The world is changing and is becoming more unpredictable and uncontrollable. This holds for both social and natural conditions, with climate change and globalisation being major drivers of change in the world. People around the world are increasingly exposed to extreme weather events, economic crises, food crises, disease epidemics, social instability and political conflicts. The resulting insecurity not only affects the global social and economic systems, but also (local) food systems and their farmers who stand at the basis of food production.

Farming in a changing world

Insecurity is inherently linked to farming. Increasingly farmers and other food chain actors are dealing in many ways with multiple and simultaneous shocks and changes affecting food systems. While coping with increased insecurity, the agricultural sector also needs to face future challenges of feeding a growing and urbanising population with changing dietary demands and at the same time reducing the environmental impact of agricultural activities. This requires sustainable intensification (getting more from less), with reduced vulnerability to perturbations.

Systems approach

This course aims to offer a systems thinking and systems dynamics approach on agriculture as well as skills and tools to design innovative, resilient and sustainable food systems. It looks at how to balance between producing food, managing natural resources, dealing with uncertainty and providing a livelihood base for the rural population. It will move beyond the technical realm looking also at the role and involvement of public, private and civil stakeholders for inclusion of social, environmental, economic, and political aspects.

Designing resilient and sustainable food system

Would you like to better understand how to design interventions, strategies and policies for resilient and sustainable food systems in your own local context? Then this course might be something for you.

The overall objectives of this course are to:

- Understand the global future challenges of food production and the effects on different scales of farming;
Apply a system dynamics approach for analysing food systems in order to find new balances between producing food, managing natural resources, dealing with uncertainty and providing a livelihood base for the rural population in a changing world.

Knowledge and skills will be strengthened and after this two weeks course you will:

− have a deeper understanding on how global development trends and challenges affect farming practices and policies at local and national levels;
− be able to use various tools and techniques to analyse food systems and to identify critical issues for change;
− be able to develop innovative and practical oriented interventions, strategies and policies for transition to resilient and sustainable food systems, which are socially, economically and ecologically balanced;
− understand the role of stakeholders and involve them in making food systems more resilient and sustainable.

As a participant you receive an extensive, interactive and participatory training where theory is merged with practice. Course activities will comprise lectures, discussions, group work, case studies, assignments and excursions. Both core and cross-cutting topics will be covered during the course. The programme is flexible to suit participants’ needs and participants’ case studies are the basis of the group work. Furthermore, this course creates a unique opportunity to meet with course colleagues from around the world, with similar interest, and to share experiences and learn from each other.

Requirements
We invite technical staff, policymakers, scientists, private sector professionals and programme/project managers who want to build resilient and sustainable food system in their home countries, to enrol. Participants should be proficient in English, and have at least a BSc degree or an equivalent academic qualification and preferably several years of work experience in the agricultural domain.

Further practical information
Application, the procedure is:

1) **Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation** [www.wur.eu/cdi](http://www.wur.eu/cdi)
   You will receive a confirmation and more information within a week. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (e.g. funding, visa) can take some time.

2) Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support, however if you want to apply for a **OKP/MENA Fellowship**, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation will provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in **ATLAS**. ATLAS is the online application form for an OKP/MENA Fellowship. You can check the eligibility at [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl) or [www.nuffic.nl/mena](http://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**.

− **Location:** The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. **OKP / MENA 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.