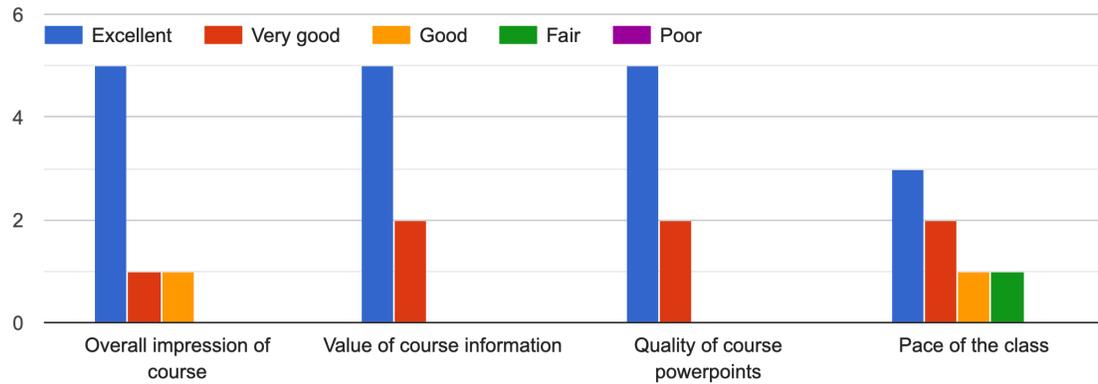
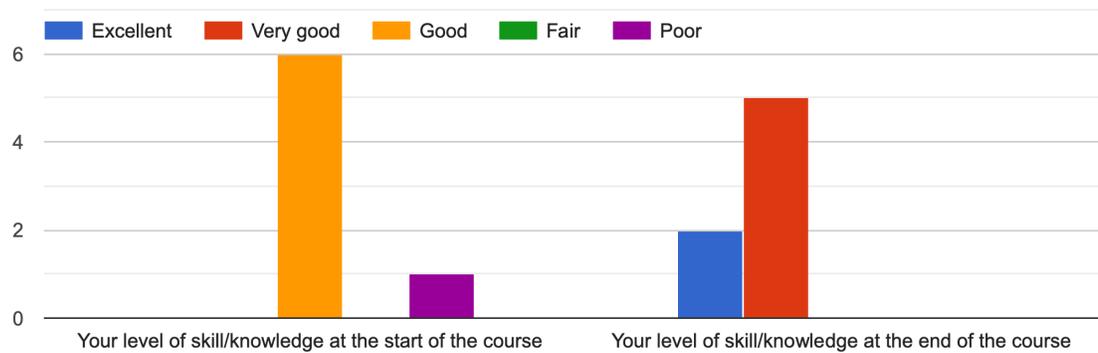


2018 Growing Seed Agripreneurs Course Exit Survey

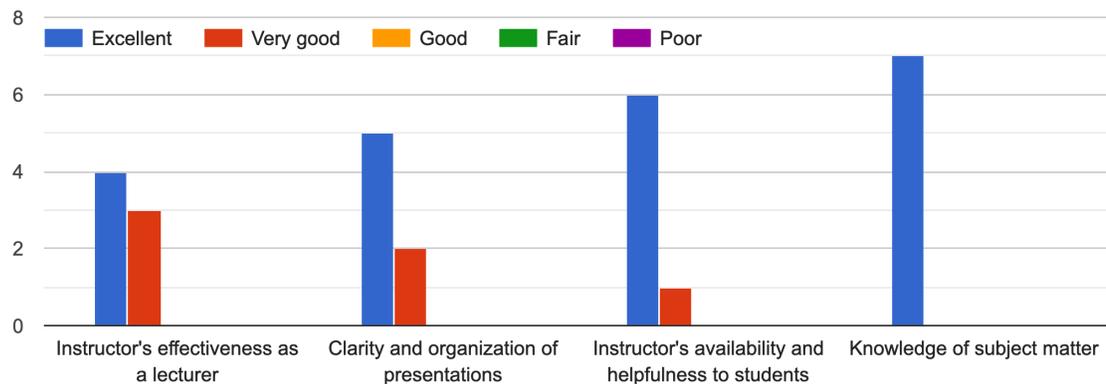
General course feedback



Course results



General lecturer feedback



What were the most valuable parts of this course?

The most valuable parts of the course for me were visiting other local seed farms, learning about the farming equipment, driving a tractor, the refresher on pest and disease management, and getting one-on-one advice from Sebastian. I also liked learning about the business end of seed farming.

Learning about seed production and processing

the comprehensive lecture information and the hands-on experience.

It's hard to answer the question out right. The valuable information gained was probably different for each individual in the class and there was something learned every week. I really think the hands on practice was helpful, both with growing crops in the test field and learning to save seed.

The hands on, actual doing and visiting different farms as well as access to online info....

The path from seed to sale is daunting but I now understand what it takes to make it work year after year.

Processing seed

What suggestions do you have for improving this course?

My main suggestion for improving the course would be to require some kind of a prerequisite and include more advanced/specialized material. When I signed up for the class, I was expecting it to have more emphasis on the nitty-gritty of seed production and less about standard farming practices. Clearly these two topics are intertwined but I would have gotten more out of a class that assumed everyone understood basic soil health & fertility, crop rotations, beginning botany, etc. That being said, I feel like most of the other students had less background in these topics and I could see that they needed a course with more basic farming information in it. This is why it might improve the pool of students to ask that they come with some background knowledge.

I liked that the course had a field component but feel that this could have been better utilized. For example, I thought that the breeding trial could have been a bigger part of the class. Although Sebastian did a really good job of explaining how to set up a breeding program using good experimental methods, I think that most of the students got hung up on just trying to understand the layout and missed out on understanding why randomized and blocked study designs are needed. I think a big part of the reason this happened was again the fact that most of the students had pretty limited experience.

Overall a great class. Even though it was less advanced than I expected, I did benefit greatly from having a refresher on the many topics we covered and really feel that I have a better handle on seed production as a whole. Thanks!

Fewer farm visits

Although I understand the many good reasons for having the course last an entire growing season, to me it would be better (and I think attract more students) if the class were shorter. It is a big commitment, and difficult for many people to manage with busy schedules. I would suggest possibly offering the course in 1-3 "sections" of 4 to 6 weeks each, or just offering a shorter option.
Many thanks for a great opportunity...

I would suggest narrowing the intended group of students to be a little more on the beginner side. Possibly by wording things in the class description before the course starts. Personally there were many things I already knew going into the class so the pace felt extremely slow at times. Good information, and I still learned a lot, but some weeks when I knew what the topic was and I was confident in that area it was hard to work up the motivation to attend.

I can't think of anything right now

In the field- more examples of the millions of variables.

More field time