

2025 Sharing Information on Progress **(SIP) Report**

Swedish University of Agricultural
Sciences

September 2025

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About the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME)

The Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) is a United Nations-supported initiative founded in 2007 that aims to raise the profile of sustainability in their classrooms through Seven Principles focused on serving society and safeguarding our planet.

PRME engages business and management schools to ensure they provide future leaders with the skills needed to balance economic and sustainability goals, while drawing attention to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aligning academic institutions with the work of the UN Global Compact. Driven by its mission to transform management education, PRME equips today's business students with the understanding and ability to deliver change tomorrow. As a voluntary initiative with over 800 signatories worldwide, PRME has become the largest organized relationship between the United Nations and management-related higher education institutions.



“*The PRME initiative was launched to nurture responsible leaders of the future. Never has this task been more important. Bold leadership and innovative thinking are needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*

Antonio Guterres

Secretary-General (2017 - Present)

United Nations

”

Principles of PRME



Purpose

We advance responsible management education to foster inclusive prosperity in a world of thriving ecosystems.



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.



Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted a plan for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of Agenda 2030 are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets that address the most important economic, social, environmental and governance challenges of our time. The SDGs clearly define the world we want – applying to all nations and leaving no one behind. Successful implementation of the SDGs will require all players to champion this agenda; the role of higher education is critical to this.





Getting Started

This section provides foundational information about Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, including key details and basic institutional data.

Mission

SLU conducts education, research and environmental monitoring and assessment in collaboration with society at large. Through our focus on the interaction between humans, animals and ecosystems and the responsible use of natural resources, we contribute to sustainable societal development and good living conditions on our planet.

Vision

SLU plays a key role in development for sustainable life, based on science and education.

Strategy

SLU's Strategy 2021 - 2025

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Strategy Alignment

SLU strategy alignment

SLU's strategic emphasis on sustainability is reflected in its support for circular bioeconomy, equitable land use, and resilient food systems. While the majority of education is rooted in natural science, social science education forms a significant part of our strategy to contribute to sustainable development. The Department of Economics plays a central role in SLUs strategy by researching economic incentives, governance structures, behavioral responses, and transformative change processes that shape sustainable outcomes. This aligns with the common good by promoting evidence-based solutions that benefit society at large, including rural development and environmental stewardship.

In terms of education, SLU prioritizes high-quality, research-led teaching that equips students with analytical tools and critical thinking skills. The department fosters a learning environment that encourages collaboration, innovation, and ethical reflection—preparing graduates to lead in academia, policy, and industry. Thus, through its strategic alignment, The Department of Economics advances a holistic vision of sustainability, grounded in rigorous inquiry and a commitment to societal well-being.

Graduates & Enrollment

2024 Statistics	Number
Graduates	65
Faculty & Staff at the University	3261
Student Enrollment at the University	4400

Degrees Offered

Bachelor Programs

 Bachelor of Science (B.Sc. or B.S.)

Masters Programs

 Master of Science (M.Sc. or M.S.)

Doctoral Programs

 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)



Values

We place organizational responsibility and accountability to society and the planet at the core of what we do.

Who Champions Responsible Management Education at Our Institution

- ❖ Individual leader
- ❖ Disciplinary efforts within business school
- ❖ Interdisciplinary efforts across business school



Teach

We transform our learning environments by integrating responsible management concepts and practices into our curriculum and pedagogy.



Courses that support RME

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences reports 11 courses in 2024 that support responsible management education and sustainable development goals.

Leadership and Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development

| FÖ0496

The purpose of the course is to provide in-depth knowledge in organizational theory through a focus on entrepreneurship and leadership. The course provides theoretical and practical understanding of leadership and entrepreneurship at individual, group and organizational level, as well as how leadership and entrepreneurship play a role in the development of a more sustainable society. The student will develop in-depth knowledge of concepts, theories and models that are used to describe and discuss how and why leadership and entrepreneurship influence and are influenced by sustainable development. The course will also deepen generic skills, including critical thinking, discussion, oral as well as written presentation and the ability to work together in a group.

