

Refresher course

# Plant health strategies for food & nutrition security & trade



Accra, Ghana, 21 August – 01 September 2017



A refresher course for alumni of Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR (formerly Wageningen International and IAC) courses on:

- Integrated pest management and food safety
  - Governance and food safety in international food chains
  - Horticulture
  - Agriculture in transition
  - Seed potato technology
  - Market access
  - Local economic development
  - Lost harvest & Wasted Food
  - MSP
  - Organised farmers as partners in agribusiness
  - Agriculture nutrition linkages
- Wageningen University: MSc Plant Sciences, MSc Food Safety Management,
- Van Hall Larenstein: Master of Agricultural Production Chain Management – specialisation Horticulture

**Plant Health Strategies** Many low and middle income economies are struggling with market access to the economically important markets such as the EU but also growing their own and regional markets. Non-tariff barriers to trades, such as food safety and phytosanitary standards, are a bottleneck for trade. Major issues are pesticide residues, mycotoxins but also compliance to phytosanitary regulations. While these issues affect trade and much needed forex earnings, the same plant health issues need to be tackled to increase food & nutrition security, food safety for the population at large as well as the environment. The course will explore the underlying reasons, institutional, knowledge and external factors, that hamper the production and trade of safe and quality vegetables and other crops.

#### Course dates 2017

23 June:	Closing date for application
20 August:	Arrival of the participants
21 August:	Opening session of the course
1 September:	Closing session of the course

**The role of women** Women are major actors in food production in low and middle income economies. This means that they also play a critical role in production, food safety and nutrition issues. In recognition of this a module specifically addressing the role of women in safe food production, marketing and preparation is part of the course. During excursions female farmers and entrepreneurs will be included in the programme to assess and highlight their specific challenges.

**The challenge of making it work** Many of you work in organisations involved in advising farmers, food safety, trade and market access. Understanding the specific issues regarding plant health, food safety and phytosanitary issues, and trade but also the necessary institutional arrangements will empower you to execute your work more effectively. Highlighting the emerging challenges and innovations will emphasize areas that need attention in your organisations and countries.



**Strengthening your insights** The training programme aims to enhance the participants' knowledge and ability to identify and solve problems in plant health. The programme specifically addresses the following objectives:

- to increase participants' knowledge on recent developments in plant health standards such as food safety, good agricultural practices, and innovative approaches in enhancing food & nutrition security and trade;
- to assess opportunities and challenges in the domain of plant health, food & nutrition security and trade through participatory methods and multi-stakeholder analysis;
- to learn through using the plant health challenges in Ghana as an example, how to formulate solutions for participants own and their country's context;
- to provide opportunity for exchange of experiences and development of new ideas between participating professionals.

**Learning through experience** The course will use a mix of lectures, discussions, group work, excursions and field work with the aim to expose you, as far as possible, to all aspects food safety issues. The course takes place in Kenya where we will see the real examples of an emerging economy. Meeting course colleagues and alumni from other countries but similar interests, leads to exchange of experiences and mutual learning. The programme is flexible to suit participants' needs and participants' case studies are the basis of the group work.

### Target group

The course is only open for the above mentioned alumni, colleagues of these alumni are encouraged to apply as well. The course is designed for professionals of government departments, non- government and civil society organizations, business associations, development agencies, universities and colleges for higher education, and for other professionals working in a field related to the course content.

### Further practical information

- Application, the procedure is:
  - 1) **Apply at the website of CDI, Wageningen UR:** [www.wur.eu/cdi](http://www.wur.eu/cdi)
  - Applicants should meet the following requirements: Be an alumnus of one of the above mentioned CDI (Wageningen International or IAC) courses or Wageningen University MSc studies
  - **Fellowships** from the Netherlands Government are available. Fellowships cover travel costs, board and lodging, and course materials. Fellowships are only available for:
    - o Alumni who attended the above mentioned courses or studies before August 2015, with a fellowship from the Netherlands (NFP).
    - o The direct colleagues or superiors (employers) of the above-mentioned alumni are eligible to attend the course **together with the alumnus.**
  - Participants will be granted a **Certificate** of attendance. Participants are expected to be proficient in English.

**Venue:** The course will be held in Accra, Ghana. The course is residential. The venue and accommodation location will be announced later.

