

Contemporary approaches to genetic resources conservation and use

The Netherlands, 12 – 30 April 2010

Focus of the training programme

Biodiversity in agricultural systems is under pressure worldwide. The loss of plant and animal genetic resources by its declining use in modern agriculture has generated much concern about the future vulnerability of agricultural production and related pest and disease risks, food security and environmental stability. Various international conventions have addressed this topic; this has moved the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources issue to the top of the international development agenda.

Aims and objectives

The overall objective of the training programme is to enhance participants' capabilities to deal with the management of genetic resources activities and programmes. In addition, relevant policies regarding genetic resources will receive special attention. The course programme aims for participants and facilitators to exchange experiences and to enhance understanding of effective approaches towards the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture.

Training methods

The course provide the opportunity to learn from the broad range of international experience that is represented not only by our trainers, but also by other participants. Working in a job-orientated, interactive and experience-based setting, we facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience through a variety of formats: lectures, case studies, group discussions and assignments, and field study. The courses conclude with the development of proposals which integrate all course topics and relate them to the reality of the participants' working situations.

Who can participate?

The training programme is designed for project co-ordinators, senior staff, managers, trainers,

programme leaders and other professionals who aim to promote the conservation and use of genetic resources for agriculture from policy, research, education or development perspectives. Participants are employed by research institutes, public/private companies, universities, NGOs or other organisations with an agricultural development orientation. Applicants should have at least a BSc or the equivalent in training and experience. They should have at least three years of professional experience in a relevant field and be proficient in English.

Programme

The programme consists of two three-week courses offered in parallel sessions: (1) Genetic resource policies and genetic resource management strategies, and (2) Integrated and participatory approaches in agrobiodiversity management. Additionally, one-day workshops on special topics are organised in which the participants of both courses will join.

*Based on professional interests and institutional needs, participants have to make a choice in which course to participate. Preference for course needs to be indicated on the online application form. You can indicate this under **"What is the practical use of this course for your work?"** After definite selection in March 2010, Wageningen International will make the final programme known.*

Genetic resource policies and genetic resource management strategies

The first part of this module focuses on the history, contents and impacts of international agreements, in particular the CBD, IT-PGRFA and WTO-TRIPS, and their impact at the national and institutional level on genetic resources management. The second part focuses on current perspectives regarding the management of plant genetic resources, and provides

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insights and tools for more effective management approaches.

Topics addressed include:

- International agreements and their impact on national policy regimes
- Access and benefit-sharing issues
- Intellectual property rights issues
- Conservation strategies for genetic resources
- Collection management procedures
- Documentation systems
- Genetic analysis of germplasm
- Crop base broadening
- Design of strategic genetic resources management plans.

Integrated and participatory approaches in agrobiodiversity management

How can integrated and participatory approaches strengthen the agrobiodiversity management, in its different areas, i.e. conservation, crop improvement and seed sector development, at the genetic resources as well as the ecosystems level? This course will help participants to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of genetic resource management programmes, while actively involving stakeholders at all levels.

Topics addressed are:

- Formal and informal genetic resources systems
- Methodologies and tools for participatory learning and action
- Participatory approaches to agrobiodiversity management
- Community biodiversity management
- Participatory crop improvement
- Supporting local seed supply
- Adaptive management
- Project design addressing integrated approaches in agrobiodiversity management.

Special topics

The training includes three one-day workshops in which the participants of both courses elaborate specific topics in the management of genetic resources.

Topics to be addressed are in the area of genetic resources and climate change, biotechnology and market and chain development.

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

Partners

The training programmes are organised by Wageningen International and the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN, www.cgn.wur.nl) in collaboration with other partners of Wageningen UR (www.wur.nl), Bioversity International (www.bioversityinternational.org) and other national and international organisations that play a key role in genetic resource conservation and use.

Certificate

Participants are granted a Certificate of Attendance.

Fees and accommodation

The fee for this course is **€ 3500**. This amount excludes board and lodging and travel expenses. Participants will be accommodated at the Hof van Wageningen (formerly Wageningen International Conference Centre) with full board and lodging. Prices are available on request.

Fellowships

Fellowships are available from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for nationals of certain countries. NFP-candidates must FIRST apply to Wageningen International for admission to the training. The deadline for application with NFP is **1 November 2009**. Acceptable candidates will receive a PROVISIONAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE from Wageningen International. Candidates can then apply for a NFP fellowship through the Netherlands Embassy or Consulate in their own country. More information: www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/Courses , www.nuffic.nl

Please note that in all correspondence reference to the name of the training programme will be made. In February 2010 the definite selection for NFP will be made known.

Application

The admission deadline for application directly to Wageningen International, with funding other than a NFP fellowship, is **12 March 2010**. Early application is recommended. For online application and additional information on this course, please go to www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/ and click on the course of your interest.



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NFP-Fellowship application deadline: 1 November 2009
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Our terms and conditions are available at www.cdic.wur.nl