After completing the course, the student should be able to: - apply organizational theories to analyse leadership, entrepreneurship and sustainability in small, medium-sized and/or large organisations - analyse and critically discuss connections between entrepreneurship and leadership at individual, group and organizational level - analyse and critically discuss the role of entrepreneurship and leadership in the development of a more sustainable society present academic work, both written and oral - discuss academic literature in speech and writing.



Agricultural Cooperatives

| FÖ0442

This course is aimed at those of you who want to learn more about agricultural cooperatives, their characteristics, role and aim. The theoretical basis of the course is based on academic journal articles, study visits, guest lectures and a possibility for students to focus on a topic of individual interest in a course-PM. Agricultural cooperatives are a widespread phenomenon throughout the world. One key goal of the course is to explain and exemplify the cooperative organization and its role in agricultural markets. Of great importance is how these organizations are governed and challenges that are facing them. Also, comparisons are made, between agricultural cooperatives from different parts of the world, aiming at students getting an understanding of the role and farmer-benefits of cooperatives. You will read several recent journal articles focusing agricultural cooperatives worldwide, and also be introduced to theories that can be used to analyze agricultural cooperatives. In

addition, study visits and guest lectures will increase your understanding of these organizations. Also, a course-essay is an important part of the course, giving a possibility for students to 'dig deeper into' a topic related to agricultural cooperatives.

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to: - Have the theoretical background and skills to account for the reasons to form agricultural cooperatives. - Have the theoretical background and skills to account for the main characteristics of agricultural cooperatives, including the governance systems. - Have the theoretical background and skills to account for problems that may arise when running an agricultural cooperative. - Problematicize the differences between agricultural cooperatives and other types of organizations and firms, based on theories treated in the course.



Corporate Finance

| FÖ0509

The course covers investment theory, continuous as well as discrete measures for evaluating investment under certainty, as well as under uncertainty over future conditions. Additional topics include portfolio theory and applications of portfolio management, as well as risk and risk management.

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to: - account for the investment process and the economic objectives of the firm in the context of capital markets, - analyse investment related cash flows considering the effects of taxes, inflation and uncertainty, - analyse the determinants of optimal lifetime and replacement of real assets, - account for uncertainty and risk in the analysis of investment decisions, - analyse an investment decision from a portfolio perspective, - analyse investments using real option theory in the investment decision-making process.



Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

| NA0167

This course starts by giving a theoretical description of the relation between economic growth, natural resources and the environment. At the centre is the rate of technical progress, which is emphasised by new growth theories. This framework is then used to enhance the understanding of empirical observations. Special attention is given to the types of technical progress that saves natural resources and that makes production cleaner.

With successful completion of this course, students will be able to: - account for the fundamentals of economic growth, - compare and evaluate alternative theories regarding economic growth and natural resource use, - account for long-run historical trends in economic growth, pollution, and natural resource use, - analyse the interaction between growth, pollution and the natural resource base.



Environmental Policy

| NA0130

The main question addressed in this course is: how can we design policies aimed at combating environmental damages? We then consider a variety of different types of environmental problems, such as climatic changes, biodiversity losses and water and air quality degradation. The course includes analysis and comparison of different types of environmental policies – command and control, economic instruments, and voluntary agreements- under consideration of risk, uncertainty and time delays with respect to links between human activities and environmental response.

The purpose of the course is to give theoretical and empirical knowledge on design of environmental policies for sustainable development. Having completed the course, participants will: - have knowledge on efficient design of policy instruments and institutions at the local, regional and international scales and different time perspectives - be able to compare and evaluate instruments – command and control, economic, markets and voluntary - with respect to different criteria - be able to construct simple models of efficient policy design - understand the role of uncertainty and risk in nature and human behaviour for policy design - understand implications of market structure



Innovation and Sustainability

| FÖ0444

Patterns of production and consumption of goods and services face challenges in terms of degradation of natural resources, pollution and climate change. Market actors can play important roles to address such issues through innovation. This course focuses on innovation and how such processes can contribute to more sustainability in practice. The course consists of two parts. One theoretical part that focus on concepts of innovation for sustainability, which is implemented through lectures and assignments. The second part is empirical and focus on innovation for sustainability in practice, which is implemented through case studies, guest lectures and/ or study visits.

