**9th UC Summer School**

**Host:** Central Luzon State University / San Salvador, Masinloc, Zambales

**Duration:** **28 July to 8 August 2025 (with online activities on 21-25 July 2025)**

**Theme:** Ridge to Reef: Integrated Management for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

The urgent need to sustain and enhance food production amid growing global challenges calls for integrated, science-based, and multidisciplinary solutions. Addressing these challenges requires a holistic perspective that recognizes the interdependence of upland, lowland, and coastal ecosystems in supporting resilient and sustainable food systems.

The **9th UC Summer School**, hosted by Central Luzon State University, Philippines, is anchored on the theme: “*Ridge to Reef: Integrated Management for Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems***.**”It brings together postgraduate students from across Southeast Asia to explore how ecosystem-based management of resources and participatory approaches can be integrated to achieve food security. Set in **San Salvador, Masinloc, Zambales**, an island village, the Summer School features lectures, field work, and community engagement, offering an immersive and interdisciplinary learning experience.

**Target Participants**

Prospective participants must be currently **enrolled in a graduate program in agriculture, environmental science, fisheries, marine science, or agricultural engineering**. They should have a *basic understanding of sustainability or food systems, strong interest in interdisciplinary and field-based learning, and the ability to communicate effectively in English*. Participants must also be *physically and mentally prepared for outdoor activities and homestays in a coastal community setting*.

* Graduate students from UC member institutions (sponsored by UC funds or by the UC member)
* Graduate students from UC and non-UC institutions willing to self-fund through a registration fee

**Teaching and Learning Approach**

The program includes interactive lectures, field-based activities, and community engagement sessions designed to foster interdisciplinary learning. Participants will stay with local host families in a community-based homestay arrangement, providing them with firsthand insight into the everyday realities, practices, and challenges of the community. The Summer School culminates in the collaborative development of a resource management plan, co-created with community members to support sustainable, locally grounded solutions that promote food security.

**Tentative Schedule**

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| **Day** | **Course Outcome** | **Learning Outcome** | **Learning Activity** | **Assessment** |
| Pre-arrival Activities | | | | |
| 7/21 | Explain the principles of ridge-to-reef management and its application to sustainable food systems and community-based resource planning. | Define key components of the ridge-to-reef landscape and the ecosystem services they provide. | Online Lecture 1: Introduction to Ridge-to-Reef Management | Interactive Ridge-to-Reef Concept Map |
| 7/22 |  |  |
| 7/23 | Describe how upland, lowland, and coastal systems interact to support local food systems. | Online Lecture 2: Environmental Systems and Food Security |
| 7/24 |  |  |
| 7/25 | Explain how ridge-to-reef principles inform sustainable and community-based resource planning efforts. | Online Lecture 3: Community-Based Resource Management |
| 7/26 |  |  |  |  |
| UC Summer School in CLSU/San Salvador, Masinloc, Zambales | | | | |
| 7/29 |  |  | **Arrival** |  |
| 7/28 |  |  | Opening Program and Orientation | Field Assessment Worksheets |
| 7/29 | Conduct interdisciplinary assessments—including vulnerability analysis, crop suitability, environmental degradation mapping, biodiversity surveys, and waste audits—to evaluate the sustainability of food and natural resource systems. | Identify the purpose and scope of each assessment method used in resource evaluation. | Lecture 4: Interdisciplinary Assessment Methods 1  Workshop 5: Preparation for Field Work |
| 7/30 | Apply selected methods to gather and document data on environmental and food system conditions.  Analyze field data to identify key sustainability challenges and resource management issues. | Travel to San Salvador, Masinloc Zambales  Assignment to Home Stays |
| 7/31 | Field Work: Vulnerability Assessment and Crop Suitability |
| 8/1 | Field Work: Biodiversity Assessment |
| 8/2 | Cultural Activity |
| 8/3 | Free Day |
| 8/4 | Field Work: Waste Audit and Environmental Degradation Assessment |
| 8/5 | Integrate field-based evidence and community inputs to formulate and present a Community-Based Resource Management Plan | Summarize insights from community engagement activities (FGDs, KIIs, observations). | Field Work: Focus Group Discussion on Community-Based Resource Management | Community-Based Resource Management Plan: Manuscript and Presentation |
| 8/6 | Draft sections of the CBRMP integrating scientific assessments with stakeholder perspectives. | Group Work |
| 8/7 | Present a complete CBRMP with context-sensitive strategies for sustainable resource governance. | Output 1: Presentation of Output to the Community |
| 8/9 | Travel back to CLSU  Output 2: Culminating Activity |
| 8/9 |  |  | **Departure** |  |