

International course

Agriculture in transition



Between tradition, innovation and visioning: building new models for the future

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 03 – 14 April 2017

Nowadays there is a compelling need for creative thinkers that will lead to innovative and more sustainable agricultural production. This two weeks intensive course will give you new tools and perspectives to become one of them.

Do you have the feeling that agriculture entails much more than just producing food? If so, you are right. Agriculture relates to production of food, feed, fibre and fuel, to climate change, waste management, energy production, landscape design, leisure, social stability, income and health, to mention just a few. An integral redirection of current farming practices is required, to go beyond just an increase in outputs to feed 9 billion people in 2050. Agriculture has to find new balances between producing food, managing natural resources, and providing a livelihood base for the rural population. Private, civil and public stakeholders have to cope with these growing requirements for social, environmental and economic sustainability. This is often referred to as the '3Ps of sustainable development': People, Planet, and Profit.

Do you sometimes feel lost in fitting your technical expertise into a broader agricultural development framework?

This course aims to offer a systems-perspective on agriculture as well as skills to design innovative sustainable farming options. It looks at how to balance sustainable production practices and market demands within a changing policy environment. Moving beyond the technical realm, you will learn how to involve multiple-stakeholders for inclusion of social, environmental, economic, and political aspects.

Fee:	3,500 Euro
Deadline subscription:	20 February 2017
Deadline NFP/MENA fellowships:	18 October 2016



Would you like to better understand how to design agriculture development interventions / strategies / policies in your own context? This course will use a systems dynamics approach to analyse the current situation, explore options that are already available for further development, and design new systems that produce farm products in a responsible manner. It takes the participants' own rural situation with mixed crop-livestock farming systems as a starting point.

After this two weeks course you will:

- gain a deeper understanding on how global development trends and patterns affect farming practices and policies at local and national levels;
- be able to use various tools and techniques to analyse their own agricultural systems and to identify critical issues for change;
- develop scenarios in search of alternative options and trade-offs in resource-scarce situations, using state-of-the-art approaches and practical methods;
- design own transition paths for the introduction of innovative farming interventions that are socially, economically and ecologically balanced.

Are you looking for more tools and approaches and how to use them in your own context?

Lecturers from different disciplines will expose you to a broad range of domains. The course will use a mix of lectures, discussions, group work and field trips to offer background, theoretical aspects, as well as practical approaches for production and market development. The participants will exchange their own experiences and learn mutually from working actively together in various study groups. The programme is flexible to suit participants' needs and the issues they raise. This will include many opportunities to expand networks and access literature.

Which main topics will we handle during the course?

1. setting the scene
the need for sustainable farming in the context of global trends: mix crop-livestock systems, urbanisation, endogenous development and bio-based economy;
2. tools for analysing and designing sustainable farming systems
e.g. system diagramming, cost/benefit and risk analysis, stakeholder analysis, hard, soft and complex system tools;
3. system alternatives with their advantages and disadvantages
understanding technical, social and ecological aspects of various options for sustainable farming practices (such as urbanisation, optimum use of limited resources, nutrient balances, post-harvest losses management, bio-based economy and endogenous development);
4. planning transition processes
application of approaches, techniques and tools in designing strategies and action plans for sustainable farming interventions at local and/or national levels.

Who will your fellow colleagues be?

It is expected that the group will comprise a mix of technically, academically, and policy oriented participants from different countries, with the aim of promoting active participation, with ample interaction and generation of new ideas. Farm managers, trainers, entrepreneurs, academics, NGO-managers and policy staff have already benefitted from this course.

Do you have the right requirements to participate?

The basic prerequisite for participation in the course is active interest and professional experience in some of the topics to be addressed. Participants should be proficient in English, and have at least a BSc degree or an equivalent academic qualification.

Further practical information

- **Application**, the procedure is:
 - 1) Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation:** www.wur.eu/cdi. HYPERLINK "http://www.wur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-Institutes/centre-for-development-innovation/short-courses/Short-courses-2017/CDIcourse_AIT_2017.htm"you will receive a confirmation and more information within a week. Candidates approved by our selection committee will received an admission letter.
 - 2) CDI** is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support, however if you want to apply for a **NFP/MENA Fellowship**, CDI will provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in **ATLAS**. You can check the eligibility at www.nuffic.nl/nfp or www.nuffic.nl/mena. A limited number of scholarships is available. As this application process takes time and requires several documents, we recommend that you **start as soon as possible**.
- **Accommodation:** Hof van Wageningen, Wageningen, The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. **NFP Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
- Participants will be awarded with a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.

Joining on of our courses will expand your horizon, both in a social and scientific way. You can share experience and knowledge with others working in similar fields, get up-to-date in current scientific insights methodologies and practices, and become part of our 20.000 strong alumni network.