Having completed this course, students are expected to be able to: - Theorize concepts on innovation for sustainability. - Analyse and critically reflect on innovation for sustainability in practice.



Management of Biological Resources

| NA0168

What policy should we use to achieve a certain environmental quality at the lowest cost? How shall the combination of costly actions in different countries be in order to achieve an international cooperation? How much fish can be taken without running the risk of extinguishing it in the long run? What is the value of a cleaner Baltic Sea? What are the relationships between population, economic growth and environment? To what extent can the government or any other federal authority change property rights in order to improve the environmental quality? Advanced economic theory and methods are analysed and applied during the class to answer these questions.

With successful completion of this course, the student shall be able to: - account for the possibilities and limitations of a market economy when it comes to the solution of environmental problems and the management of biological resources - describe the economically optimal use of biological resources - judge the usefulness of various environmental policy instruments in different situations - use economic theory on actual resource management problems, including their temporal aspects



Natural Resource and Environmental Economics

| NA0192

The aim of the course is to provide an understanding of basic theories and methods in environmental economics and natural resource economics. Students will learn to apply these methods to qualitative and quantitative problems in simplified cases, and also be able to analyse their potential contribution to solving real-world problems such as climate change and declining biodiversity.

After completing the course, the student should be able to: - explain how markets help to achieve an efficient allocation of resources in society, and why this allocation mechanism is imperfect when there are public goods or externalities, - explain different methods for measuring the demand for public goods, and how these methods can be used to help us make decisions about environmental programs, - assess the strengths and weaknesses of different environmental policy instruments in different situations, - analyse quantitatively how alternative market-based instruments can be used to achieve - under ideal circumstances - cost-effective or socially optimal solutions, and how instruments can be adapted to deal with real-world complexity, - discuss how to take account of risk and uncertainty in environmental policy, - analyse global pollution problems and the difficulties of concluding binding and effective international agreements, - explain and apply basic results regarding management of non-renewable natural resources, including the Hotelling rule, - explain the key theoretical principles regarding optimal management of biological natural resources, - analyse the role of environmental policy in helping to achieve sustainable development.



Policy for Food System Sustainability

| NA0199

The purpose of the course is to give the students a deep understanding of how policy can be used to improve food system sustainability, with special focus on food availability, and environmental issues such as climate impact and preserved biodiversity.

After completing the course, the student should be able to: - synthesize and explain what environmental, social and economic sustainability implies within food systems - analyse social dilemmas and collective action problems to understand how the theories handle environmental degradation issues and policy solutions with applications in the food system - critically assess policies which affects food systems, such as environmental and agricultural policy, and the strengths and weaknesses of such policies, both when trade is present and when not - calculate and assess optimal emission reductions given economic possibilities and environmental restrictions - assess and evaluate consumer directed policies and interventions, with the aim of upholding nutritional intake while reducing environmental impact.



Sustainability and Financial reporting

| FÖ0497

This course consists of two segments: sustainability reporting and financial reporting. The sustainability reporting segment will be conducted first, with a focus on both the history and practical application of sustainability reporting and regulations, as well its theoretical grounding. The financial reporting segment will be conducted second, with a focus on the history and logic of accounting principles as well as the preparation and analysis of financial statements. The focus will be on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS's) that aid in valuation particular to agriculture, forestry and resources. Further emphasis will be placed on analysis of financial statements from an external investing perspective. Connections will be drawn between sustainability and financial reporting on a theoretical level.

After completing the course, the student should be able to: - Analyze sustainability reporting disclosures. - Assess the entity's stakeholder impact. - Propose solutions for practical implementation of sustainability reporting demands in management control systems. - Compare and contrast financial reporting and sustainability reporting. - Examine accounting from a broader economic and social perspective. - Conduct advanced analysis of financial statements - Illustrate the interrelatedness of accounts within financial reporting and synthesise the logics of accounting principles. - Develop critical analysis skills in applying theoretical knowledge to current issues in practice. - Compare internal reporting and external reporting needs, demonstrating the links between internal and external reporting.



