Dear alumnus,

As Rector Magnificus of Wageningen University, I have the pleasure to invite you to a Wageningen Alumni event in Belgium on Wednesday 30th October 2013. This event will be held at the Thon Hotel EU in Brussels. The title of this event is “Food Security & Nutrition”.

Wageningen University is celebrating its 95th Anniversary this year and to mark this occasion we are offering our alumni a programme of events throughout the year in the Netherlands and worldwide. This event forms part of a series of international debates around the central theme “Food Security and the role of Wageningen University”. Our aim is to bring together participants in the Wageningen UR (University and Research centre) network in Belgium to share our knowledge.

Preliminary Programme
Attached to this letter you will find the preliminary programme for this event. The final programme will be sent to all registered participants one week before the event takes place.

Registration for this event is compulsory so we kindly request you to register as soon as possible at: www.wageningenur.nl/registration-alumni-belgium
Further information on this event can also be found on this website page.

Finally, please forward and share this information with other alumni of Wageningen UR with whom you are in contact or know about!

We hope that many Wageningen alumni will attend this meeting.

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Martin Kropff
Rector Magnificus Wageningen University
Preliminary programme Alumni Meeting in Brussels
Wednesday 30th October 2013

Location: Thon Hotel EU
Rue de la Loi 75
B-1040 Brussels

Title: “Food Security & Nutrition”

Food is essential for the functioning of all living organisms. In addition to energy, food also provides other essential compounds such as the proteins, vitamins and micro-nutrients necessary for life. In humans, the food choices made by consumers have a major effect on health and wellbeing, and the importance of a balanced diet is well-known. Food security involves not only food availability and production but also food access and use. In other words, it goes beyond the production of sufficient food. Nutrition refers to the process involved from the choice and consumption of food up to its effects on health and well-being of individuals.

Realising sustainable food and nutrition security is a central issue for the coming decades, containing a wide range of related topics. A recurrent question is whether food production can keep pace with a growing global population. Although nutrition security is much broader than food production, food security is a prime prerequisite for nutrition security. We are also witnessing a consumerist shift where decisions by consumers and retailers increasingly have consequences throughout the food system. Shifting consumer cultures, changing diets, demands for more sustainability in food and decisions on whether or not to accept particular food products, such as GMO’s, cannot be ignored by the other actors in the supply chain.

Understanding of socio-economic, cultural and political dynamics in a broad array of agro-food systems around the world serves as an inspiring resource for designing sustainable pathways to future food provision. This alumni meeting will present stimulating presentations and discussions on various aspects of this important topic.

17.00 hours Opening and Welcome by Martin Kropff
Rector Magnificus Wageningen University

17.15 hours Presentation by Prof. dr. Raoul Bino
Director Agrotechnology & Food Sciences Group
Wageningen University & Research centre

Presentation by Eric Poudelet
Director Safety of the Food Chain
European Commission, DG SANCO - Health and Consumers
Directorate E - Safety of the Food Chain

Presentation by Alumnus Wageningen University
(to be confirmed)

18.15 – 19.00 hours Discussion with alumni and speakers on presentations on Food Security & Nutrition
Moderator: Dr. Robert van Gorcom
Director RIKILT
Wageningen University & Research centre

19.00 hours Drinks