The modular training MOSA includes theory-sessions and practical exercises and provides the participants with a platform for joint reflections and exchange of experiences. At least one field trip supports the participants to better link theory to practice.

During the training, participants receive all power point presentations and a MOSA Reader. A Training of Trainers (ToT) Manual is also available with different exercises, didactical remarks and video links.

At the end of the 6-day course participants will have an improved understanding of sustainable agriculture as a way to increase productivity, ensure social stability and improve economic returns without compromising the availability and quality of limited natural resources. Furthermore, participants will have an understanding of the complexity of sustainable agriculture and of the need to address its multiple dimensions.

The MOSA-training is offered in English, French and Spanish languages.

‘MOSA gave me a new perspective of evaluating the sustainability of agriculture in my country. In the past I thought about sustainability mainly from an economic point of view. Now I know that long-term economic success only comes when acting in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Therefore my ability for good decision making in terms of pest control, soil conservation and efficient water use has increased.’

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Who is addressed?

The MOSA target group are practitioners and decision-makers from public and private development organizations working in planning, implementation and/or outreach of rural development, agriculture and natural resource management.

Context

Sustainable agriculture is the key to feeding the growing world population, to provide a livelihood for rural populations and to protect and conserve natural resources at the same time. Sustainable agricultural practices are important to reverse the trend of dwindling natural resources.

MOSA has been developed on the basis of RISE, an analytical tool looking at sustainability at farm level from a holistic perspective along the three dimensions of economic, ecological and social sustainability.

What does MOSA provide?

MOSA enables trainees to take a holistic view on sustainable agriculture and its present and future challenges. The training consists of 17 modules:

- Sustainability
- Elements of Sustainable Agriculture
- Soils
- Nutrient Cycles
- Livestock
- Water and Water Use
- Climate
- Energy
- Biodiversity
- Plant Protection
- Post-harvest Losses
- Economic Viability
- Sustainable Value Chains
- Labor Conditions
- Good Quality of Life
- Measuring Sustainability on Farm Level
- Sustainable Agricultural Policies

Fig. 1 Example of a RISE-polygon that rates sustainability based on the 10 RISE themes and 50 indicators.

Fig. 2 FAO: Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems (SAFA).

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education:
www.westernsare.org/About-Us/What-is-Sustainable-Agriculture

Pillar model

Good governance

Environmental integrity
Social well-being
Economic resilience