

Transition to sustainable crop & livestock systems

Los Baños, the Philippines, 16 – 27 November 2009

The challenges for sustainable development of our planet are many. They range from a need for sustained food production and farm income via poverty eradication, food safety, biodiversity, and conservation of common resources. Crops & livestock plays a role in all of them, across sectors and social strata. Animals are both an integral and indispensable part of mixed farms. Animal production systems can provide valuable food and farm income; they can recycle waste and even regenerate eroded watersheds. But they can also exhaust resources or cause pollution, disease and food scares, especially as part of disputed industrial production systems. Combined with issues such as climate change, urbanisation and shifting political realities, there are a clear need for better integration between crops & livestock, as to utilise their combined potential for sustainable production, in both poor and wealthy societies.

Course focus

This 2-weeks' course will address issues of farm design, sustainable food production, modelling for resource conservation and policy setting for biodiversity, food-chain management and the like. Special attention this year is given to the role of animals for poverty alleviation. The overall course focus is on:

- Product- and process quality of production chains in mixed-, industrial- and/or organic farming
- Regeneration of watersheds, with due attention to socio-cultural aspects
- Issues of animal production and changing contexts in terms of public health, food scares and food quality management, as well as value addition
- Management for people, planet and profit by private and public sectors; good agricultural

practices, use of water- and fossil fuel reserves, rural wellbeing and shorter food chains.

The course highlights recent developments at farm, regional and international levels.

Aims and objectives

The main aims of the course are to provide and generate insight and updates on:

- Issues for transition and integration of crop & livestock systems on global, regional and local level, with special attention for problems raised by participants
- Recent animal production methods in terms of feed supply, farm design, biodiversity, health and welfare, and processing
- Modern system approaches to better analyze and design new approaches
- Understanding of major changes in global animal production with advantages and disadvantages for local level
- Setting of private and public R&D for sustainable crop & livestock systems.

The course also aims to develop work plans for individual participants at their own local- or national level. It assumes basic knowledge of technical and socio-economic aspects in animal production, including use of participatory approaches. It also helps participants to exchange and generate information, to reinforce existing networks and to develop new ones.

Training methods

The course approach is based on a wide experience with action-oriented training in courses and workshops around the world, including many countries in Asia.



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The course combines lectures, field visits and study groups conditions. Specialists from the Philippines and abroad work with the participants in a purposely interactive manner. Participation by participants from both national and international organisations will help to create networks for future collaboration.

Target group

Mid-career professionals from the private and public sector are most likely to benefit from this course. They include farm managers, teachers, business people, academics, NGO-managers and policy staff. The course addresses the widest possible range of issues in farming systems, particularly from South and South East Asia. Participants are asked to contribute and to set priorities. An interactive set-up allows participants to get maximum benefit from the course by relating discussions and lectures to their own situations. The course is conducted in English.

Partners

University of the Philippines, School of Environmental Science and Management (SESAM) and Animal & Dairy Science Cluster.

Certificate

Participants will be granted a Certificate of Attendance.

Fees

The tuition fee for participants from outside the Philippines is **€750** (with group discount). This includes costs for tuition, administration, lecture materials and expenses for field trips. Excluded from the tuition fee are board, lodging and pocket money (estimated at € 25 per day) and costs of travel.

Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated in modest but up to date facilities at the University of the Philippines Compound in Los Baños. A detailed budget with a complete cost estimate is available on request.

Fellowships

A limited number of fellowships are available from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for nationals of selected countries. NFP-candidates must **FIRST** apply to Wageningen International for admission to the training. Acceptable candidates will receive a PROVISIONAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE from Wageningen International. Candidates can then apply for a NFP fellowship through the Netherlands Embassy or Consulate in their own country. Applications for NFP fellowships should be submitted to Wageningen International before **1 June 2009**.

More information: www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/Courses, www.nuffic.nl.

Wageningen International can NOT provide any funds to finance participation and is unable to assist applicants in obtaining sponsorship.

Application

The application deadline is **20 October 2009**. For additional information and online application, see www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda

