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Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

Practice Abstract #46: Web-case as experiential part of action learning under the Covid-19 restrictions

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Web-case and virtual farm visits have become a necessary part of action-learning under the Covid-19 restrictions at UNISG. These activities were used as an experiential part of action learning during the quarantine and lockdown period to replace real/in presence farm visits. Besides, web-cases, a didactic activity, are used as practice material to further students' analysis and assignments. In the web-case, students read through a long document presentation of the farm case with a photo and transcript of the interviews. In the virtual/online farm visits, students had a videocall with the farmers who gave a short trip in their household and explained principal activities. The organisation of web-cases/virtual visits requires preparation material, a good relation with the stakeholders (farmers), use of electronic tools such as education platforms, high level of organisation in terms of time management, and a good collaboration of all participants (students, teachers and stakeholders). The online farm visits have connected the students and farmers based in different parts of the world and in different time zones. The web-case allowed to overcome distant barriers, to observe agricultural activities, and to organise a dialogue with farmers. Furthermore, web-cases allowed farmers to open their farms to students improving students' observation and dialogue competences.