

Learning by Doing – Local food systems in Jamaica

9:45am – 10:45am

Presented by:

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INDEV 617 Field Course

Research in Practice – MDP Field Visit

Exploring the Jamaican Food System through Cuisine

WINTER TERM, 2018

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING CONTEXT

The purpose of this field trip is to gain exposure to the Jamaican development context. Our approach to the field experience is through a 'food lens'. By looking at society through this food lens, we have the potential to gain an understanding of how the food system works, and in so doing, also to develop a perspective about food and nutrition security in the area of our site as well as more broadly in Jamaica and beyond.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

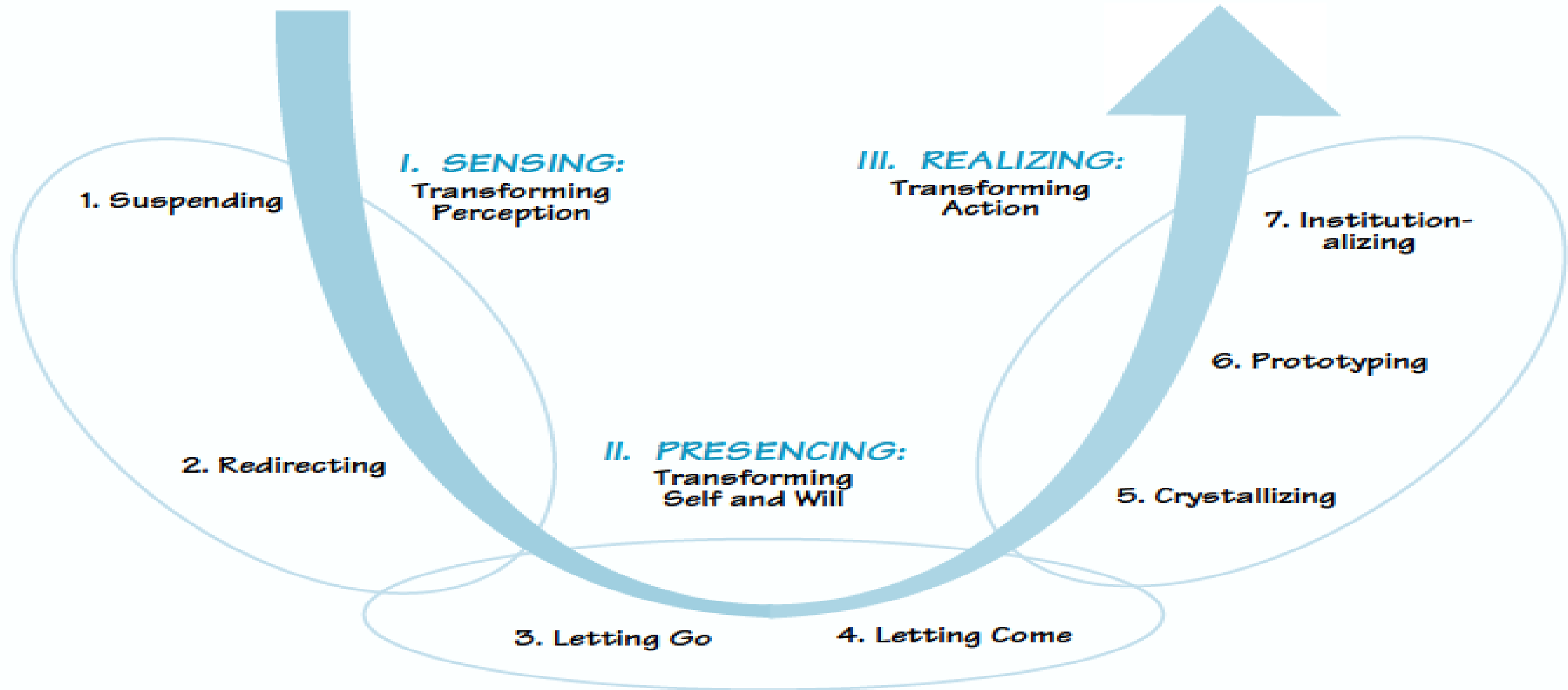
The course is designed to provide the following learning outcomes:

1. Understand the basics of transformative scenario planning by using the U-Method in practice. This method is a useful tool in development practice, where complex, system problems are at the core of the issues under consideration.
2. Understand elements of the Jamaican food system and how these interact to create the food and nutrition security outcomes observed in the field.
3. Contextualize the food system report for Kingston, Jamaica prepared by the Hungry Cities Partnership.

