

International course

Integrated seed sector development



Creating vibrant, market-oriented and pluralistic seed sectors

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 6 – 24 May 2019

Seed is an essential input for crop production. Access of farmers to affordable quality seed of superior varieties is key in increasing agricultural production and productivity. Supporting the development of a vibrant and pluralistic seed sector can substantially contribute to increasing food security and economic development in developing countries. If you strive to broaden your international experience and strengthen your competencies to support seed sector development taking an integrated perspective, this course is an interesting opportunity.

Contemporary lessons in seed sector development

Public sector seed programmes in most developing countries targeted the dissemination of quality seed of improved varieties in the 1970s and '80s, assuming that with these efforts the informal seed system would disappear. The orientation of 1990s shifted towards the withdrawal of the public sector, promoting privatisation and liberalisation of the seed market. However, only for a limited number of crops, mainly hybrid maize commercial seed production appears to be successful. Throughout the world, the largest quantities of seed are still produced by farmers themselves.

Integrated seed sector development

Integrated Seed Sector Development (ISSD) acknowledges and appreciates the unique challenges faced by a sector characterised by diversity and complexity. In steady of addressing it by linear and independent pathways, it promotes a pluralistic approach and complementary seed systems' development. ISSD aims to better link informal and formal seed systems, and balance public and private sector involvement. It explores variation among seed value chains with the aim of making seed programmes

Fee:	4,100 Euro
Deadline subscription:	25 March 2019
Deadline OKP / MENA fellowships:	16 October 2018

and policies more coherent with farmers' practices. As such ISSD aims to contribute to overarching objectives of food security, economic development, the promotion of agricultural entrepreneurship, and biodiversity conservation and use.

New professionalism in the seed sector

The overall objective of the training programme is to enhance your capabilities to translate the ISSD concept towards strategies for making seed programmes and policies more coherent with farmers' practices. You will learn to facilitate interactions between formal and informal seed systems, and to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the seed sector. Four course modules guide you through a process in meeting your expectations.

Module 1 Concepts and practice of ISSD

- Informal seed systems: why are farmers in developing countries still largely dependent on farm-saved seed?
- Stimulating local seed business: why are community-based seed production schemes often unsustainable and how can you support farmer groups in taking an entrepreneurial approach towards seed production?
- Strengthening commercial seed companies: what are challenges and opportunities as well as key strategies for profitable and sustainable seed production and trade?

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- Supportive public sector: how can you strengthen the public functions in seed sector development like seed quality control and varietal registration?
 - Partnerships and innovation: how can you through multi-stakeholder platforms and public-private partnerships work on institutional issues that hamper the development of the seed sector?
 - Integrated Seed Sector Development: what are opportunities for bringing the ISSD concept into practice in your own work?

Module 2: Evolving policies

- International policies: How do different international agreements such as WTO-TRIPS, IPRs, UPOV, Farmers Rights and Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms for genetic resources impact on domestic seed policies, seed laws and regulatory frameworks?
- Regional harmonisation: How does regional harmonisation of seed policies impact on national seed sector development?

Module 3: Seed business study tour

- Field study: Visits to different Dutch seed companies and organisations supporting this strong Dutch top-sector, will expose you to state-of-the-art Dutch seed business environments and allows direct interactions with company managers and their staff. A real eye-opener.

Module 4: Action planning

- Proposal development: Concluding with the development of proposals and action plans, allows you to integrate all course topics and relate them to the reality of your working situation.

Become a fellow resource person

The training can is an experience-based forum and is task-oriented and highly interactive. We facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience through a variety of formats, including lectures, case studies, group discussions, assignments and field work. Bringing your own knowledge and experience, you are a resource person for the training. Senior experts from Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR, who are involved in seed sector development in Africa, Asia and Europe will introduce topics, after which you and your peers work in small groups using your own case studies.

The course is designed for researchers, managers, policy makers and practitioners; working in a field related to seed sector development; and employed by public, private, civil society, research, education and/or development organisations. Applicants should be fluent in English, have a Master degree and at least three years of relevant professional experience.

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/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 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 / 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.