



Rural Facilitator

Course Overview



Module A - Individual

Module A aims to develop the Rural Facilitator's individual leadership skills

Module A is the first module in a series of three as part of the Rural Facilitator course. It examines the skills required of a facilitator in the environmental and agricultural sector and includes the opportunity to self-reflect on own capabilities and produce a personalised action plan.

Programme

Session 1

Introduction to facilitation

Examine the definition of facilitation and explore the various roles and techniques of the facilitator. Discuss the range of activities carried out by the facilitator and the challenges they face before reflecting on facilitation in your own organisation.

Session 2

Facilitator core skills

Assess the core skills required for an effective facilitator and decide which ones are most important. This is followed by focusing on a few core skills before introducing the importance of self-reflection.

Session 3

Introduction to self-awareness

Examine competencies from a range of frameworks and compare own performance. Explore the role of personality traits and perceptions to improve self-awareness.

Session 4

Self-evaluation

Learn about SMART objectives and write your own action plan after identifying your own strengths and areas for improvement.

Module B - Team

Module B aims to develop the Rural Facilitator's team leadership skills

Module B is the second module of the Rural Facilitator's course. It builds on the Individual skills of module A to enable the facilitation of effective teamwork amongst professionals, volunteers and stakeholders in the food, farming and sustainability sectors. The programme starts and concludes with a review of individual action plans.

Programme

Session 1

Team dynamics

This session defines what is a team by examining its characteristics and dynamics. A team-based activity provides an opportunity to revise and embed the content of module A whilst serving as an introduction to team skills.

Session 2

Team performance theory

This session introduces selected team performance models and provides a forum for discussing how to apply each in your individual professional practice. You should gain the knowledge to help you build a high performing team.

Session 3

Assessing team performance

By examining a case study in this session, we will discuss how to measure team performance. You will have the opportunity to consider each others experience and what best practice looks like.

Session 4

Building relationships

This session looks at how to improve relationships within the team by examining conflict resolution techniques, the art of influence and negotiation skills.

Module C - Project

Module C aims to develop the Rural Facilitator's project leadership skills

Module C is the final module of the Rural Facilitator course. It builds on the Individual and Team skills of previous modules to enable the facilitation of more ambitious professional or volunteer projects in the food, farming and sustainability sectors.

Programme

Session 1

Rural Project Management

This session provides an overview of a project life-cycle, focusing on how the facilitator can enable timely, successful completion. You will examine a familiar past or current project to identify its phases and linked actions.

Session 2

Facilitating Meetings

Projects involve a lot of time spent in meetings. This session examines how the facilitator can get the best out of meetings by looking at pre, during and post meeting activities.

Session 3

Integrated Local Delivery Overview

This session introduces stakeholder analysis and management. We then learn about the integrated local delivery framework; the background, key themes and how it has been applied to projects.

Session 4

Integrated Local Delivery Exercise

This session provides the opportunity for you to implement everything learned throughout the course by developing a project plan using the ILD framework.