**Module Code** 4238  
**Module Title** Integrated organic systems  
**Module Leader** Dr. Nicola Cannon

**School which owns module**  School of Agriculture, Food and Environment

**Programme(s) to which module belongs**  
- MSc International Rural Development  
- MSc Sustainable Agriculture and Food Safety  
- MSc Food Safety and Quality Management

**Module Level** 7  
**Module Credits** 15  
**Pre-Requisites** None

**Minimum Study Time** 150 hours  
**Contact Hours within Study Time** 30 hours  
**Teaching Period** October – December (Friday mornings)

**Module Content**  
This module initially focuses on regulatory, market and consumer attitudes to organic food before considering the actual and potential contribution of organic systems to food supply in both developed and emerging economies. The module also explores organic philosophies in relation to ecological, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Practical examples of farming systems and enterprise integration are then evaluated in relation to soil management and plant-soil relationships, animal health and nutrition, and enterprise performance and production techniques.

**Module Outcomes**  
To achieve credit for this module, students must be able to:  
1. Appraise organic approaches in different agro-climatic zones in relation to ecological, social and commercial integrity and as part of strategic food supply.  
2. Evaluate consumer interest in, and regulatory/market standards for, organic produce and the impacts they have on market outlets for suppliers from developed and emerging economies.  
3. Critically assess an organic system in relation to the above factors.

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>1 x individual report (3000 words)</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coursework</td>
<td>1 x group product poster (max 500 words)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
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Key Texts:


Nix, J. (annual) *Farm Management Pocketbook*. Imperial College at Wye.


SAC (annual) *Farm Management Handbook*. SAC


Soil Association *Organic Farming Magazine* and various technical publications. [http://www.soilassociation.org](http://www.soilassociation.org)

Other supporting information