

## **Crofters and Small Landholders Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Horticulture courses** – a selection of courses that can be offered

**Small scale commercial horticulture.** One day course covering:

- Crop choice
- Site and soil assessment
- Plant propagation
- Crop nutrition – fertilisers and nutrient budgeting
- Crop rotation, crop timing and crop spacing
- Crop protection
- Irrigation and cultivations
- Protected cropping and extending the season
- Development of markets

**Protection of crops.** One day course covering:

- Types of protection and how to use them to extend the season
- Crop choice - what to grow
- Crop rotation – crop diversity in space and time
- Ground preparation and maintenance under protection
- Fertilisers under protection
- Controlling the environment for protected crops
- Pests and diseases – identification, prevention and control

**Horticultural pest control.** One day course covering:

- Pests you need to control
- Preventative measures curative methods
- How to administer pesticides safely
- Planning and monitoring of vermin control programme
- Relevant regulations

**Composting.** This one day course covers the following topics:

- Definitions of compost
- What can be composted and where to get feedstocks
- Composting systems
- PAS100 and the Waste Management Licensing Regulations
- The composting process and how to make it work effectively
- How to use compost effectively

Other courses may include:

Polytunnel growing  
Permaculture  
Energy crops  
Vegetative propagation  
Propagation by seed  
Crop disorders  
Weed control  
Prepare sites for planting  
Monitoring crop growth  
Storage of harvested crops  
Plan and prepare growing media

Crop harvesting  
Soft fruit growing  
Fertilisers  
Soil analysis and profiles