

International course

Plant genetic resources and seeds



Community resilience in the face of change

Jeypore and Chennai, India, October 27 – 14 November 2014



Why strive for diversity? Commercialisation of food markets often leads to a simplification in the range of crops cultivated in agricultural systems. This loss of genetic resources has resulted in major concerns about future food and nutrition security and the vulnerability of agricultural systems towards pests, diseases and climate variability, successfully pushing this topic towards the top of the international development agenda. Various research and development programmes have addressed the topic of farmers' and communities' roles in the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, concluding that *in situ* conservation can only be realised through the empowerment of farming communities. By facilitating learning through experience using genetic diversity, such research and development programmes can assist farming communities in their responsiveness to adapt to change.

On-farm management of diversity for empowerment CBM is a methodology guiding practices that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and nutrition security at the local level. CBM distinguishes itself from other conservation strategies because of its focus on the process of enabling communities to secure their access to and control over genetic resources through increased decision-making power. In addition, CBM has the potential attributes to enhance the resilience of local communities in responding to change by enhancing social interdependence, collaboration, adaptability and autonomy.

Whilst this strategy for conserving and managing agrobiodiversity is becoming increasingly adopted by NGOs, further mainstreaming within national programmes is needed. The learning and innovation approach of CBM enhances the transformation of 'work in process' into 'learning and innovation for progress'.

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| Fee: | 3,400 Euro |
| Deadline subscription: | 15 September 2014 |
| Deadline NFP fellowships: | 06 May 2014 |



How can professionals contribute to enhance community resilience?

If you strive to strengthen the conservation and use of plant genetic resources, then linking your endeavours to the development of rural communities that are secure in their food and nutrition and are well equipped to autonomously respond to change may be the most applied solution. The training programme is designed for public, civil, research, education and/or development professionals who may be practitioners in a range of related development projects, or originate from policy advocacy and awareness lobbying groups. Applicants should be fluent in English, have a bachelor's degree and at least three years professional experience in a relevant field.

The training is experience-based and task-oriented. Bringing your own knowledge and experience, you are a resource person for the training. Senior experts from partner organisations introduce topics, after which you and your peers work in small groups using your own case studies. The training includes field work in Jeypore district, in a site which is one of the globally important agricultural heritage systems. MSSRF has been working with tribal communities in this area for more than 20 years. The course concludes with a design exercise for transforming lessons learnt into strategic action plans, in which participants integrate CBM and resilience in practice.



What can you expect to be delivered?

The overall objective of the training programme is to enhance your capability to apply the state of the art in integrated strategies for managing PGRFA and enhancing community resilience. Furthermore, you should be able to identify the opportunities in your local context to integrate CBM in programme development and implementation strategies. The training draws upon a wealth of experience among our partners in the global 'CBM and Resilience' project, recently initiated under the Benefit Sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA). Furthermore, the programme pays special attention to participatory approaches, and places CBM into relevant local, national and international policy contexts.

The training focuses on the following topics:

- contemporary approaches in conservation strategies;
- conceptual framework of CBM, its' components and practices, i.e. Diversity fair, Biodiversity Register, Participatory Crop Improvement, Gene-seed-grain-water bank, Community knowledge center, Value addition and marketing of underutilised and neglected crops, Gene fund etc.;
- linking *ex-situ* conservation with on-farm management of PGRFA;
- integrated seed systems;
- managing PGRFA in dynamic landscapes;
- managing PGRFA in unpredictable environments, climate hot spots and vulnerabilities;
- community empowerment and enhancing resilience;
- relationship between social learning, diversity and resilience;
- participatory learning and action research;
- evolving policies; i.e. CBD-Nagoya Protocol on ABS, ITPGRFA-Farmers right, Multilateral system, Benefit sharing fund, Intellectual Property Rights, UPOV, WTO-TRIPS and regional policy frameworks;
- putting policies into practices and programmes, i.e. global outlook on successful mechanisms and initiatives.

The first part of the training will be implemented at the MSSRF premises in Jeypore, Orissa; the second part is organised at the MSSRF headquarters in Chennai.

The organising committee reserves the right to change the programme if necessary.

Partners The training programme is organised by Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen UR and the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN, www.cgn.wur.nl/UK), in cooperation with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in India (MSSRF, www.mssrf.org).

Further practical information

- **For application**, the procedure is:
 - 1) Apply at the website of CDI, Wageningen UR**
: www.wageningenur.nl/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) If you want to apply also for a NFP Fellowship**, check the eligibility at www.nuffic.nl/nfp. A limited number of scholarships is available. To apply for it, register at this website through Scholarships Online. As this application takes time and requires several documents, we recommend you to **start it as soon as possible**.
- Participants will be granted a **Certificate** of attendance.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration). For prices, see cost estimate on our website.
- **NFP Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
- CDI is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support.

Proven concepts & state-of-the-art science and methodology For an overview of all the courses visit our website: www.wageningenur.nl/cdi. More than 20,000 participants have gained access to the latest insights from research and best practices. From September 2013, all participants of our courses offered in Wageningen will use tablets as a learning tool.

