



WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY  
WAGENINGEN **UR**

# Master Development and Rural Innovation



“Your Future Career?”

*Career possibilities after your master!™*

# General information

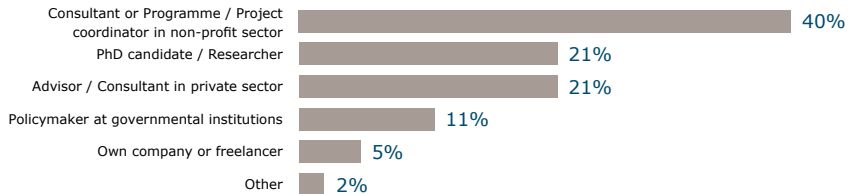
The two year Master programme Development and Rural Innovation is a unique international social science programme for students with a technical or life science background and an interest in international development problems and social dimensions of technical change.

The programme is based on the philosophy that innovations in the field of agriculture, food and natural resource management have a dual nature: they consist of new technological practices as well as new socio-organizational arrangements involving a variety of social actors. In short, societal problems cannot be solved by technology alone.

The programme aims to train hybrid professionals who understand how technology and society shape each other and who can bridge the gap between different worlds of experience, knowledge and expertise in complex problem settings.

Graduates work at a variety of organisations all over the world, and in a broad range of positions. They work for instance, at research institutes, universities, NGOs, (semi-) governmental organisations, UN agencies and in the private sector. They contribute, in various ways, to societal change processes and problem solving and the link between human and technological dimensions of innovation.

On this page you will find an [overview of the employment](#) based on the jobs of 75% of the 180 graduates in 2005-2014. The information was traced through LinkedIn and the internet in January 2015.



## More information on the Master Development and Rural Innovation:

[www.wageningenuniversity.eu/mdr](http://www.wageningenuniversity.eu/mdr)

[mdr.msc@wur.nl](mailto:mdr.msc@wur.nl)

[www.facebook.com/developmentstudieswageningenuniversity](https://www.facebook.com/developmentstudieswageningenuniversity)



**STEISI MILEIVA**

ANALYST, WORLD BANK, INDONESIA

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)



I am currently an Analyst for the Poverty Global Practice of the World Bank in Indonesia. A huge part of my work consists of collaborating with Indonesia's Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Planning Agency in the design and implementation of Family Development Sessions (FDS). This is a training programme to empower Indonesia's poor households and equip them in their transition out of poverty. We do that by providing them with skills on early childhood education, good parenting practices, financial literacy, and business planning.

Specific tasks that I undertake, are co-leading the design and implementation of the FDS training, produce an operational guide for FDS implementation, and liaising with multiple stakeholders. Other parts of my work involve the design and implementation of poverty analysis training for local research institutions and think-tanks, and organising conferences on the topics of poverty, inequality, and social protection. Thus, although I previously mentioned that I am an analyst, I do not simply analyse numbers or data, but I look at processes and come up with solutions.

The MSc programme Development and Rural Innovation gave me the possibility to undertake social science research and to be engaged in the development discourse. In particular, the courses have sensitised me to promote user-appropriateness in the design of the FDS training materials. In addition, the dynamics of a programme set-up with multi-cultural group work has boosted my confidence in collaborating with my colleagues here.



## TIM STEVENS

PHD CANDIDATE, STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION  
GROUP, WAGENINGEN UR, THE NETHERLANDS  
[www.wageningenur.nl/cpt](http://www.wageningenur.nl/cpt)



After graduating from the MSc Development and Rural Innovation, I first worked as a junior researcher at the Strategic Communication and Health and Society Groups of Wageningen UR. This was a logical step for me, because I wanted to continue doing research and I love the community and environment of Wageningen.

After a year, I got a PhD position on social media in the agro-food sector. With this research I want to understand how hypes on food sustainability issues emerge and how stakeholders deal with social media hypes. I enjoy the freedom you have as a PhD candidate, as I can study the things I am interested in. Although I do not always like the academic system, I love developing myself, exploring new areas of interest, and meeting inspiring people.

I chose the MSc Development and Rural Innovation because it is a broad and flexible programme, which enabled me to choose subjects of my interest. Initially I was very interested in rural development, but after a while I started to explore different areas such as education, philosophy and tourism. The diversity of the students and the wide range of topics we discussed were especially important to help me understand diverse perspectives, paradigms and types of research. The programme was the right stepping stone at the right time. I do not have a clear career path in my mind; I will probably again move a different direction after my PhD.



