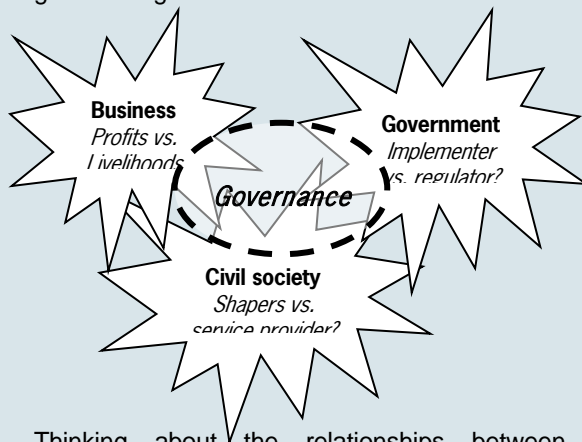


Course focus

The past decade has seen a growing interest in the role of governance in stimulating economic development and sustainable management of natural resources. Private enterprises are increasingly involved in (local) service delivery activities and local development processes; governments are involved in institutional reforms resulting in decentralisation and outsourcing of public services. Citizens are no longer seen as passive beneficiaries, but rather as active 'right holders' with the right to participate and demand good local governance.



Thinking about the relationships between government, the private sector and civil society has changed considerably. The role of governments is shifting towards creating an enabling environment and to facilitating development rather than steering it. A new institutional playing field is emerging between civil society, government and private parties in the quest for rural development and good governance of natural resources.

This has led to the understanding that local governance for rural development should be addressed as a multi-stakeholder process with interactions taking place at different levels amongst actors with different ambitions or perceptions. Particularly, the role of local governments is growing with their success being measured in terms of responsiveness and accountability to citizens; improved service delivery; its leadership in promoting pro-poor economic development; and its capacity to negotiate with the private sector, NGOs, local

authorities and central government. These changes challenge the actors involved to develop new "institutions" – formal and informal norms, procedures and practices, accountability relations – in order to adjust to new functions and challenges in society.

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation and the Royal Tropical Institute offer a course on the challenges faced around building local governance in support of rural development. By relating theory to practice, course participants, with support of trainers and resource persons, will analyse existing complex situations, and develop strategies to develop opportunities and overcome barriers. The focus is on multi-stakeholder processes and social learning as means of enhancing the success of the various strategies in use.

Aims and objectives

As a participant you will learn how to deal with the complexity of governance and the engagement with multiple actors each with their own ambitions. You will gain increased understanding of your organisation's current and desired position, roles, and interests in relation to local governance for rural development. You will work with multi-stakeholder and social learning concepts and methodologies for institutional change, and you will learn to reflect on them.

Training methods

The course uses interactive training methods and is facilitated by trainers and other resource persons with a wide experience in local governance issues in a number of settings. The course builds on the experiences of the participants, which will be discussed and compared with theories and practice around local governance in rural settings and its role in development, as well as change theories in general. Role plays, case studies and excursions will be incorporated.





Each day will finish with reflection on the practical consequences of the concepts discussed for each participant's organisation or service.

Target group

The course is designed for people who are involved with governance processes in a context of rural decentralisation. It is suitable for government officials, project and programme managers, policy makers, consultants, NGO staff, federations of community organisations or private sector organisations.

Requirements for admission

Candidates should meet the following requirements: relevant tertiary education, at least five years of experience in governance, decentralisation processes or multi-stakeholder processes in a rural environment, competence in English.

Programme

The main course topics are:

1. Defining good local governance. This topic investigates different perspectives and explores underlying paradigms of local governance.
2. Exploring institutional trends and implications for local governance, such as public sector reform; decentralisation and devolution; privatisation of public services; citizenship and civil society in strengthening local governance; aid assistance; sector-wide approaches; MDGs and global-local relations.
3. Multi-stakeholder and institutional analysis. This explores the roles of different actors and their relationships. It deals with issues of exclusion, participation in decision making and rights-based approaches.

4. Institutional change through Multi-stakeholder processes. This explores the strategies available to shape or change formal and informal institutions. It covers social learning and dialogue, conflict management, negotiation and advocacy, and social accountability mechanisms such as public hearings and social audits.
5. Connecting and collaboration with other levels. This topic explores changing horizontal and vertical configurations and implications for coordination, in particular around territorial and sector planning.
6. Accountability relations. This refers to all kind of accountability relations between citizens, governments and civil society organisations.
7. Preparation of a personal action plan aimed at strengthening your organisation's position, roles and actions in Local Governance and rural decentralisation.

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation and KIT reserve the right to change the programme.

Certificate

Participants will be granted a Certificate of Attendance.

Fees and accommodation

We can offer this course with a reduced tuition fee of **€2500**. This includes administration fees, lecture materials and excursions. Participants will be accommodated at the Hof van Wageningen hotel on the basis of full board and lodging. Prices are available upon request. These costs are not included in the tuition fee.

Application

The admission deadline for application directly to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation is **27 January 2012**.

For additional information and online application: www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda.

