

Wageningen International Food and nutrition security

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 12 February – 27 April, 2007

Focus of the training programme

Worldwide, enough food is being produced to feed the global population. However, already for more than a decade, the absolute number of people who go to bed hungry remains stable at over 800 million. The world community has pledged to halve hunger by 2015, as stated in the Millennium Development Goal 1. The Task Force for Hunger, in her 2005 report, states that this goal is still achievable. A number of concrete strategies are outlined among which capacity building in developing countries.

'World Bank Urges Fight on Malnutrition'
(World Bank press release March 2, 2006).

'We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty....'
(Millennium Declaration, 2000)

'Shifting into forward gear - eliminating hunger is key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals'
(State of the World Food Insecurity, 2005)

The training programme focuses on knowledge and insights, programmes and policies on reducing hunger and alleviating malnutrition, from a multi-sectoral perspective. Food and nutrition security result from a complex web of cause and effect that transcends disciplines and sectors. Conventional sectoral approaches deal with only parts of the 'puzzle', such as food availability (agriculture), nutrition education (health), assessment of nutritional status (health), poverty alleviation (economic development). Successful food and nutrition security programmes require a combined effort of different sectors, an appropriate mix of both governmental and non-governmental involvement, and activities at various levels (national and sub-national policy level, implementation aimed at the community, household and individual levels), in which the interests of different stakeholders are duly taken into account.

The training programme aims to train professionals who can catalyse and direct participatory processes leading to the development and implementation of integrated and intersectoral food and nutrition programmes. The training programme is organised in collaboration with the Division of Human Nutrition of Wageningen University. Lecturers/facilitators of Dutch, European, and international institutes are contributing to the training programme.

Aims and objectives

The training programme aims to provide the course participants with knowledge, skills and motivation to identify, plan and implement effective action on food and nutrition security at various levels, ranging from (national) policy level to regional, community, household and even individual level programmes.

The training programme can be followed as a complete 11 weeks' programme, which leads to a diploma at post graduate level. The programme is a combination of various courses, which can also be followed as 'stand alone' certificate courses. The content of the courses is described below. The following courses are included in the training programme: Key Concepts and Current Issues, a seminar on the Rights Based Approach to Food; Food and Nutrition Security in the context of HIV/AIDS; Monitoring and Evaluation of Impact on Food and Nutrition Security; Nutrition Communication and Promotion; a new approach to nutrition education.



Who can participate?

The training programme is aimed at staff of governmental and non-governmental organisations in the following positions:

- Policy and planning staff at the national and subnational level with responsibility for promoting community and household food and nutrition security within different sectors (agriculture, education, health, community development, local government, planning, etc.);
- Staff working at management and co-ordination level in the planning, management, implementation and monitoring of community food security and nutrition programmes or rural development programmes with nutrition components; and
- Staff working in action-oriented research, advisory and teaching positions directly relevant to food and nutrition security.



Programme

Distance learning programme: Key concepts in food and nutrition

Available throughout the year **Code: 70/05**

This course is a computer-based self-study tutorial. For participants of the training programme on food and nutrition security who do not have a background in food security and nutrition, the tutorial can serve as a way to get acquainted with the key issues. For those who do have a background in food security and/or nutrition, the tutorial can serve as a refresher.

The course can be followed through internet or from a CD Rom. The necessary backstopping will be given by course staff. For participants of the complete training programme on food security and nutrition, the tutorial is integrated in the three weeks course "Key concepts and current issues in food and nutrition".

Subjects covered in the course are: world food situation, statistics and epidemiology, nutritional assessment, nutrition physiology, the concepts of household food security and nutrition security, vulnerable groups for nutrition and food hygiene.

Key concepts and current issues in nutrition **Feb 12 – March 3** **Code: 70/15**

The course aims to bring participants up to date with key concepts and current issues in the debate on food and nutrition security. The course is a combination of lectures and the above described computer-based tutorial on key concepts in food and nutrition. At the end of the course the participants are expected to be conversant with the conceptual frameworks in food security, livelihood security and nutrition, and up to date in recent discussions and insights into important themes in food and nutrition. Issues covered include: the concept of "public health nutrition", state of the art in micro-nutrient malnutrition, recent insights into anthropometry, nutrition in the lifecycle, identifying the various vulnerable groups and explaining inter-generational effects of malnutrition, and nutrition in emergencies. In addition, attention will be given to supporting topics like statistics and epidemiology.

Food and Nutrition Security in the context of HIV/AIDS **March 5 – 16** **Code: 70/65**

HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security are entwined in a vicious circle. HIV/AIDS by being an infectious disease is a 'drain' to the human body's nutritional reserves. An adequate nutritional situation is important to maintain quality of life and limit the occurrence of opportunistic infections. On the other hand, HIV/AIDS increases the risk of food (and nutrition) insecurity, mainly through loss of labour. Researchers have revealed many of the interactions between food and nutrition security and HIV/AIDS. The translation of this into practical policies and programmes is the necessary next step. This course aims to provide professionals working in food and nutrition security with the knowledge, skills and creativity, to incorporate the specific effects of HIV/AIDS on food and nutrition security in the design and implementation of programmes and interventions directed to improving food and nutrition security, with the specific aim to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the livelihood of affected households.