## REBECA KOLOFFON CAMARENA

BUILDING CAPACITIES ADVISOR, UNDP, MEXICO

[www.mx.undp.org](http://www.mx.undp.org)



I am working as a Building Capacities Advisor at the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme of UNDP in Mexico. My main task is to develop the building capacities programme for rural communities, NGOs and governmental counterparts. The aim of this programme is to guide development processes with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies. Other important components of my job consist of mediation between local counterparts such as NGOs and local governments, working on the introduction and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, and supervising the field work done at municipalities through a group of municipal advisors and local promoters.

What I like most about my job is facilitating workshops, either at governmental level or with NGOs or communities. It gives me great satisfaction when the participants understand the importance of reducing the risk of disasters, and come up with ideas that can be implemented in their area of influence in order to reduce risks and achieve more secure processes of development.

The MSc programme Development and Rural Innovation has contributed to my understanding of development as a complex and wide process that involves both economic- and humanitarian aspects, and always entails social issues and implications. The courses stressed the importance of implementing participatory bottom-up approaches in which local people are important actors that can build their own processes of development. In addition, I learned that decision-making processes should always consider local knowledge in combination with the “hard” sciences, in order to have relevant development processes.



**TESSA STEENBERGEN**

FILMMAKER, OWN COMPANY, THE NETHERLANDS

[www.tessasteenbergen.nl](http://www.tessasteenbergen.nl)



Stories matter. Stories affirm who we are. Stories connect us. Stories cross the barriers of time. Stories let us leap over cultural walls and feel what others feel. As a filmmaker I find inspiration in stories of ordinary people with strong ideals. It is my job to bring the characters close to the audience and expose their personal struggles against a specific cultural and political background. This is where my background in social science comes in.

During my MSc in Development and Rural Innovation, I wrote my thesis as an ethnography. It was a collection of stories on Congolese refugees in the Netherlands and their search for identity. Once I discovered the power of storytelling, I started a minor in visual anthropology at another university, where I learned to use a camera, edit the material and make a film. After graduating I went out in the world to document stories and I absolutely loved it.

Although filmmaking is not primarily a skill I learned during this MSc programme, I can use the knowledge that I gained very well. I am able to translate research goals and project outcomes into a visual product. I mainly work with clients in the (rural) development sector and my background helps me to advise them. This MSc programme will guide you through the academic world with a lot of freedom to experiment and discover. If you decide to pick this programme, chances are you will find your passion and unique talents. Have fun with writing your own story!



## SJORS BIJEN

MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER, SESAME  
BUSINESS NETWORK (SBN) SUPPORT PROGRAMME,  
ETHIOPIA - [www.sbnetiopia.org](http://www.sbnetiopia.org)



I am working as a Monitoring & Evaluation Officer for the Sesame Business Network (SBN) Support Programme in Ethiopia. This programme supports the sesame business network in northwest Ethiopia by facilitating a more active interaction among stakeholders, such as farmer groups, enablers and supporters of the sesame value chain. The overall goal of the programme is to contribute to income improvement of farmers, small and medium entrepreneurs and labourers by means of production cost, price reduction and product and market development.

One of my main tasks is conducting a study on labour in the sesame sector, which is important as the programme focuses on the whole sesame value chain including labourers. In addition, I am setting up a monitoring and evaluation system consisting of both quantitative and qualitative elements, and I support the implementation of coaching and facilitation activities.

Although sometimes the working circumstances are difficult, this job really fits me. I enjoy being in the field to gather data and try to understand what is really happening in developing countries such as Ethiopia. In addition, I am gaining experience about the aid-and-trade approach of the Dutch government. The MSc programme Development and Rural Innovation enabled me to make a bridge between the social and natural sciences and gave me the possibility to create my own unique study programme focusing on issues such as food security, public health and post-disaster development, which I would really like to work on now and in the future.



## MODUPE OSHARODE

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT/MONITORING & EVALUATION OFFICER, INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURE (IFAD), NIGERIA - [www.ifad.org](http://www.ifad.org)



I work as a Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation Officer for the Natural Resources Management Programme of the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) in Nigeria. My tasks include the planning and the evaluation of programme activities, the arranging of field activities to interact with farmers, and I collect and manage data. Besides this, it's about ensuring proper documentation and sharing of knowledge, and organising and carrying out activities and events that will create visibility and publicity for the programme.

The most interesting aspect of my job is that it is challenging; there is no dull day. I am in the field interacting with farmers on various agricultural issues, I am planning, monitoring, evaluating or implementing activities. I collect a lot of data from the field, which I analyse to understand the farmers' point of view. I make reports about successes and lessons learned for superiors, partners, donors and other stakeholders, that can tell 'our' story. The job keeps me both physically and intellectually alert.

