

International course

# Climate change adaptation in food security and natural resource management



## Integrating climate change in sustainable development

Uganda, 16 - 27 April 2018

**Climate change is a fact** But if you plan for it, adaptation to climate change is possible. This requires strategic thinking by you and your organisation. This course enables you to become familiar with strategic planning for climate change adaptation.

**Why adapt to climate change?** Without appropriate responses climate change is likely to constrain economic development and poverty reduction efforts. Countries with economies rooted in climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry are expected to be hit hardest. This will be true for many countries in the South. Climate change is both a global environment and a local development issue, as it could jeopardise the livelihoods of millions. This is particularly so where communities are already vulnerable to changes and have limited coping capacity. Well-designed adaptation strategies can offer ways out. Adaptation processes do not stand alone, they are part of climate resilience approaches. Climate resilience is the capacity of a person or system to maintain its role, purpose and integrity in the face of dramatically changed circumstances. It is the ability of a (social or ecological) system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organisation, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change. In the face of climate change this capacity needs to be reinforced, at local level but also at higher levels such as the landscape level.

**You can become involved** Climate change is a hot public and political topic but receives limited reaction of policy makers. While climate change negotiations take place in the international arena, there is often limited knowledge and understanding of climate change adaptation concepts and its implications at local level. All

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Deadline NFP fellowships:	<b>18 October 2018</b>

countries develop adaptation strategies which are aimed at climate change adaptation for the medium to long-term. The formulation of climate change adaptation projects, covering urgent and immediate needs, is done by most least-developed countries (LDCs) by preparing National Adaptation Programmes for Action (NAPAs). Many economically more developed countries also prepare adaptation programmes or strategies. Often projects formulated under such programmes or



strategies focus on technical issues and not on the institutional and organisational capacities that should be in place to implement possible adaptation strategies. Adaptation means also change in attitude, skills and mind-set. The translation of the policy documents on climate change into climate adaptation strategies is something that you as a professional can contribute to.

**Practitioners in agriculture & natural resource management** Participants of this course will obtain full understanding of climate change adaptation concepts. But beyond the science of climate change adaptation, this course will translate policy documents and research findings into adaptation strategies and strategies to improve resilience.

Participants of this course will be able to effectively and meaningfully contribute to the debate on climate change adaptation, either in the policy process, research to fuel the debate, or implementing climate smart policies. This will strengthen their positions on the basis of newly acquired concepts, skills and methodologies. Participants with an interest to take climate change adaptations further than the paper they are written on, are encouraged to apply. Apart from practitioners in the agriculture and natural resource management sectors, among participants in past courses we also welcomed a journalist, a bank official and a staff member of a company.

**Hot spots for climate change** A hot spot for climate change is an 'area' that is already vulnerable and is likely to suffer substantial impacts as a result of climate change. How to design adaptation strategies for these hot spots is part of the group work based on participants cases. There is particular attention for increasing resilience in the hotspot. The results are well thought out proposals for climate change adaptation which you can apply in your work situation back home.

#### What will be covered in the course?

- understanding climate change (concepts such as adaptation and mitigation, causes and risks) and implications for food security, agriculture and natural resource management;
- concepts and assessment of vulnerability, resilience, coping strategies and sustainable development processes;
- climate smart agriculture and natural resource management;
- examples of adaptation strategies to climate change;
- policy making processes, advocacy and



integrating climate change issues into existing policy processes and rural development strategies.

This course uses interactive training methods. Topics are dealt with in a combination of lectures, plenary and group work, study assignments and role plays. Experiences and case studies of participants are the entry point for interaction. The course includes field work in the rural area of South-Uganda, and interaction with policy makers and researchers to discuss and refine strategies for climate smart agriculture and natural resource management. It also includes the preparation of a personal action plan to integrate your new knowledge and skills into your daily work at home.

#### Further practical information

- **For application**, the procedure is:
  - 1) **Apply at the website of: Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation:** [www.wur.eu/cdi](http://www.wur.eu/cdi). Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (f.e. funding, visa) can take some time.
  - 2) The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) and NICHE entered a new phase as per **01 August 2017** and will continue as 'Kennisonwikkelingsprogramma' (KOP). Under the new KOP programme, provisionally NFP fellowships will be available for [30 countries](#). CDI can provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in ATLAS. ATLAS is the online application form for an NFP Fellowship. Please check the eligibility criteria at [www.nuffic.nl/nfp](http://www.nuffic.nl/nfp). Please be aware that this application process takes time and effort, and requires several documents. We therefore recommend that you start as soon as possible. Since the number scholarships available is limited, an application may not always lead to a positive result. NFP/MENA Fellowships include travel and full board and lodging.
    - Fee includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
    - Participants will be awarded ;III a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.

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