



Introduction to Vegetable Crops

A broad introduction to vegetable crop science and practice. Students are provided with the theoretical knowledge and essential hands-on experience, so that they can be fully qualified for technical and scientific support, and management of commercial vegetable production enterprises. Topics include the historical development of vegetable production systems and technologies, economic importance, and vegetable nutritional value. Also, all vegetable species and commercial variety classification and features, vegetable gardens forms, planting methods, physiological growth and development, plant propagation, basic soil and nutrition management, irrigation, weed, insect and disease management, cover cropping, intercropping and crop rotation. Organic and conventional practices are analyzed and compared, with focus on sustainability, food safety and mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The course also provides laboratory training and hands-on experience in growing a multitude of vegetables in greenhouses or open fields. They conduct field and laboratory experiments and operate high tech laboratory equipment for plant feature measurements and tissue analysis. An all-day visit to a vegetable production enterprise in our region completes the course.