

## **Module 2: Theoretical Foundations for Managing Relationships in Agri-Food Value Chains**

Module 2 explores key theories underpinning effective relationships within agri-food value chains. The module spans four weeks, beginning with an exploration of Transaction Cost Economics (TCE), Global Value Chain (GVC) Framework, and Actor-Network Theory (ANT). The module culminates in a comprehensive review, synthesizing insights from these theories and their contributions to managing relationships in agri-food value chains. Furthermore, students will reflect on their learning, considering how these theoretical foundations can be applied to their individual master's theses, fostering an understanding of the practical implications of these and relevant theories in the realm of agri-food value chains.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

- Review Paper (50%)
- Essay (25%)
- Participation (10%)
- Presentation (15%)

**Review Paper:** This is a comprehensive assessment task for students exploring pertinent theories. It involves conducting detailed reviews of each theory, synthesizing key concepts, conducting a comparative analysis of their contributions, and exploring practical applications in managing relationships in agri-food value chains. This activity allows students to explore theories that may find application in their master's thesis, with a minimum requirement of 2000 words (excluding references and any appendices) to ensure a thorough and insightful exploration. Students are required to provide proper citations and references using APA guidelines.

**Essay:** This essay (600 -1000 words long) serves as the self-reflection component, tasking students to contemplate their learning journey, insights gained, and the practical implications of the studied theories. It also requires them to articulate how they will integrate the assigned theories or other relevant ones into the context of potential applications within the framework of their master's thesis. This process ensures a comprehensive and practical understanding of the studied theories and provides a platform for students to demonstrate their ability to apply theoretical knowledge in their research work.

**Participation:** This component requires graduate students to attend the 2-hour, in-person classes scheduled every Friday from 2 to 4 pm for four weeks, starting on February 16 and ending on March 08. Attendance is mandatory to enable graduate students to contribute thoughtfully and actively participate in collaborative discussions.

**Presentation:** Students will be required to do one individual oral presentation based on the Review Paper. The assessment will consider the clarity, structure, and effectiveness of the presentation, as well as the ability to communicate key insights to the audience.

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**Dates module will be offered:** The module will be offered during the Winter session, from February 16 to March 08 on a weekly basis every Friday from 2 to 4 pm (Room: Agr. COX 358 ).