

Draft)

Identified Competency Focus Areas and Selected Courses for National Exit Examination

Program: Bachelor of Arts Degree in Agribusiness and Value chain Management

Courses and Competencies Identified for Exit

By: Fuad Kemal and Deen Hailu

Haramaya University

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Addis Ababa

Ethiopia

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Agribusiness and Value Chain Management program have been established to provide a solid foundation to understand and develop systematic solutions to complex value chain management challenges in strategic planning and operational execution. The program has been developed with the objective to architect agribusiness professionals and to fulfill the demands for the local as well as global business by reorienting management education so that it keeps pace with the changing needs of the sector.

The Agribusiness and Value Chain Management courses offered in the universities provide students with broad training in business and value chain management and create knowledge and skills that form the professional base of the personnel working in agribusiness commercialization. The program is designed to equip students not only with the basic concepts, knowledge and tools in the area of management, economics, finance or accounting, and marketing but also with the aptitude to adapt them to the realities of their institutional, political and economic settings. However, the availability of well-trained graduates for the booming commercial agriculture is lagging far behind the needs of the private sector. Private sector companies have been looking for and are highly interested in employing agribusiness graduates from universities that have innovative training programmers. For instance, the tracer study done in 2019 on graduates of Haramaya University (2016-2018), indicated that about 96% of the graduates are employed with in one year of graduation.

Ministry of Education plans to offer comprehensive exit exam for under graduate programs nationally to be started in 2022/2023 AY (2015 E.C).

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1.1. Objectives of the Exit Examination

The national Agribusiness and Value chain Management exit exam shall have the following objectives.

- To produce skilled and competent manpower to national and international market
- Assessing students' educational achievement in major areas of Agribusiness and Value chain Management.

- Ensuring whether the graduation profile of Agribusiness and Value chain Management curriculum have achieved at least common standards of knowledge and practical skills.
- Facilitating the efforts of students to revise the core learning outcomes of the courses covered by the exit examination
- Ensuring all graduates from HEIs satisfy the requirements of the labor market and employability through the national wide implementation of competency-based exit exam
- Creating competitive spirit among Agribusiness and Value chain Management departments in Ethiopia with the vies to encouraging them to give due attention to the national standards

1.2. Significance of the Document

It is important to set competency areas of the subject matter (program) in order to measure the how much graduates are acquired with skills, knowledge and attitudes. The following shows us the significance or setting competencies and identifying core courses of the program;

- To set competencies that helps to assess the basic skills, knowledge and attitude of graduating students;
- To systematically identify the courses which will be included the exit exam;

2. Graduate Profile of the Program

In general, the graduate of the program is expected to analyze and interprete information on farm production methods and technologies across the value chain. In particular after successful completion of the training, the graduates are expected to gain knowledge and skills that enable them to:

- ✓ Analyze agribusiness sector investment opportunities and limitations; and evaluate investment climate for agribusiness enterprises.
- ✓ Identify and develop potential value chains for major commodities in the country
- ✓ Apply economic, political, legal, commercial and business theories and concepts in solving practical problems and for improving practices

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- ✓ Apply their knowledge to establish and effectively run their own private firms or agribusiness enterprises
- ✓ Consult and practice on the identification, appraisal and implementation of agribusiness development polices, projects and programmes
- ✓ Serve as planners in agribusiness and value chain,
- ✓ Work as agribusiness and value chain management analysts,
- ✓ Advise on economic and business matters in agribusiness and value chain arena,
- ✓ Apply socio-economic researches in dealing with practical issues and concerns,
- ✓ Work as Teacher, Market expert, Loan officer, Credit expert, and Policy idea generator

3. Competencies and Learning Outcomes

Agribusiness and Value Chain Management graduates will have the following competencies and learning outcomes to effectively execute modern business activities. The graduates are well trained with sufficient technical knowledge to recognize and identify technical bottlenecks and weaknesses in the value chain (e.g., storage requirements for perishable crops or quality management in dairy or animal sector) and the well informed workforce equipped with reliable knowledge about the economic functioning of chains (added value creation, models for collaboration within chains, commercial skills). Thus, Agribusiness and Value Chain Management graduates will be able to acquire the following **competencies**:

I. KNOWLEDGE

- ➢ Work as Teacher, Market expert, Loan officer, Credit expert, and Policy idea generator
- ➢ Work as agribusiness and value chain management analysts,
- ➢ Serve as planners in agribusiness and value chain,
- ➢ Advise on economic and business matters in agribusiness and value chain arena,
- ➢ Understand concepts of crop and livestock value chain management in identifying leverage area of technical and policy intervention
- ➢ Understand the concept of agricultural projects, their features and their role towards national development
- ➢ Analyze agribusiness sector investment opportunities and limitations; and evaluate investment climate for agribusiness enterprises.

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- Understand concepts of marketing and the role of marking in economic development

II. SKILL

- Acquire skill helps them to identify challenges and opportunities along the value chain
- Identify and develop potential value chains for major commodities in the country
- Apply economic principles and theories for optimum resource allocation and utilization,
- Measure risk and return of an agribusiness and make effective investment decision
- Apply socio-economic researches in dealing with practical issues and concerns
- Make effective financial decision using the appropriate financial tools
- Apply economic, commercial and business theories and concepts in solving practical problems and for improving practices.
- Apply their knowledge to establish and effectively run their own private firms or agribusiness enterprises

III. ATTITUDE

- Develop a desire to to establish and run their own private firms or agribusiness enterprises
- Maintain a confidence towards applying a knowledge and techniques acquire to solve problems in their field of study
- Appreciate the agribusiness profession

4. Themes and Course to be Included in the Exit Exam

Depending on the expected graduate profile five themes are selected as focus areas for the exit exam. Each themes includes several course under it. The five themes are Value chain analysis, Agribusiness management, Agribusiness marketing, Planning and Strategy Development and Research in Agribusiness and Value chain. The five themes and courses under them are summarized in table below.

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Table 1: Thames and Course to be Included in the Exit Exam

#	Themes of Courses	Courses Lists	Cr.hrs	ECTS
1.	**Value chain analysis**	Value Chain Analysis and Development	3	5
		Logistics in Value Chain	3	5
		Livestock Value Chain Management	3	5
		Crop Value Chain Management	3	5
2.	**Agribusiness management**	Introduction to Agribusiness Management	3	5
		Farm Management	3	5
		Microeconomics	3	5
3.	**Agribusiness marketing**	Agricultural Marketing	3	5
		Agricultural Credit and Finance	3	5
		Financial management	3	5
4.	**Planning and Strategy Development**	Agribusiness Policy and Strategy	3	5
		Project Planning and Analysis	3	5
5.	**Research in Agribusiness and Value chain**	Operation Research in Agribusiness	3	5
		Research methods in Agribusiness and Value Chain	3	5
		Econometrics	3	5
			45	75

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5. CONCLUSION

This document is prepared to guide the implementation of exit exams for BSc degree in Agribusiness and Value Chain Management program to be held starting from 2015 E.C academic year. It is prepared based on the Nationally Harmonized Curriculum for B.Sc. Degree Program in Agribusiness and Value Chain Management. To assess based on the designed competencies and learning outcomes, five (5) themes consisting of fifteen (15) course have been selected as a focus areas for the national exit exam to be delivered in 2015 E.C. The core competencies and learning outcomes will be subjected to revisions and including modification and adding of courses by considering emerging issues globally as well as nationally.

Validated by:

Dabesa wegari (Ambo University

Sena Amsalu (Salale University)

Fuad Kemal (Haramaya University)

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