

Code: 1679 Food Chain Economics**Degree:** 2nd cycle – Food Science and Engineering**Curricular Year:** 1st**Credits:** 6 ECTS**Semester Course:** 1st**Compulsory****Language:** Portuguese/English**Responsible:** Carlos José de Almeida Noéme**Other lecturer(s):** -**Web Site:** <http://www.isa.utl.pt/home/node/3832>**1. Contact hours:****Lecture/Practicals 70 Others 14 Total 84****2. Objectives:**

Developing knowledge in economic structures of food production, associated to the different organisations of sale; students will gain knowledge in industrial management and interaction of production units and its connection with the sale, through different processes of contracts. Dominant contracts means that production develops competitive processes based on innovation. The concept of competitiveness and innovation should be taken dynamically and students will have a case study to work.

3. Programme:

Part I - Economics of the agro-food sector

Cap. 1 - The concept of agro-food complex

Cap. 2 - The structure of agro-food Complex: inter-sector relations and intra-sector

Cap. 3 - Flows in the agro-food complex: methodology of analysis

Part II – Integration and Coordination process: definition of agro-food Chain

Cap. 4-Vertical integration and Coordination: case studies

Cap 5- Agro-food chain: new methods of analysis

Part III – Competitiveness in the agro-food sector

Cap. 6- Definition of competitiveness: measures used and cluster concept

Cap. 7-Domestic and foreign competitiveness: policy measures and competitiveness

Cap. 8- Competitive advantage: the cluster methodology applied to agro-food sector in Portugal

Cap. 9- Creating competitive advantage at the firm level

Cap. 10-Innovation as a support of sustainable competitive advantage

4. Bibliography:**Main Bibliography**

Noéme, C, and Nicholas, F. (2004): **The Process of Technological learning and co-operation in small firms**, in *Innovation in Small Firms and Dynamics of Local Development* (eds Vaz, T., Viaene, J. and Wigier, M.) Scholar Publishing House, Warsaw

J.H. Trienekens and S. Omta, eds (2002), **Paradoxes in Food Chains and Networks**, Wageningen Academic Publishers, The Netherlands

Porter, M. (1990): **Competitive Advantage of Nations**, The Macmillan Press, London

Arrora A., Fosfuri A., Gambardella A. (2004), **Markets for Technology: the economics of innovation and corporate strategy**, MIT, USA

Other Bibliography

Traill, B. (1998) : **Structural Changes in the European Food Industry: consequences for competitiveness**, in *Competitiveness in the food Industry* (eds B. Traill and E. Pitts), Blackie Academic and Professional, London

Loseby, M. (1997). **Coordination Verticale dans le secteur des fruits et Légumes : conséquences pour les institutions de marché et les politiques existantes**, OCDE, Paris

5. Assessment:

Practical work (P) and final exam (F)

Final mark = 0,7E + 0,3P

6. Estimated Workload:

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| 168 | Hours |
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7. Last Update:

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| 19/7/2010 |
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