Seminar on Rights Based Approaches for Food March 19 – 23 Code: 70/20

In 1948 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted with article 25 addressing: “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food ...” This right to food has been reaffirmed by many international conventions, covenants and declarations, and is currently high on the agenda. In November 2004, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Food were accepted by 187 countries and the FAO Council. This is seen as an important step forwards. However, many questions remain on how to implement and effectuate the right to food. The seminar aims at stimulating the discussion on what ways and with what means a Rights Based Approach to Food can be integrated into the development agenda, and effectively implemented.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Impact on Food and Nutrition Security

March 26 – April 13

Code: 70/50

Increasingly and also reinforced by the attention for the Millennium Development Goals, there is a need to assess the impact of a variety of interventions, programmes and policies on food and nutrition security. Such monitoring and evaluation takes place by governments, international agencies but also at the level of NGOs. The course focuses on the design of information support systems at various levels (national, district/provincial, community or household), on data collection and analysis and on the institutional prerequisites for the systems in order for the information to be adequately used. Course participants will be working in groups on designing information systems. Course participants will be introduced to various software programmes relevant to monitoring and evaluation.

Nutrition communication and promotion; a new approach to nutrition education

April 16 – 27

Code: 70/70

Nutrition education, a commonly used intervention in nutrition improvement programmes and projects, often does not have the anticipated result. Although various approaches have been developed and implemented (e.g. Knowledge, Attitude, Practice/Behaviour), the behavioural change in food consumption and habits is often limited. In health education, insights in adult learning and in inducing behavioural change as provided by disciplines such as adult learning, social psychology, behavioural sciences have lead to other approaches known as health communication and health promotion. A parallel can be seen for nutrition communication and nutrition promotion.

These new approaches put much emphasis on influencing the “environment” in which the change of behaviour is to take place. Consultation with the target population is considered of utmost importance. Advocacy and lobbying can help to create the so-called “enabling environment”. During this course emphasis will be placed on the translation of “formative research” into nutrition educational messages for different audiences.

Wageningen International reserves the right to change the programme.



Training methods

All courses are job oriented and the training approach is interactive and experience-based: it provides the participants with the possibility to learn from expert facilitators as well as from each other. Transfer of knowledge goes hand in hand with case studies, working groups, etc. A mix of participants with different backgrounds, yet common interests, will provide a good basis for the exchange of experiences.

Wageningen International*

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Period: 12 February – 27 April 2007

Duration: 11 weeks

Application deadline for full programme: January 12, 2007

Fellowship application deadline: October 1, 2006

*The services of IAC have merged into Wageningen International

Requirements for admission

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- BSc. (as a minimum) or its equivalent in the field of food and nutrition, food science, home economics, agriculture, medicine or a related field of study;
- Professional position with tasks related to the theme of the course;
- At least three years of professional experience related to the theme of the course;
- Competence in the English language.



Certificate

Participants in one or more courses receive a certificate of attendance. A postgraduate diploma will be awarded to participants of the full training programme who have met the requirements as laid down by the Supervisory Board.

Fees

The tuition fee for a combination of courses will not exceed € 5150. The tuition fees for single courses are: € 1850 for 2 weeks and € 2800 for 3 weeks (unless another amount is specifically mentioned). The fee for the seminar is €925. The tuition fee includes administration fees, lecture materials and, if these are part of the programme, excursions.

Fellowships

A limited number of fellowships are available from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for nationals of a limited number of countries. **A NFP fellowship is only granted for the full programme.**

Candidates who wish to apply for such a fellowship should begin the application procedure as soon as possible. Candidates **FIRST** apply to Wageningen International for admission to the course.

Acceptable candidates will receive a letter from Wageningen International indicating that they have been **PROVISIONALLY** accepted. Candidates then apply for a NFP fellowship through the Netherlands Embassy or Consulate in their own country. Applications for NFP fellowships should be submitted to the Netherlands Embassy before **October 1st, 2006**. Further information: www.wi.wur.nl or www.nuffic.nl. Wageningen International has no funds for financing participants and regrets that it is unable to assist applicants in obtaining sponsorship.

Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated in Wageningen. Prices and conditions are available upon request. This sum is not included in the tuition fee.

Application

The fellowship application deadline is **October 1st, 2006**. This is the deadline for NFP application at the Dutch Embassy/Consulate. The admission deadline for application directly to Wageningen International, with funding other than a NFP fellowship, is **4 weeks before the start of the course**. Further information and application forms can be obtained from the address below.

Participants of the training programme

'I especially liked the integral focus, the multisectoral approach to food and nutrition the course offered.'

'The course allowed me to think more critically about food and nutrition issues and approach them in a more mature manner. I recommend the course to all those working in nutrition!'

'I learned in this course to use simple and few indicators in nutrition assessment, if possible, and to involve all stakeholders in planning and implementation.'