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Did you know that cities take up less than 3% of the earth's surface, but more than 50% of the world's population lives there? And cities produce more than 70% of global emissions? Large cities and their backgrounds (collectively called metropolitan regions) make a significant contribution to global urbanisation and sustainability challenges, but they are also key to addressing the same challenges. If you are interested in the challenges of the metropolitan regions of the 21st century, please take the necessary measures to address the challenges of the 21st century. There are no easy solutions to these big challenges! Rather, the challenges facing cities today require a holistic, systemic and transdisciplinary approach that covers various areas of expertise and discipline, such as urban planning, urban design, urban engineering, system analysis, policy making, social sciences and entrepreneurship. This MOOC is about this integration of different areas of knowledge within a metropolitan context. The course is set in a unique matrix format that allows you to track your line of interest along a specific metropolitan challenge or specific topic. As we are all part of the challenges and solutions, we encourage you to participate actively! You will be able to explore the living conditions in your own city and compare your environment with that of a global community. You will discover possible solutions for the challenges of your city and what is needed to implement these solutions. Your participation will also contribute to wider research into metropolitan regions as complex systems. We invite you to take the first steps towards understanding the principles that will be necessary to transform metropolitan regions into just, prosperous and sustainable cities for life! This course is part of the Amsterdam Institute's educational programme for advanced metropolitan solutions and is developed by Wageningen UR and TU Delft, two of the founding universities of the AMS Institute. The definition of sustainable agriculture is hard to pin down. It is both a philosophy and a set of specific agricultural practices. Although practiced by conscientious and prosperous farmers from day one, the term sustainable agriculture did not come into widespread use until the 1980s. The 1990 Farm Bill, Congress has proposed the definition of sustainable agriculture as an integrated system of plant and animal practices that work to the following overarching goals: To satisfy human food and clothing (cotton, wool, leather) needsEnhance environmental quality and natural resourcesUse non-unmovable resources more efficientlyUse better use of on-farm resourcesInest natural and biological pest control and diseasesEnhance economic viability of agricultureInvent the quality of life of farmers and as a whole [source: Gold] If there is a single overarching goal in sustainable agriculture, it is to work with natural processes and not against them [source: McRae]. Let us look at soil fertility as an example: In nature, the soil is fed by the slow decomposition of organic matter in the form of dead plants, dead animals and animal faeces. Natural soils are also home to a wide diversity of plant life, which has developed natural resistance to common diseases and pests. Naturally fertile soil is also rich in beneficial insects and microbial life, which repels pests and cyclic nutrients back into the ground. Sustainable agriculture does not ask farmers to let their fields run wild, but simply to learn from nature's bag of tricks. For example, farmers can increase the organic content of their soils - improving soil structure and water retention capacity - ploughing in compost every autumn. In a diverse and well-planned farm, own cows and farm horses can provide enough manure for composting. Farmers can also mimic nature by planting disease-resistant crop varieties and using companion plants to attract beneficial insects that ward off invasive pests. It is this objective that, following the natural processes sparked by the organic farming movement, is a subset of sustainable agriculture. In organic farming, no chemical fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides are applied to the soil or crops and animals are kept in a more natural environment, often grazed freely on their natural diet, and are not restricted to pens and fattened with maize. Some farmers and food producers believe that the definition of sustainable agriculture should go even further. For them, the goal is not only to minimize environmental degradation, but to improve the soil and health of the wider ecosystem [source: Gerber]. On the next page, we will outline some of the main components of sustainable agriculture and what sets them apart from conventional or industrial agriculture. By October 9, 2017 Order Reprint Print Article Recently, we had the privilege of attending the 2017 United Nations Private Sector Forum and CEO Roundtable, organized around the topic Funding the Program 2030: Unlocking Prosperity. It has been eye-opening to hear examples of how business leaders use private capital, innovation and expertise to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - and share our own thoughts about what the investment community can do. ... Recently, we have had the honour of attending the United Nations Private Sector Forum and the Director-General's RoundTable, organised on Funding the 2030 Agenda: Unlocking Prosperity. An error has occurred, please try again later. Thank you This article was posted on Sustainable Development's most important global of our time. In 2015, 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. These interlinked objectives aim to end poverty and promote economic prosperity, ensure social equality and protect the environment. Above all, the 2030 agenda commits to leaving no one behind. How do we know if we are on track to achieve the SDGs? Which objectives should different countries prioritise? And what kind of data do we need to ensure that everyone is counted? The Sustainable Development Report, launched in 2015 by the Sustainable Development Solutions