

Facilitating multi-stakeholder processes and social learning

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 3 – 21 September 2012

Advanced course in the use of participatory approaches for institutional change

Course focus

Complex problems require innovative solutions. Such solutions are created when diverse stakeholders are able to meet, share experiences, learn together and contribute to decisions. Ultimate success then lies in developing the collective commitment and capacity to turn ideas and plans into action. This can be achieved through multi-stakeholder processes (MSPs) and social learning.

The course covers state-of-the-art thinking about participation from local to global level and introduces the most up-to-date methodologies and approaches for facilitation and participation. How MSPs and social learning relate to concepts such as complexity, dialogue, power and conflict, interactive policy making and adaptive management is fully explored.

Multiple stakeholder and social learning processes are part and parcel of most development processes, such as: integrated rural development initiatives; river basin management, market chains, development of poverty reduction strategies, interdisciplinary research programmes, food security initiatives, livelihood development, sector wide approaches, interactive policy making, decentralization programmes and community-based natural resource management (forestry, fisheries, wetlands).

How can MSPs work towards making sustainable development a reality? Typically MSPs involve policy makers, community and private sector representatives, NGOs, researchers and educators from different levels, sectors and disciplines. The degree and nature of their interests and interaction will vary and needs to be carefully analyzed, planned and facilitated. Issues of conflict, power and diversity need to be dealt with within MSPs. This leads to questions about the underlying assumptions and processes for societal change. The course will

explore these topics and examine the practical implications.

Aims and objectives

In order to provide you with state-of-the-art knowledge and skills for designing and facilitating multi-stakeholder and social learning processes, you will:

- Examine different types of multi-stakeholder processes and the linkages with social change, governance, power and conflict.
- Learn and practice how to use a broad range of participatory methodologies and tools in MSPs
- Analyze the types of institutional change and support necessary for effective MSPs.
- Discover how to design and plan an extended MSP
- Be challenged to assess the impact of your values and personal style on your competence as a facilitator.

Training methods

The course is highly interactive. The course builds on the participants' own experiences and cases of MSPs. You will have active discussions, work on group assignments, engage in role-plays and undertake fieldwork to explore a real-life MSP. You will experience facilitating a wide range of methodologies and tools. The course facilitators follow a flexible programme that allows adaptation to the specific needs of individuals and the group. For more information, contact karen.verhoosel@wur.nl

Who can participate?

The course is designed for people who already have a basic understanding of participation, some facilitation experience and have had exposure to participatory methodologies such as Participatory Rural Appraisal or Participatory Learning and Action. Participants have a task in facilitating MSPs in their current or future position. The course is suitable for project and programme managers, policy makers, consultants, researchers, NGO staff, community leaders, private sector representatives and postgraduate students.





Participants should meet the following requirements:

- relevant tertiary education
- three years of professional experience, preferably related to participation, facilitation and MSP
- competence in the English language.

Programme

The main topics of the course are:

1. Introduction to MSPs: What is an MSP, where is it applicable and what are the key principles?
2. Conceptual foundations and core values: introduction to complexity thinking, participation and power, learning theory (styles/cycle) and theories of change
3. Institutional dynamics: using interactive processes and tools, institutional and stakeholder analysis, understanding aspects and functions of institutions
4. Interactive learning processes: key aspects of the MSP process: initiating, adaptive planning, collaborative action and reflective monitoring
5. MSP Facilitation skills: self-esteem and self-awareness, group dynamics, interpersonal communication and leadership competencies, facilitation process competencies and conflict management skills.

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation reserves the right to change the programme.

MSP resource portal

Find more on our work in this area at <http://portals.wi.wur.nl/msp/>

Certificate

Participants are granted a Certificate of Attendance.

Fees and accommodation

The tuition fee is **€ 3500** for three weeks. This amount 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.

Application

Interested candidates should always apply to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation for admission to the training. If you are admitted, you will receive an admission letter within a week. In case you are not admitted we will also inform you.

We strongly recommend early application.

For additional information and online application: http://www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/services/Courses/Overview_Courses_2012/

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation is unable to assist in obtaining financial support. We encourage applicants to search for own funding.

Nuffic NFP fellowships

A limited number of fellowships is available from Nuffic - the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for nationals of certain countries.

In order to apply for such a NFP fellowship, you have to register through the Nuffic [Scholarship Online](#) (SOL) system. Applications for NFP fellowships should be submitted before **1 February 2012**. You will be informed by Nuffic whether your application has been accepted.

More information on the NFP fellowships:

www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/services/Courses/Fellowships
www.nuffic.nl/nfp

Please note that for a valid NFP fellowship application you need to register directly at CDI as well as at Nuffic (SOL). Your fellowship application will **not** be taken into account if you register with only one of these two institutions.

Application deadlines

- The admission deadline for application directly to Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation with other funding, is **3 August 2012**.
- The Nuffic NFP fellowship application deadline is **1 February 2012**, through the Nuffic [Scholarship Online](#) (SOL system).

