Learn by doing. Master the art of scenario planning through an interdisciplinary exploration of the future of food to 2030—one of the greatest environmental, political and economic uncertainties of the century.

What is scenario planning?
Scenarios—stories about the future—are as old as humankind. As the world has become increasingly complex and uncertain, scenario planning has emerged as a powerful tool for exploring alternative futures in which today’s decisions might play out.

The process is rigorous, collaborative, and creative. It revolves around constructing three or four plausible, yet novel, scenarios that challenge deeply held beliefs about the future and reveal new opportunities and challenges. Using these scenarios, you can “wind tunnel” current strategies, explore and prototype new options, and build organizational alignment.

The test of a good scenario is not whether it accurately “predicts” the future but whether it enables your organization to learn, adapt, and innovate.

What is the process?
Working in small groups, you’ll progress through each stage of the scenario process.
• Determine the strategic question to anchor your scenarios
• Identify the key drivers of change and critical uncertainties
• Develop scenario matrices, concepts, and stories
• Validate scenarios with input from food system experts
• Identify implications and early indicators
• Communicate scenarios effectively
• Tap experienced scenario planners for best practices

Why focus on the future of food?
By 2030, the world’s population will grow from 7 to 8.3 billion. Providing secure, safe, and nutritious food for everyone while sustaining a healthy planet will be one of our most vital, complex challenges. The future of the global food system is dynamic and uncertain, driven by multiple social, technological, economic, environmental and political forces. That makes it a perfect focus for scenario thinking.
The Future of Food

FEATURED EXPERTS
A distinguished array of Stanford faculty have contributed to the course, including:

Chris Field
climate scientist and co-chairman of IPCC Working Group II

Buzz Thompson
natural resource attorney and co-director of the Stanford Woods Institute

Pamela Matson
environmental scientist and Dean of the School of Earth, Energy and Environmental Sciences

Rosamond Naylor
expert on the economics and biophysics of food production and Director of Stanford’s Center on Food Security

David Lobell
agricultural ecologist and Associate Director of the Center on Food Security and the Environment

Apply now, space is limited to 30 participants.

IMPORTANT DATES

Accepting Applications NOW
Application Deadline AUGUST 10, 2015
Course Opens AUGUST 10, 2015
Come to Stanford SEPT 28-OCT 1, 2015

COURSE FEE

$3495
This covers all events, materials, and most meals are included. Airfare, hotel, and airport transfers are not included.
15% discounts are available for governments, non-profits, and members of the Stanford Alumni Association. A limited number of partial scholarships is also available.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Airports
Stanford is roughly equidistant from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and San Jose International Airport (SJC). Oakland International Airport (OAK) also serves the Bay Area.

Hotels
We have negotiated special discounted rates with the Sheraton Palo Alto, and a limited number of rooms are also available at the Stanford Guest House.

Additional lodging information is available at Destination Palo Alto: http://bit.ly/OvbVox

Worldview Stanford creates interdisciplinary learning experiences for decision makers in business, government, and nonprofits to prepare them for the strategic challenges ahead.

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