International course

Evaluating and managing for sustainable development impact

An integrated approach to participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation
Wageningen, The Netherlands, 18 March – 5 April 2019

What this course is about
The development landscape has changed significantly over the last few decades, becoming increasingly complex. Many of the issues we face today, such as climate change, poverty and conflict, call for a new way of doing business, so as to collaboratively contribute towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Managing for Sustainable Development Impact (M4SDI) approach has evolved to support leaders and development practitioners how to navigate this complexity and manage their initiative/organisation successfully towards sustainable development impact.

The M4SDI approach is an integrated, results oriented management approach, which can be used across a range of sectors and domains in a variety of contexts. It addresses some of the most pressing concerns, such as engaging primary stakeholders, designing effective strategies and related monitoring and evaluation (M&E), focusing on capacity development, and responding to change in a complex context.

Being responsive and proactive Whether you work in agriculture, health, social change processes, natural resource management, value chain development or sectors, initiatives need to connect appropriately to context specifics. This relates to variables such as stakeholder interests and relationships, relevant policies and legislation, socio-economic and socio-political conditions, environmental conditions such as climate change, and more. Because of the changing nature of that context, management needs to be responsive and proactive. This enhances your (organisation’s) readiness to navigate the challenges that will come your way.

Fee: 4,100 Euro
Deadline subscription: 4 February 2019
Deadline OKP/MENA fellowships: 16 October 2018

Effective M&E capacities and functions activate the ability to be responsive and proactive. Rather than being a mere add-on, M&E then becomes pivotal in navigating evolving processes and changing contexts in which many development initiatives operate.

The M4SDI approach consists of core processes, underpinned by key orientations that determine the nature and scope of these processes, and supported by communication and capacities and conditions to implement these core processes. The core processes includes strategic guidance, effective operations and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Key features of M4SDI include its people centred approach and how it seeks to integrate planning, monitoring and evaluation processes. The M4SDI approach builds on theoretical insights and experience gained over 15 years, with feedback from colleagues, partners and over 800 practitioners trained in the approach. In 2017 a book has been published based on this approach: http://tinyurl.com/k4vt3bd

We invite managers and senior M&E officers This course is more than a M&E course. It focuses on M&E in the context of and at the service of core management processes. We welcome participants who are interested in making that connection work for sustainable development impact, whether they are from government offices, (I)NGOs, knowledge institutes, private sector, or consultancy firms.
Connecting your learning to home realities
The course is highly interactive and links the theory and concepts to the experience and expertise of participants. A selection of case studies from participants will be used as material for practice. Active discussions, group assignments, role plays as well as networking are part of the interactive mode of facilitation. You will receive individual coaching by peers and course facilitators in translating and adapting course content to an approach that is appropriate and feasible for application back home.

Strengthening your competencies to manage for sustainable development impact
This course first of all strengthens your competency to manage for impact in your own individual sphere of work. Secondly, it helps you play a more effective role in helping your organisation manage for sustainable development impact. The course programme will address four interlinked fields of study:

1. First things first
   Learn about principles and practice of strategic thinking, foresight, change management, interactive processes, the learning organisation and conflict management. This builds up a strategic attitude that needs to underpin the other areas of learning. You will also find out what is on international agendas concerning M&E to position your work in a relevant (development) policy context;

2. Knowing what you need to know
   Learn about what is involved in developing a proper understanding about a situation in which we want to make a difference. This relates to situation analysis, visioning and developing change scenarios;

3. Understanding what it takes to make a difference
   Learn about translating context understanding and strategic foresight to strategic design and effective operations. You will learn about new methods such as articulating theories of change/action and how to work with commonly used tools such as the logical framework;

4. Are we doing the right things and are we doing things right?
   Learn to develop appropriate M&E plans based on clear information needs (and indicators), intended users of M&E information and how to activate M&E towards effectively informing management decision making. This includes the need to give account of efforts and investments to key stakeholders. You will also explore practical implications such as needed capacities and conditions for M&E in particular, and for managing for sustainable development impact in general.

Managing for sustainable development impact (M4SDI) is about more than adopting a set of tools and methods. However, throughout the course we will highlight and work with a range of helpful tools, methods, systems and practices that help shape M4SDI processes.

Further practical information
Application, the procedure is:
1) Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation 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 (f.e. 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 / MSP (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/MSP Fellowship. You can check the eligibility at www.nuffic.nl 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.

   - Location: The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. OKP / MSP 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.

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