FIELD METHOD

The methodology we will use is known as transformative scenario planning. In real life, this innovative methodology is used to help diverse groups of stakeholders find ways to positively influence complex development problems. On this field trip we will employ the U-process as part of transformative scenario planning. This U-process helps us to focus on development questions through the food security lens and is structured around three learning phases and the development and utilization of seven capacities.

THE U-PROCESS



In order to create the conditions for regeneration to happen, the U-Process outlines three “phases” that involve the creation of specific environments in support of particular types of learning. To move through these phases, we must develop and utilize seven “capacities.”

Source: Senge, Scharmer, Jaworski, and Flowers

THE FIELD STUDY GROUP



DAY 1

Hillcrest Retreat

Brown's Town Library & Market



DAY 2

Herb & Health Hike in the Jamaican Alps



Group debrief



DAY 3

Field trip to local Farms organized by RADA



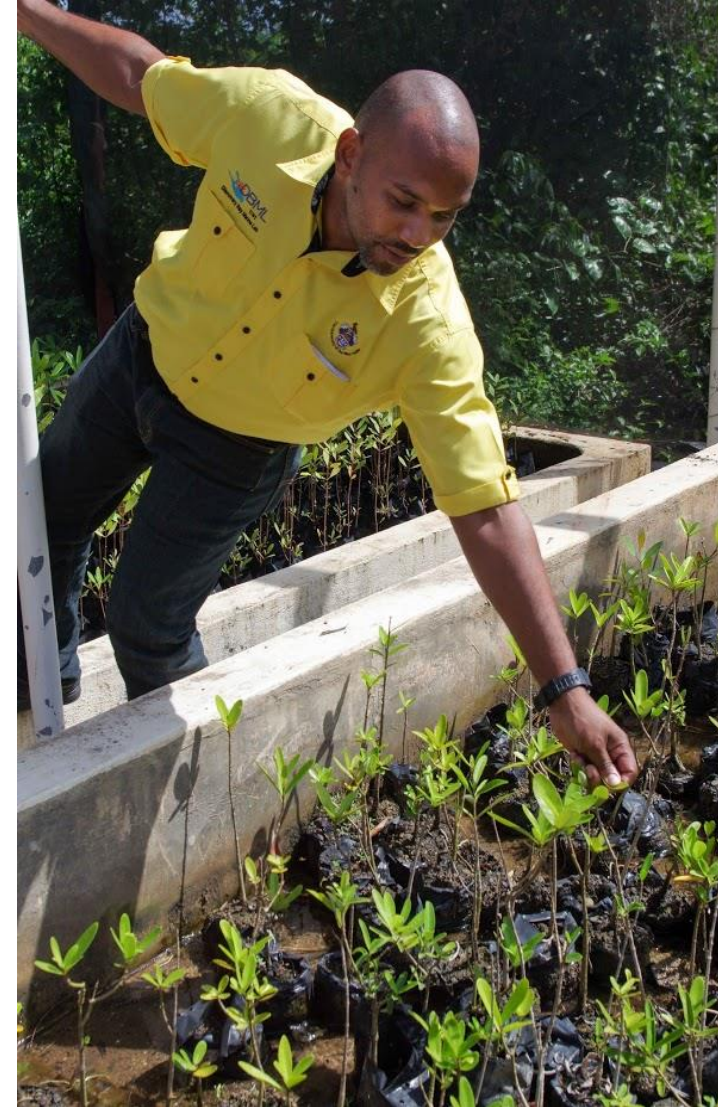
Coastal visit



DAY 4

Discovery Bay
Marine Center

Saint Hilda's
High School



DAY 5

Sugar cane plantation and agribusiness



REFLECTIONS & KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Key role of food systems in local dynamics
- Importance of context
- Group cohesion
- Experiential learning: meaningful understanding