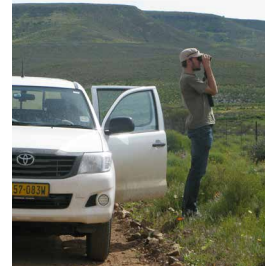
I have found many aspects of the MSc Development and Rural Innovation very useful for the work I am doing now. The courses on communication for rural innovation, research methods, and facilitation strategies were outstanding for me. They gave me a very in-depth understanding of practical events that I experience during my job and enable me to provide advice with a sound of professional confidence that I was lacking before I undertook this programme.





## ONNO GILLER

JUNIOR SPECIALIST, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE (IITA), THE NETHERLANDS/AFRICA - [www.iita.org](http://www.iita.org) | [www.humidtropics.cgiar.org](http://www.humidtropics.cgiar.org)



I am currently employed as a Junior Specialist on Responsible Scaling and Innovation at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in the Humidtropics programme of the CGIAR. I started as a junior researcher within the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Group of Wageningen UR, and have mainly been working on the up-scaling of agro-ecology in Nicaragua and banana disease control methods in Central and Eastern Africa.

In the coming months, the project in Central and Eastern Africa will be central to my work, I will be carrying out my research in collaboration with two other former Development and Rural Innovation students. We will research, through workshops, interviews and surveys what drives and motivates farmers and stakeholders to change their behaviour and adopt innovations. Other work involves supporting on-going Humidtropics work, as well as writing a PhD proposal on climate change adaptation. What I seriously enjoy about my work is to be involved in interdisciplinary research that is continuously challenging me and furthering my skills.

The most important things that I learned during the MSc Development and Rural Innovation are to think critically, write scientifically, carry out research, and combine knowledge of the natural and social sciences. The programme gave me the freedom to do my own research, travel the world and do an internship in a project, which is something that is not offered in many places. I did not only finish my degree with new knowledge and skills, but also with friends from all over the world, with whom I still meet up from time to time.



## **LISETTE VAN DER BOOG**

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ANALYST, FMO,  
ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK  
THE NETHERLANDS - [www.fmo.nl](http://www.fmo.nl)



After finishing my MSc in Development and Rural Innovation, I started working as an intern on Knowledge Management and Innovation at FMO, the Dutch Development Bank. I then applied for a position as Capacity Development Analyst and was hired. This means that I am working with FMO's clients (mainly banks and microfinance organisations) to improve their performance and help them to become more competitive in a sustainable way. My job is very diverse: I am involved in the process of setting up new projects with clients, asking for internal approval, drafting contracts and monitoring projects.

During my MSc I conducted research for the 'Samenwerkende Hulporganisaties' (Giro 555) in the Netherlands and a local NGO in Bangladesh, which gave me insight in what kind of job I was looking for: something related to developing countries, but in a business-like way. This meant that my first preference was not to work at an NGO, but at an organisation focused on doing business in developing countries and stimulating the local economy. With its mission to empower entrepreneurs to build a better world, FMO is exactly what I was looking for.

Because of this MSc programme I am more aware of the different perspectives people have on problems and solutions. Together with my technical BSc in Industrial Engineering and Management, I feel that I have the perfect background to work at FMO: I know how to analyze problems, but I also know that there is not 'one' right solution!



**GEKE KIEFT**

COMMUNICATION, MONITORING & EVALUATION  
OFFICER, ZOA

[www.zoa.nl](http://www.zoa.nl)



I work as a Communication, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer for Disaster Response programmes of ZOA, a Dutch humanitarian organisation that supports people that suffer from armed conflict and natural disasters in 15 countries worldwide.

One of the things I like about the job is the fact that I have an opportunity to let people's stories be heard. What is the impact of war or disaster on a person's life and how are people coping with the situation. At the same time I get a clear idea of what their needs are and how we can improve the quality of our support to displaced and refugee communities as well as host communities. I enjoy the fact that this job involves a lot of travelling and working at the project locations, often meeting the most resilient and inspiring people.

What was interesting about studying Development and Rural Innovation is the interdisciplinary way of thinking that we have been exploring throughout the programme. People from very diverse backgrounds, both professionally and culturally, worked and discussed together during several assignments and numerous lectures. Courses on communication and education have been helpful for my current career as well as more practical courses such as the course facilitation of interactive processes. I chose this MSc programme because I wanted to gain more knowledge on the social aspects of humanitarian aid and development. The cohesion in the student group was very strong and there was a lot of freedom to choose the subjects I was interested in.



## ESMÉ STUART

POLICY OFFICER, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
THE NETHERLANDS

[www.government.nl/ministries/bz](http://www.government.nl/ministries/bz)



I work at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Social Development Department, Civil Society Division. After my internship during my studies, I got a contract and officially became a policy officer. My division is responsible for a large subsidy programme for Dutch NGOs that work on capacity-development of local organisations, related to themes like sustainability, land rights, sexual rights and health worldwide.

