The Politics of Food Systems Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Environmental Management and Conservation	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The global food system is a complex web of interconnected political, economic, and social forces that shape how food is produced, distributed, and consumed. This training course delves into the critical and often hidden power dynamics that influence food policy, market structures, and public health outcomes. From local food movements to international trade agreements, participants will gain a deep understanding of the political landscape of food. We will explore how food has become a central arena for debates on social justice, environmental sustainability, and economic development, equipping participants with the knowledge and tools to navigate these critical issues and advocate for more equitable and resilient food systems.

The Politics of Food Systems Training Course is designed for professionals and advocates who seek to move beyond a technical understanding of agriculture and nutrition to a strategic, systems-level perspective. Through a blend of theoretical frameworks and real-world case studies, we will analyze the roles of key stakeholders from multinational corporations to grassroots organizations and government bodies. Participants will learn to identify and address bottlenecks, power asymmetries, and political barriers that hinder progress toward sustainable and healthy food for all. The training will empower you to become a change agent, capable of influencing policy, building effective coalitions, and designing interventions that create lasting, positive change in our food systems.

Programme Curriculum

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5 days

Course Objectives

1. Analyze the political economy of food systems to understand global and local power dynamics.
2. Evaluate the impact of international trade agreements on food security and sovereignty.
3. Critically assess the role of agribusiness and corporate power in shaping food policy.
4. Examine the intersection of climate change, food production, and geopolitical stability.
5. Understand the politics of food aid and humanitarianism in conflict and disaster zones.
6. Formulate effective advocacy strategies for food justice and equitable access.
7. Explore the principles of food sovereignty and agroecology as alternatives to the industrial food model.
8. Identify and map key stakeholders and their influence in food governance.
9. Develop skills in policy analysis and evidence-based policy making for food system transformation.
10. Analyze the historical context of food regimes and their evolution.
11. Assess the political dimensions of food and nutrition security and the triple burden of malnutrition.
12. Navigate the complexities of urban food policy and grassroots movements.
13. Design conflict-sensitive food system interventions and "do-no-harm" approaches.

Organizational Benefits

- Staff will gain a deeper understanding of political landscapes, leading to more contextually appropriate and sustainable program design.
- The organization will be better equipped to engage in policy dialogues, build coalitions, and advocate for evidence-based solutions.
- A stronger grasp of geopolitical and social dynamics allows for the identification and mitigation of political barriers and risks in program implementation.
- Offering advanced training on critical, trending topics like geopolitics and food security attracts and retains high-caliber professionals.
- Participants will learn to design interventions that address root causes rather than just symptoms, leading to better outcomes and a stronger reputation.

- The training fosters an interdisciplinary approach, promoting more effective collaboration with diverse stakeholders across sectors.

Target Audience

1. Policy Makers and Government Officials in agriculture, health, and development.
2. NGO and Non-Profit Leaders and staff working on food security, nutrition, and environmental issues.
3. Development and Humanitarian Aid Professionals
4. Community Organizers and Grassroots Activists.
5. Agricultural Professionals and Farmers
6. Academics and Researchers studies.
7. Private Sector Professionals.
8. Journalists and Communicators.

Course Outline

Module 1: The Foundations of Food Politics

- Defining the food system: from farm to fork and beyond.
- Power and governance in food systems: understanding actors and institutions.
- The evolution of food regimes: from colonial trade to modern globalized markets.
- Case Study: The politics of commodity crops (e.g., sugar, corn) and their impact on global trade and public health.
- Case Study: The history of the Green Revolution and its political and social consequences in Asia.

Module 2: Food Security, Sovereignty, and Justice

- Contrasting frameworks: food security vs. food sovereignty.
- The human right to food and its legal and ethical implications.
- Analyzing food justice and the political roots of food deserts and inequities.
- Case Study: The rise of food sovereignty movements in Latin America (e.g., La V?¡a Campesina).
- Case Study: The Flint water crisis and its intersection with food access and systemic racism in the U.S.

Module 3: Global Governance and Geopolitics of Food

- The role of international institutions: WTO, FAO, and the World Bank.
- Geopolitical conflicts and the weaponization of food and humanitarian aid.
- Examining agricultural subsidies and their impact on global markets and smallholder farmers.
- Case Study: The political economy of the 2008 global food crisis and its lasting effects.
- Case Study: The use of food blockades and aid restrictions in contemporary conflicts

Module 4: Agribusiness, Corporate Power, and Lobbying

- Analyzing the structure of the global agri-food industry and market concentration.
- The influence of corporate lobbying on national and international food policy.
- Debating the politics of biotechnology, GMOs, and seed patents.
- Case Study: The political power of a major seed company and its influence on agricultural regulations.
- Case Study: The lobbying efforts of the beverage industry to oppose "sugar taxes" and public health measures.

Module 5: Climate Change, Agroecology, and Environmental Politics

- The political dimensions of climate change adaptation in agriculture.
- Exploring agroecology as a political and social movement.
- Debates over carbon credits and the commodification of nature in food systems.
- Case Study: The political challenges of implementing agroecological farming policies in Brazil or India.
- Case Study: How climate change and land grabs have fueled food insecurity in the Sahel region.

Module 6: Public Policy and Advocacy in Food Systems

- Fundamentals of policy analysis for food and agriculture.
- The politics of public health interventions and dietary guidelines.
- Developing effective advocacy strategies and coalition-building.
- Case Study: The political battle to pass and implement a national food strategy or farm bill.
- Case Study: How consumer activism and public campaigns led to labeling requirements for GMOs or changes in food safety regulations.

Module 7: Urban Food Politics and Local Food Movements

- The politics of urban food planning and community-based food initiatives.
- Understanding food deserts, food apartheid, and systemic inequities.
- The role of urban agriculture, farmers' markets, and food hubs in political change.
- Case Study: How a local food policy council in a major city successfully lobbied for urban agriculture zoning reform.
- Case Study: The political dynamics of community-supported agriculture (CSA) models and their challenge to conventional supply chains.

Module 8: The Future of Food Systems and Transformation

- Analyzing emerging trends: new technologies, alternative proteins, and data governance.
- Exploring the role of gender, race, and class in food systems transformation.
- A "do-no-harm" framework for designing ethical and conflict-sensitive interventions.
- Case Study: The political challenges and opportunities of a country transitioning toward a more sustainable and equitable food system (e.g., Rwanda or Vietnam).
- Case Study: Examining the political and ethical debates surrounding new food technologies and their potential to address global hunger.

Training Methodology

Our training methodology is designed for maximum engagement and practical application. We employ a blended approach that includes:

- Interactive Lectures and Expert Presentations.
- Case Study Analysis
- Role-Playing and Simulations.
- Guest Speakers.
- Policy Brief Development
- Group Discussions and Debates

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

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