Value Chains and Networks in the Bio-Economy

| FÖ0454

The course is based on a set of lectures, both from the instructor and guest lecturers, readings from international classic and recent literature, and case studies of Swedish and international agri-food value chains and networks. The course uses empirical examples from the agri-food industry and bioeconomy, in Sweden, Europe, and in developing countries. Several theoretical perspectives and analytical tools are employed: industrial economics, organization theory, transaction cost economics, agency theory, new institutional economics, social network analysis, and supply chain management.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have the ability to: - analyse governance and organization in the agri-food value chain and overall bioeconomy - analyse various organizational forms and governance structures in the agri-food value chain - apply quantitative and qualitative tools to analyse organization and governance in the value chain - map and analyse the role of the agri-food value chain and organizations in a variety of institutional environments in different countries - map and analyse networks of linkages between individuals and organizations in agri-food value chains.



Educator Recognition

At Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, we recognize educators for quality of teaching in the following ways:

- ❖ Annual teaching excellence awards
- ❖ Institutional recognition events
- ❖ Professional development opportunities
- ❖ Student-nominated teaching awards

💡 Fostering Innovation



A lot

Our institution supports innovation significantly through teaching and learning.

💡 Experiential Learning



A lot

Our institution supports experiential learning significantly through teaching and learning.

💡 Learning Mindset



To a great extent

Teaching and learning at our institution strongly promote a lifelong learning mindset.

Method of Teaching and Learning



In person

Traditional classroom-based learning with face-to-face instruction.



Research

We study people, organizations, institutions, and the state of the world to inspire responsible management and education practice.

Research vs Research for RME/Sustainable Development

74 Peer-reviewed articles were published by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences from this past calendar year.

vs

62 Peer-reviewed articles were published by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences from this past calendar year in support of RME.

Research Funding

In 2024, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences was awarded funding for research that is:



**Institution
Specific**



Local



Regional



National



International

Socializing Research

In 2024, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences contributed research findings to:

- ❖ Community organizations
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Industry and business networks
- ❖ Local media
- ❖ National media
- ❖ Public events and lectures
- ❖ Research collaborations
- ❖ Social media and digital outreach

Research Projects

In 2024, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences reported 3 research projects that implemented responsible or sustainable activities.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Rural Areas

Period Covering: August, 2024 - August, 2027

Department: Entrepreneurship

Rural development in Sweden is fuelled by a wealth of ideas. While ambition is abundant, the question remains: where and when do these efforts thrive, and where do they meet resistance? Our goal is to describe and analyse how conditions for rural entrepreneurial growth can be strengthened.

A journey through the country in 2023 showcases numerous entrepreneurial initiatives. We have selected four distinct areas as focal points: Nätadalen in Örnsköldsvik, Vildmarksriket in Dalarna, Östergarn on Gotland, and Österbybruk in Uppland. In these locations, we are setting up “workshops” to explore how individuals from diverse sectors and backgrounds perceive opportunities and challenges, organize collaboratively, and experiment with new methods to foster sustainable rural communities.

Our project integrates two key perspectives from entrepreneurship research: entrepreneurial ecosystems and the contextual turn. An ecosystem encompasses a network of interdependent actors and resources that enable entrepreneurship within a particular area. The contextual turn emphasizes the importance of understanding how various contexts—such as institutional, social, digital, economic, and spatial—shape, and are shaped by, entrepreneurial activities. By combining these perspectives, we focus on how different contexts are interconnected and influence one another within a local ecosystem.



EPIC - Economic policy instrument to reduce green house gas emmisions from the Swedish food sector

Period Covering: August, 2024 - August, 2026

Department: Economics

The main objective of this project is to analyze what policy mix could be used to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the Swedish food sector.