Currently, I am working on the follow-up of this subsidy programme. There is less money available; how can we use it strategically to impact people's lives positively? How can we guarantee that NGOs strengthen local activities within the local context? Our new policy focuses on supporting the political role of NGOs in strengthening the voice of local people to ensure good legislation within the governmental and private sector. Another important aspect of my job is securing that NGOs can indeed fulfil this political role, since many countries have legislation that threatens the space for NGOs to operate. In my work, my MSc in Development and Rural Innovation is very useful. My background helps to think about the effects of decision-making here on the local context there.

My experience is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is an open working environment. I get a lot of freedom and responsibility to work on policy development. Everyone working at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is very critical towards our common performance, and driven to improve our results whether related to trade agreements, sexuality or drugs. All in all, never a dull moment as a civil servant!



## BEN CORRIGAN

PROGRAMME MANAGER, GERMAN RED CROSS, HAITI  
[www.drk.de](http://www.drk.de)



I work as a Programme Manager for the German Red Cross in Haiti providing basic services (food security, primary healthcare, water and sanitation) to remote rural communities. One of my responsibilities is to ensure that technical staff integrates social dimensions into their work and build real partnerships with stakeholders on the ground. I also write reports for donors, manage project budgets and contribute to strategic thinking at headquarters in Berlin. It's a cliché to say, but no two days are ever the same. And to top it off, I am privileged to be helping those worse off to lead more prosperous and dignified lives.

As a Development and Rural Innovation graduate, I feel confident in working to address food insecurity (and other agro-food system issues) in an increasingly complex world. In my day-to-day work I feel a lot more at ease in proposal writing and social surveys as a result of the classes both in field research methods I followed, and my thesis, even though I found them challenging at times.

What first attracted me to this MSc programme was Wageningen University, because of its unparalleled global reputation in agricultural research. Wageningen may be small, but it is outward looking and welcoming. I was supported to develop my own learning pathway, and classes were always stimulating, (sometimes exciting!) encouraged by a devoted body of lecturers, support staff and students. This MSc programme is a gateway to a great career if you are looking to work in the rural development sector or continue in academia.



## ANIEK HEBINCK

JUNIOR RESEARCHER, RURAL SOCIOLOGY GROUP,  
WAGENINGEN UR, THE NETHERLANDS

[www.wageningenur.nl/rso](http://www.wageningenur.nl/rso)



After my graduation, I got a job as a junior researcher at the Rural Sociology Group within a large EU-funded project called 'TRANSMANGO' that aims to explore sustainable food systems. I am co-responsible for the case-studies in the Netherlands.

Parallel to this, I am starting a PhD, based on both the EU-project and my own research. My research will focus on the relation between sustainable food provisioning and food insecurity in a Dutch and an European case-study.

What I like most about my job is that I can explore the issues that I find interesting through my PhD and at the same time work in a team within the EU-project. Doing a PhD offers a lot of opportunities to meet people from different countries and learn from each other, like going to summer schools, conferences and meetings. I am very excited about doing my own research for an extended period, although this is also a huge challenge.

Because of the MSc Development and Rural Innovation I was able to make a switch from natural (food & nutrition) to social science (sociology of food). I experienced it as a crash-course, as you are immersed in a totally new way of thinking in a relatively short period of time. The programme gave me the tools to explore my nutrition science background from a sociological perspective. Lastly, what I very much appreciated were my classmates: the different cultural backgrounds and (life) experiences made it a truly interesting and fun experience to me!



## ZEFIRINUS LEWOEMA

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICER, LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT EAST FLORES DISTRICT, INDONESIA



I am working as an Agricultural Extension Officer at the local government of the East Flores district in Indonesia. I am responsible for 150 extension workers and more than 1000 farmer units in the district. My main duties are firstly to provide materials for and to monitor and evaluate extension processes that focus on both behavioural and non-behavioural aspects of agriculture. My second main duty is to collaborate with villagers to build an effective extension programme combining traditional culture, technology and gender aspects.

I like my job since it is full of interaction with farmers. We try to change the old method of extension which was very formal into an informal approach by contacting farmers using a personal visiting programme, group meetings and mass media. We also have access to the local radio to communicate with farmers. However, working with such a large number of people in a highly complex context is not an easy job.

Many times, we think that the technical knowledge and skills that we learn at university are sufficient to answer farmers' problems, but it is not that easy to transfer knowledge and skills to local people who have limited educational background. I chose to study Development and Rural Innovation, because it answered my difficulties in applying technical knowledge, especially for rural people. In this interactive programme, I learned how to understand the dynamics in communities and human practices. Many of the courses were very useful for me and I still really practice the knowledge that I gained.



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