

International course

# Contemporary approaches to genetic resources conservation and use



## Plant genetic resources strategies and policies

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 8 - 24 April 2019

Genetic diversity is endangered by modern agriculture and globalisation. Modern production and marketing depends on genetically uniform varieties that deliver uniform food products. In addition, globalisation has resulted in a high uniformity of human diets.

### State-of-the-art insight in various plant genetic resources management strategies and its relevant policies

are addressed in the course, aiming to conserve plant genetic resources and their use. In many parts of the world a relatively small number of high-yielding uniform crop varieties have largely replaced the many landraces that were a feature of earlier times. Meanwhile, climate change will force farmers to change their choice of which crops and varieties to grow. As a result, more of the older varieties and breeds may disappear. Furthermore, the wild relatives of crops that still grow in nature might not be able to adapt or migrate in time. Various participatory programmes have been developed to support farmers in maintaining genetic diversity in their fields and foresters to use better adapted resources. In addition, genetic resources have been collected. Gene banks have been established to conserve our genetic diversity in living collections, and to study and use the properties contained in these collections.

Building on this strategic component, this course is devoted to an analysis of plant genetic resources policies and their impact on their conservation and use. Whereas a number of international agreements apply to the management of plant genetic resources, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, the WTO Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement and the UPOV convention on Plant Breeder's

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

Rights, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT-PGRFA) stands out as the agreement with most relevance to the management of plant genetic resources. This course is intended to support policy makers and other stakeholders in the implementation of the International Treaty.

**This course enhances participants' capabilities** to better understand current plant genetic resource management strategies and policies and to be able to apply and implement these strategies and policies.

**A course designed for mid-career professionals and policy makers** in policy, research, education or development arenas. Participants may be employed by ministries, research institutes, universities, companies, NGOs or other organisations involved in plant genetic resources. Applicants should have at least an MSc or equivalent in training and experience. They should have at least three years of professional experience in a relevant field and be proficient in English.

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## Working in a task-oriented, interactive and experience-based forum

we facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience through a variety of formats, including: lectures, case studies, group discussions, assignments and fieldwork. The training programme provides the opportunity to learn from the broad range of international experience that is represented not only by our trainers, but also by fellow participants. The programme concludes with the development of proposals and action plans which integrate all course topics and relate them to the reality of the participants' working situations.

The programme consists of a three-week course consisting of three blocks, namely:

1. **Plant genetic resources management strategies.** The first part addresses current perspectives, concepts and strategies regarding the conservation and use of genetic resources. The programme will address conservation strategies, the complementarity of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* approaches, the promotion of resource utilisation, participatory plant breeding methods, the role of documentation, and the opportunities for biotechnology applications.
2. **Genetic resource policy and management strategies.** The second part of this course focuses on the international policy framework (i.e. on the history and contents of international agreements), in particular on the CBD, IT-PGRFA, the WTO-TRIPS and UPOV, and the new Nagoya Protocol. The programme will address gene flows, economic interests, international agreements, access and benefit-sharing, farmers' rights, intellectual property rights, various regional policies, and the impact of respective policies on genetic resources management at different institutional levels.
3. **Implementation of the International Treaty.** The third part of this course addresses issues such as the need for new or impact on existing national legislation, the relation to other international agreements, in particular the Nagoya Protocol, the nature of the Multilateral System, the interpretations and role of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, the Funding Strategy, the aspects of Farmers' Rights. It also aims at sharing selected cases from

different parts of the world regarding the implementation of international treaty.

## Further practical information

**Application**, the procedure is:

- 1) **Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation** [www.wur.eu/cdi](http://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](http://www.studyinholland.nl) or [www.nuffic.nl/mena](http://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.