



ONLINE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

# 2025 RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

A JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS  
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE RURAL ECONOMIES FOR ALL

15 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2025

 3 WEEKS

*Information Note*



International  
Labour  
Organization



International Training Centre

## OVERVIEW

The 2025 Rural Development Academy comes at a crucial time as rural economies worldwide strive to create opportunities for decent work and promote social inclusion in an era of environmental change. Rural areas increasingly face challenges like climate impacts, biodiversity loss and shifting agricultural demands. This Academy will provide a platform to explore how a just transition can foster inclusive and resilient rural economies. A just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all must be rooted in social justice and responsive to intergenerational needs, including the aspirations of young women and men in rural areas, leaving no one behind.

Climate change has far-reaching impacts on the world of work in rural areas. Sectors such as agriculture, forestry or tourism are both major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. At the same time, rural areas hold significant potential for creating green jobs and promoting sustainable diversification of rural livelihoods, playing a crucial role for food security and poverty eradication. However, this potential will only be realized if the prevailing decent work deficits are addressed, including working poverty, informality, lack of social protection and exposure to significant occupational safety hazards and risks.

A just transition towards environmentally sustainable rural areas requires investments in policies that promote low-carbon and circular economy practices, cleaner technologies and resource efficiency and opportunities for decent work. A just transition needs to be well managed and contribute to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and the eradication of poverty.

Participants in the Rural Development Academy will explore strategies that advance decent work and just transition in the rural economy, emphasizing rights, sustainable livelihoods, occupational safety and health, gender equality, and more. The Academy favours an integrated approach, in which employment policies, social protection frameworks and environmentally responsible practices support a balanced and equitable development model based on social dialogue. It aims to ensure that rural communities are empowered in the shift towards greener, more digitalized and more sustainable and inclusive economies.

## OBJECTIVES

The 2025 Rural Development Academy will:

- examine the principles of a just transition, exploring how rural development can align with environmental sustainability while promoting decent work and social inclusion;
- equip participants with knowledge on policies and tools to promote decent work in the rural economy;
- foster skills to design, implement and adapt strategies in key rural economic sectors, taking into account the needs of diverse rural contexts;
- share policies and strategies to create decent work opportunities in rural areas by fostering the potential of the green and blue economy;

- facilitate an exchange of best practices, with a focus on social dialogue and stakeholder engagement, to ensure that rural enterprises, workers and communities are active participants in shaping their sustainable future;
- allow for participants to share expertise through highly interactive sessions, engage in problem-solving and co-create solutions to achieve environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive rural development.

## TARGET GROUP

The 2025 Rural Development Academy targets:

- the ILO's tripartite constituents;
- policymakers involved in rural development;
- practitioners from development partner agencies and international organizations;
- social innovators and entrepreneurs; and
- academia and members of civil society organizations.

## STRUCTURE

The Academy will consist of three weeks of holistic and multidisciplinary online learning sessions. To receive the Rural Development Academy certification, participants need to complete the mandatory learning activities as detailed in the Academy's agenda and on the online learning environment on the ITCILO's eCampus.

## A SNEAK PEEK TO OUR 2025 ACADEMY

During the three weeks of interactive and participatory learning, participants will receive access to:

- **Self-guided learning modules** on essential aspects of decent work in the rural economy;
- **Masterclasses** with renowned experts bringing the latest knowledge on topics relevant to promoting decent work and a just transition in the rural economy;
- **Virtual coffee with experts:** will offer participants opportunities to unpack topics of joint interest through a hands-on, practice-oriented approach.
- **LAB sessions:** aimed at delving into key topics and enabling participants to design actionable solutions.

## LANGUAGES

The Academy will be offered in **English, French and Spanish**. Sessions will be supported by simultaneous translation in the three languages, ensuring different options for all three language groups.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

After successfully completing all required activities, participants obtain an official **ITCILO Certificate of Participation** in Digital Credentials Format.

The tuition fee for this course is **€1,815**

If the participation is sponsored by an institution, the application should be accompanied by a letter from the sponsoring organization.

For further information, please email [rural@itcilo.org](mailto:rural@itcilo.org).

## HOW TO APPLY?

If you wish to participate in this course, please fill in the online application form available here: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/MIF/A9718181/en>

Applications must be received no later than **8 September 2025**.

## **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**

**International Training Centre of the ILO**  
Sustainable enterprises and economies (SEE)  
Viale Maestri del Lavoro, 10  
10127 Turin – Italy

rural@itcilo.org  
www.itcilo.org

**COURSE CODE: A9718181**