

19th Master Class Seed Technology

Wageningen, the Netherlands, 6 - 10 April 2025

Objectives of the Master Class Seed Technology

The Master Class is tailored for professional seed technologists and biologists seeking to expand and update their expertise. Through a series of focused seminars, interactive discussions, and practical demonstrations of the latest technological advancements, participants will gain valuable insights into the newest developments in seed research. This course is designed to equip professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to make strategic decisions and drive innovation in seed technology research and development.

Wageningen Seed Science Centre

Farmers around the world share a common goal: securing the best seeds and planting materials for next season's crops. High-quality propagation materials are essential for achieving superior crop yields and quality. At the Wageningen Science Seed Centre (WSSC), we specialize in advancing seed research and technology through both fundamental and applied research. As an alliance of seed experts from Wageningen University & Research, WSSC offers unparalleled expertise in all aspects of plant propagation - from plant improvement basics to seed quality assurance. WSSC is dedicated to strengthening the global seed sector by providing top-tier education, research, and project management services.

Our international network includes universities, research institutes, NGOs, and partners from both the public and private seed industries. We offer a range of programs, including international courses, MSc and PhD programs, tailor-made courses, and collaborative research projects.

Seminar programme

Each day, participants will engage in seminars led by invited experts and WSSC staff, offering deep dives into a range of critical topics. The seminar themes will cover a broad spectrum of seed science and technology, including flowering, embryogenesis, and seed-expressed genes. Other topics will include dormancy, seed quality, stress tolerance, longevity, germination markers, and seed enhancement techniques. Attendees will also explore advanced subjects like seed maturation, seed health, vigour, priming, coating, and the seed microbiome. Additionally, sessions will focus on cutting-edge areas such as seed quality control and gene database mining, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the latest advancements in the field. By participating in our programs, you'll benefit from exceptional training and resources, enabling you to make a meaningful impact in the global seed industry.



Practical demonstrations

Participants will also be involved in demonstrations and hands-on experiments. Techniques and methodologies include seed drying, seed storage, ethanol analysis for vigour, chlorophyll sorting by laser induced fluorescence, spectral analysis of seeds and seedlings, etc..

Target group of the master class

The master class is tailored for professional seed technologists at the MSc or PhD level, or those with equivalent expertise gained through experience. Participants may come from industry, research institutes, seed quality laboratories, universities, or governmental institutions. To ensure a focused and engaging experience, the class will be limited to 8-16 participants. Selection will be based on professional background and the relevance of the program to each applicant's work. Applicants should have a strong command of English.

Dates

The master class spans 4 full days, including evening sessions, beginning with an informal get-together on Sunday evening, April 6, 2025, and concluding on Thursday afternoon, April 10, 2025. This intensive schedule is designed to maximize the amount of information and learning. The previous eighteen master classes have received excellent feedback from participants, with their supervisors noting a significant enhancement in their staff's perspectives and expertise following the course.

Registration fee

The fee, including tuition fee and course materials, but excluding board and lodging and travel to and from Wageningen, is € 3450 (excl. VAT). Members of the Seeds for the Future Initiative receive € 500 discount.

Accommodation

The participants will be accommodated in Fletcher Hotel-Restaurant De Wageningsche Berg (<https://www.hoteldewageningscheberg.nl/en/>), beautifully situated on the Wageningen Berg and offers a view over the river, the floodplains and the Betuwe of Wageningen. The hotel has pre-reserved hotel rooms for our participants, and must be booked by the participants at least 6-weeks in advanced. Room rates are around € 111,50 per night (incl. breakfast, excl. VAT), not included in the course fee. Lectures will be given at the same venue whereas demonstrations will be held in laboratories of Wageningen University & Research.

Applications

To register, please email your professional position and contact details to mcst.pph@wur.nl. An advance payment of at least 50% is required by January 1, 2025. Refunds, minus a €100 processing fee, will be issued if cancellation requests are received at least 28 days before the course starts. Refund requests must be submitted in writing via email. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited to a maximum of 16 participants.

Organisation

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