participate in:

- Master Classes on key topics at the heart of the ILO Decent Work Agenda
- Elective session that allow smaller groups of participants to actively engage in topics of their interest

The time investment for participants in the face-to-face phase is estimated at 30 learning hours.

The programme will also feature:

### STUDY VISITS

On Tuesday 5 December, the participants will select one of the three study visits that will be organized in and around Turin. Tentative themes of study visits include rural cooperatives, green business, short rural value chains and rural tourism, amongst others.

### SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION WORKING GROUPS

On Friday 8 December in the morning, participants are invited to participate in South-South Working Groups on topics of interest.

### KNOWLEDGE FAIR

On Friday 8 December in the afternoon, a knowledge fair will allow participants to exhibit and learn about new and innovative tools, knowledge products and approaches to promote decent work in the rural economy. The fair will be free-flowing, open, and flexible in format to encourage informal exchanges amongst participants.

## LANGUAGE

The Academy will be offered in English, French and Spanish. Plenary sessions will be supported by simultaneous translation in three languages, while elective courses will be offered in two languages, ensuring different options for all three language groups.

## SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Academy will benefit from a South-South Cooperation learning and networking approach, offering an opportunity for mutual learning between countries particularly with a view to formulate high level strategic initiatives and development policies that integrate the promotion of decent work in the rural economy.

## PRICE

The cost of participation in the Rural Development Academy is:

Tuition fees: €1,750

Subsistence in Turin: €635

Total €2,385

## REGISTRATION

Applicants are invited to fill in the online application form by **4 October 2023**:

<https://oar2.itcilo.org/SHF/A9716218/en>

## MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Ms. Cristiana Actis at: [c.actis@itcilo.org](mailto:c.actis@itcilo.org)

## WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

## INFO

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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**COURSE CODE: A9716218**