ETH zürich

Master in Agricultural Sciences

Major in Agricultural Economics

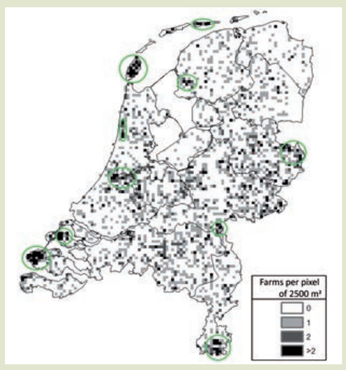
The Master's degree in Agricultural Sciences is a professional qualification and offers access to the doctorate as well as a wide range of further employment possibilities. In choosing a major, students define the focus of their personal education. Students interested in economic and political aspects choose the major Agricultural Economics. The students' educational profiles can be determined by specifically choosing a minor according to their individual interests.

We offer

The major in Agricultural Economics deals with decisions made by farmers, actors in the agri-food sector (such as up- and downstream companies), and consumers. We focus on interactions between policies and production and risk management decisions. Students learn and apply latest concepts from economics and policy evaluation. A strong focus is put on learning and applying quantitative methods including econometrics, optimization and simulation models. This knowledge is key to contribute to the development of resilient and sustainable agricultural and food systems worldwide.

Examples of recent Master's Theses

Neighbourhood Effects in Farm Diversification: A Dutch Case Study
This thesis investigated determinants of farm-diversification strategies of more than 60,000 farms in the Netherlands. A special focus was put on the spill-over of diversification across neighbouring farms and interactions between different diversification activities using a spatial econometrics approach.



Improving weather index-based drought insurance for winter wheat.
This thesis developed a new drought insurance for agriculture. It compared individually designed weather index-based insurance contracts based on four evapotranspiration-based indices for winter wheat production using farm-level data on yields, weather and phenology.

The prohibition of neonicotinoids in Switzerland – economic effects on rapeseed cultivation and a temporal-spatial approach to pest reduction.
This thesis developed a method to determind and compare the economic value of not using neonicotinoides, as well as alternative pest management approaches.

Your career

The Agricultural Sciences programme at ETH Zurich is very diverse, offering a wide variety of professional perspectives. Typical careers include:

- Researcher at universities or research institutes
- Manager in up- and downstream agricultural industry
- Employment in federal or cantonal administration
- Position in interest groups, producer organizations and local branches or NGOs'
- Employment in the agricultural insurance industry
- Lecturer at a vocational college or university of applied science

Structure of our Major Programme (120 CP)

Major Agricultural Economics (40 CP)
The major defines the specific subject and is divided into a disciplinary and methodological competence field. The specialised knowledge is summarised in the disciplinary competence field (DK) and the analytical-quantitative education and communication & presentation skills in the methodological competence field (MK).

- DK: Resource Economics and Agricultural Policy (≥ 6 CP)
- DK: Decision Making and Management (≥ 6 CP)
- DK: Development and International Policy (≥ 6 CP)
- MK: Methods in Agricultural Economics (≥ 12 CP)
- MK: Project Management and Communication (≥ 3 CP)

1st Minor (10 CP)
The minor consists of courses within or outside the selected major. The 11 minors available range from thematic foci on agricultural economics and policy, to plant, soil or animal sciences.

Electives or 2nd Minor (10 CP)
Students can chose a second minor or electives.

Internship (30 CP)
Master thesis (30 CP)

Further information:

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D USYS
Environmental Systems Science

→ www.usys.ethz.ch/en/studies/agricultural-sciences.html