8 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Background

1. **Objective:** The objective of the Global Land Initiative is to prevent, halt and reverse land degradation with an ambition to reduce degraded land by 50 percent by 2040.
2. **When was it launched?** The Initiative was launched in November 2020, during the G20 Saudi Presidency, at the Riyadh Heads of State Summit, the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats was launched.

Course-related

1. **What is the course about?**

   In the global needs assessment undertaken by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, a critical gap was identified in transdisciplinary courses for agricultural universities, hindering innovation and sustainable business models to contribute to land restoration. Our course aims to fill this gap by providing students with the knowledge and skills to transform agricultural practices from sources of land degradation to contributors to land restoration. This prepares them to participate in the emerging land restoration economy and become future ecopreneurs, extension agents and other agents of change!

2. **How can we access the course materials?**

   The course materials were developed for professors, lectures and instructors at higher level education institutions or training institutions teaching agriculture or related topics. If you meet this requirement, follow the link: **"Receive course materials"**. Read and agree to our Terms and Conditions. We will vet your application and will send you a link for downloading materials within 7 to 10 business days.

3. **What is new about this course?**

   ● Modular - the course is organized in 5 modules (and 48 sub-modules, or units) which can be taught individually or as a package, together with a didactic note encouraging interactive teaching methods.
   ● The course has been drafted by a group of academics with a broad geographic representation and a track record of cutting edge research and education related to sustainable agriculture, sustainable land management, innovation, and teaching methods. Therefore, the diverse perspectives, experiences, and insights can enrich course content, offering students a broader understanding of global challenges and solutions.
   ● Transdisciplinary - the course covers a variety of topics - sustainable agriculture, sustainable land management, eco-entrepreneurship, and innovation - that not every agriculture professor/lecturer/instructor will be comfortable teaching alone. Therefore, we encourage collaboration between departments or institutions. Such exchanges are well-known catalysts for fostering innovation and creative teaching experiences.The course aims to cultivate experts, supervisors, and/or technicians to execute land restoration initiatives, addressing the current scarcity of such skilled individuals.
   ● The duration of the lectures can be tailored to suit various university schedules.

4. **What is included in the course materials?**

   Five modules that will include PowerPoint Presentations (PPTs) with suggested additional readings and student exercises. Additionally, case study PPTs and case study videos will also be provided.

   The course five modules cover:
   1. **Land, landscapes and society**
      Introduces the core concepts of land restoration, looking into landscapes, good practices, trends in land degradation and historical perspectives;
   2. **Agricultural approaches to Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for land restoration**
      Explains the role of SLM in sustainable agriculture, introduces innovative sustainable agriculture solutions, and how these contribute to land restoration;
   3. **Tools and technologies for land restoration assessment and monitoring**
      Describes the various tools and technologies for SLM and land restoration by applying data analysis to specific cases;
   4. **Decision making tools and enabling factors for land restoration**

Articulates economic and social rationales for land restoration and applies tools, such as social cost-benefit analyses for decision-making to enable land restoration;

5. **Catalysts for innovation and start-ups**
Reflects on SLM for land restoration as an agricultural innovation and co-designs inclusive and scalable innovations for agriculture and land restoration.

5. **What is meant by a modular course?**

This allows you to integrate the entire course or select modules, or even just a few slides, into your existing courses.

How can I learn about this topic if I am not enrolled at a University or training institution? The good news is that we are also working on a Massive Open Online Course! Sign up for our newsletter and social media for more information on this (https://g20land.org/).

6. **I am a University student but my University does not offer this course. What can I do?**

Inform your professor about our course! In the meantime, we are also working on a Massive Open Online Course! Sign up for our newsletter and social media for more information on this (https://g20land.org/).

7. **How many credits is the course?**

The course is estimated at 48 contact hours, corresponding to 3 European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). However you are free to expand or reduce the course to meet your University's requirements.

8. **Is this a bachelor's or master's course?**

It is an upper-level bachelor's or master's course for any University worldwide. However the materials could also be used for advanced learning with PhD students. It can also be adapted for training institutions, teaching professionals.