Such a shift includes changes in consumption towards more plant-based diets and changes in production towards reduced volumes of livestock and increased production of legume and grain for food, as well as increased production of fruit and vegetables.

Initially, we assume Swedish self-sufficiency, to assure robust results of our policy analysis. Later, we will investigate how Swedish policy implementation affects trade, land use and emissions in other regions.

In this project, which is led from the Department of Economics, quantitative and qualitative analyses on both the demand and the supply side of the food sector will be conducted. We will estimate consumer demand functions and willingness to pay for sustainable products. We will also estimate cost and production functions to assess possibilities and economic needs of Swedish producers.

Obtained results enable us to calculate the effects of economic policy, and suggest a mix of policy aimed at consumers and producers. In addition, we will investigate how a combination of policies can be implemented on the whole market simultaneously to reduce GHG emissions.

The Department of Energy and Technology contributes data on environmental impacts of different food products for the policy analysis. An online tool and database containing footprints for hundreds of food commodities and food items (<https://safad.se/>) has been developed. The tool calculates the environmental impact using eight environmental indicators (GHG emissions, nitrogen and phosphorus input, use of land, water and pesticides and the impact on biodiversity from land use) as well as indicators for animal welfare and use of antibiotics. The model accounts for import shares from different countries, food waste at different stages, and energy use in processing, packaging, and transport.



Enabling management control under farm-level carbon targets: action research and advisors' role (StyrKA)

Period Covering: May, 2023 - May, 2026

Department: Economics

Swedish farmers face increasing societal expectations to contribute to climate change mitigation and need to find economically viable ways to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

This project studies the practices of designing and using tools and practices to set targets, plan and follow up on GHG emission reduction in tandem with economic planning in Swedish dairy farms.

Through action research and mixed qualitative and quantitative methods, with farmers and advisors we plan to:

- Identify knowledge gaps and best practices on farm-level GHG emission reduction planning tools and targets
- Design targets and/or planning tools for farm-level GHG emission reduction;
- Analyse management control practices that help farmers steer towards these targets alongside economic considerations during operational and strategic decisions;

- Explore how advisory services can address potential knowledge gaps and farmers needs of tools to reach climate and economic objectives.





Partner

We engage people from business, government, civil society, and academia to advance responsible and accountable management education and practice.

Institutional Partnerships

- ❖ Local institutions and associations
- ❖ Ministries of Education, Higher Education, or similar national bodies

Student Organization Partnerships

- ❖ None



Practice

We adopt responsible and accountable management principles in our own governance and operations.

Institutional Policies and Practices

- ❖ Carbon reduction or offset commitments
- ❖ Climate action plan
- ❖ Curriculum guidelines
- ❖ Employee equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Environmental stewardship policies
- ❖ Ethical data sourcing guides
- ❖ Ethical leadership or good governance policies
- ❖ Faculty hiring, tenure, and promotion guidelines
- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions
- ❖ Local staff/student/faculty transportation
- ❖ Student equity, diversity, inclusion
- ❖ Sustainability strategy or strategic plan (school or university level)
- ❖ Travel guides
- ❖ Zero-waste guides



Share

We share our successes and failures with each other to enable our collective learning and best live our common values and purpose.



Engagement Opportunities

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences offers transparent engagement opportunities for members of our institution and community to contribute to our sustainability and responsibility efforts in the following ways:

- ❖ Annual reports
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Community events and consultation forums
- ❖ Feedback mechanisms (e.g., surveys, suggestion boxes)
- ❖ Partnerships with local organizations
- ❖ Public events and panel discussions
- ❖ Student and staff volunteer programs
- ❖ Sustainability-focused research and collaboration Opportunities

Communication Audiences

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences communicates its policies and progress on sustainable development and responsibility with:

- ❖ Alumni and donors
- ❖ Boards and advisory committees
- ❖ Business and industry partners
- ❖ Chamber of commerce and local communities
- ❖ Faculty and staff
- ❖ Government and policy makers
- ❖ Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- ❖ Research and academic networks
- ❖ Prospective and current students
- ❖ Media and public relations channels



SIGNATORY

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