Networks (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung, is the first global study to assess where the world stands in terms of achieving sustainable development. The report contains an index of the SDGs and whiteboards that use a combination of official and anecdotal data and indicators to understand each country's progress in the area of the 17 SDGs. In this short course, you will hear from some experts responsible for producing a report on sustainable development on the value of measuring progress on the SDGs and how an instrument such as the SDGs Index and the Whiteboard helps policy-makers and other stakeholders make important decisions on their development priorities. Explore the different types of data that can be used to measure progress in development, and learn the technical steps needed to create an index for the SDGs. Finally, explore regional and city-level indices and discuss new approaches to metering and data decision-making. Understand the value of measuring progress in target SDG kits. Use the SDG index and dashboards as a tool to understand the progress of the SDG kit in your country, region, or city. Distinguish between data sources and select the most appropriate source for different types of data. Identify the steps required to create an SDG index. Module 1: Introduction to SDG Measurement Module 2: Index Creation, Part I: Methodology and Data Module 3: Index Creation, Part II: Technical Training Module 4: Regional and Urban Indices Module 5: Conclusions and Goals AheadReceive Instructor-Signed Certificate with Institution Logo to Verify Your Success and Increase Job ProspectsAda certificate to your Resume or Resume, or post directly to LinkedInGive to get additional motivation to complete the EdX course The non-profit, relies on certified certificates to help fund free education for everyone around the world The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, will determine the course of the Global Social, Environmental and Economic Agenda by 2030. Information on the various Sustainable Development Goals is available in abundant way, but comprehensive framework that brings them all together coherently. This course provides a general and accessible academic introduction to the SDGs in all its aspects. Very very a team of experts will offer their perspective on the complexities of the matter, while practitioners in the field of the SDGs are closely involved in the discussion. Understand the emergence and development of the SDGs Understand how the various SDGs are interlinked Understand the structure of the SDGs in the context of the United Nations Get an understanding of how the SDGs are related to addressing global challenges such as inequality, climate change, poverty, unsustainable consumption and production, and peace and security Get scientifically informed and evidence-based information on the background and reality of each SDGs Understand the complexity of the 169 individual SDGs, which are part of the 17 SDGs Think about the challenges facing the SDGs Recognise the interdependence between the social, environmental and economic objectives of the SDGs To gain an understanding of the institutional infrastructure that is focused on the implementation of the SDGs Understand how the SDGs are implemented Learn from experts what are the difficulties in achieving the SDGs module 1 : Origin, development and idea of the SDGs History and origin of the SDGs. What are the Sustainable Development Goals? What are their objectives, methodology and perspectives? How do they relate to the Millennium Development Goals? Module 2: Sustainable Development Goals and Society: Ensuring resilience and basic needs in society In-depth discussion and analysis of objectives related to poverty, hunger, health and education Module 3: Sustainable Development Goals and society: Strengthening sustainability institutions In-depth discussion and analysis of gender equality, affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities & communities and peace, justice and strong institutions Module 4: Sustainable Development Goals and economy : Shaping a sustainable economy In-depth discussion and analysis of work-related objectives & economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, inequalities, responsible production & consumption Module 5: Sustainable development and biosphere objectives: Development within planetary boundaries In-depth discussion and analysis of objectives relating to clean water, climate, underwater life and life on land Module 6 : Implementation of the SDGs: Implementation through global partnerships In-depth discussion and analysis of the SDGs 17, which aims to implement the SDGs through partnerships, finance, technology and cohesion development between LeuvenAndré DecosterFull policy professor at the Faculty and EconomicsHilde HeynenFull Professor at the Faculty of Engineering ScienceBart KerremansFull Professor at the Faculty of Social SciencesReceive instructor-signed certificate with the institution logo to verify your success and increase your job prospectsAddat certificate to your RESUME or resume, or post directly to LinkedInGive get additional motivation to complete the CourseEdX A A relies on certified certificates to help fund free education for everyone around the world What I liked most of all was that both the emergence of the SDGs and each goal were critically reflected. I particularly liked the offer of supporting opinions, which clarified practical issues. - previous student I liked interactive material. Breaking it up with videos and pinky exercises was a really excellent and great way to think critically about goals without spending too much time and effort on each task (manageable for us with busy programs). Content addressed as criticism, trade-offs, and synergies, making a very realistic view of the SDGs and inspiring us to think about how we can reform, adapt and continue to progress. - The previous student course is very well-designed in terms of content and how lecturers analyze each goal and give examples. - Previous student this MOOC has given me encouragement to take more EdX courses! - previous student student