

6 credits

50.0 h + 10.0 h

Q2

Teacher(s)	Bertin Pierre coordinator ;Biolders Charles ;Draye Xavier ;
Language :	French
Place of the course	Louvain-la-Neuve
Main themes	<p>Plant culture practices (3 credits)                      Temperate major crops. Soil evolution and crop evolution through the seasons. Agricultural works (soil management, seeding, fertilizing, weeding, crop protection, harvest). Weed identification in major crops at a young stage and specific identification keys.</p> <p>Mechanization (2 credits)                      The tractor. Soil management. Seeder. Manure spreader. Soil pulverizer. Harvest machines.</p> <p>Precision agriculture (1 credit).                      The approach of precision agriculture. Techniques (GIS, GPS, captors). Application (soil, plant pathology, water). Success and adoption requirements.</p>
Aims	<p>a. <u>Contribution of the activity with regards to the referential of learning outcomes</u>                      Control a pool of scientific knowledge in crop production (M1.1, M1.2, M2.2)                      Control a pool of knowledge in the field of bioengineering through a quantitative approach, facing a complex problem of agronomy at the scales of the plant and the field (M2.4)                      Apply a rigorous, innovative and systematic scientific approach in order to deepen a research problem in the field of crop production (M3.3, M3.4)</p> <p>b. <u>Specific formulation for this activity AA program (maximum 10)</u>                      At the end of this activity, the student will be able to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define the agricultural practices in major crops and justify them on the basis of plant physiology and ecophysiology</li> <li>- argue a crop protection method according to environmental and physiological constraints of the crop</li> <li>- criticize the adequacy of plant culture practices in the global frame of the production system</li> <li>- describe the functions and functioning of the main components of the farm tractor</li> <li>- describe the mode of action of the main working soil tools and be able to justify their choice according to the objectives</li> <li>- describe the main components and functioning of seeders, manure spreaders, soil pulverizers and harvest machines</li> <li>- document and discuss the variation sources inside a field plot</li> <li>- identify situations in which precision agriculture make sense</li> </ul> <p>-----  <i>The contribution of this Teaching Unit to the development and command of the skills and learning outcomes of the programme(s) can be accessed at the end of this sheet, in the section entitled "Programmes/courses offering this Teaching Unit".</i></p>
Evaluation methods	<p>Plant culture practices                      Oral exam with previous written preparation. Cross-sectional and synthesis in order to evaluate the sound and critical approach of agricultural practices</p> <p>Mechanization                      Oral exam with previous written preparation (3 questions)</p> <p>Precision agriculture                      Written exam</p>
Teaching methods	<p>Oral teaching, intensively illustrated with slides and schemes, visits to websites (advertising, advices), direct observation of engine parts, plant dessecting</p> <p>Field visits with specialist of agriculture services and farmers</p>
Content	<p>Plant culture practices (20h + 10h)                      Rotation. Soil preparation and seeding. Organic and mineral fertilization. Ecological requirements and culture cycles. Crop protection (weeds, pathogens, pests). Harvest. Environmental impact.                      Field visits: farms (conventional and organig farming), agriculture services, field trials</p> <p>Mechanization (20h)</p>

	<p>The tractor: benzine, diesel and 2-stroke engines (functioning and characteristics); notions of couple and power; mechanic and hydraulic transmission (clutch, gearbox, drive shaft, power take-off, differentials, wheels and tires, couple converter); hydraulic systems (pumps, engines, circuits); lifting; security, comfort and ergonomoy</p> <p>Soil preparation: objectives, types of soil preparation, mode of action of tools, operations and tools</p> <p>Seeders: principles, classical and precision seeders, mechanical and pneumatic seeders, planting machines (potato...)</p> <p>Manure spreaders</p> <p>Soil pulverizers: principles of droplets formation, types of nozzles, types of pulverizers, circulating systems, pulverizer components</p> <p>Harvesting machines: combined harvester (cereals, maize...), silage-cutter, potato and sugar beet harvesters</p> <p>Precision agriculture (10h)</p> <p>Introduction : definition and motivation</p> <p>Basic components</p> <p>Technologies : computer, geographic information system, GPS, captors and control systems</p> <p>Making the difference between «precision agriculture » and « precision of agriculture »</p> <p>Approch of precision agriculture: variability assessment (types of variability, quantifying methods and techniques, modelling), variability management (pH, main nutrient, weeds, pathogens, pests, water and culture management)</p> <p>Evaluation: economic profitability, environmental impact, technology transfer (innovation)</p>
<p>Inline resources</p>	<p>Moodle</p>
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>Ouvrage de référence :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nombreuses sources en line d'institutions de service agricole (CIPF, IRBAB, CETIOM, CADCO...</li> <li>- Destain JP et Bodson B (2013) Livre blanc. Céréales. Université de Liège</li> <li>- Lerat P (1999). Les machines agricoles. Conduite et entretien. Collection 'Agriculture d'aujourd'hui', Editions TEC&amp;DOC</li> <li>- Pierce FJ et Nowak P (1999) Aspects of Precision Agriculture. Advances in Agronomy, 67.</li> </ul> <p>Srinivasan (2006) Handbook of Precision Agriculture, Principles and Applications. Harworth Press, New York.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NRC (1997) Precision Agriculture in the 21th Century. National Academy Press, Washington</li> <li>- T. Brase (2005) Precision Agriculture. Thomson, New York.</li> <li>- Transparents des cours sur Moodle</li> </ul>
<p>Other infos</p>	<p>This course can be given in English.</p>
<p>Faculty or entity in charge</p>	<p>AGRO</p>

<b>Programmes containing this learning unit (UE)</b>				
Program title	Acronym	Credits	Prerequisite	Aims
Master [120] in Agricultural Bioengineering	BIRA2M	6		