



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

Local Economic Development: towards Local Agribusiness Cluster Development 2021

In this regional course given in South Africa, professionals in the field of rural economic development will increase their knowledge, improve their skills and enlarge their toolkit in a highly interactive course. You will bring in your own case and design an intervention strategy to take home. We use an adapted economic model to analyse the competitive advantage of local sub-sectors. And how to make use of that advantage through targeted interventions aimed at agribusiness cluster development, focussing on the role of local communities and youth.

Organised by Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation

Mon 1 November 2021 until Fri 17 December 2021

Date

Duration Part-time, 14hrs per week (6 weeks)

Venue Facilitated online sessions

Price EUR 4,100.00

Scholarship available Yes

Apply for 2021!

What will you learn?

Upon completion of the course you will:

- Have a good understanding of conceptual frameworks to identify development opportunities for rural communities and spin-offs for rural wealth creation;
- Having gained a better understanding of the linkages livelihood strategies, the role of agribusiness development and effective services delivery, and the potential of rural markets, local trade and value chains to 'work for the poor';

- Be able to facilitate participatory approaches and methodologies for innovation and change processes;
- Be able to apply tools and instruments for strategic and effective interventions catalysing processes that boost rural economies.

For who is this course?

This regional course is designed for mid-career professionals of government departments, non-governmental and civil society organisations, business associations, development agencies, universities and colleges for higher education, and for other professionals working in the domain of market-driven local economic development. Proficiency in English is required.

Course programme in more detail

Market demand and agribusiness clusters are considered to be important vehicles for poverty reduction, attaining food security and creating rural wealth. The focus tends to be on high-end markets and international trade. However, for most smallholder producers, local entrepreneurs and poor consumers, rural economies and the dynamics of rural fresh produce markets & local trade are far more important!

Course Details - Local Economic Development: towards Local Agribusiness Cluster Development

Catalysing vibrant rural economies

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Making markets work for local communities

The course is aimed at catalysing vibrant rural economies. It focuses on the changing roles of rural policies and services in sub-Saharan Africa. It introduces the participants to a set of five typical interventions that, on their own or in combination, are designed to boost local market demand, add value, smoothen rural trade and increase local economic activities generating income and employment. In this course each type of intervention will be illustrated with real-life cases that are presented by the ‘case owners’ themselves. This will assist to better appreciate the rigidity of reality. The course is highly interactive and builds on the participant’s own experiences and personal cases. These will serve as building blocks for ‘bankable’ project that

will be developed during the course. The programme offers a balanced ‘diet’ including introductions to concepts, practices, participatory group work, guest lectures, case study presentations and excursions.

Three out of four of the world’s poor live in rural areas. Opportunities for economic growth in these areas are changing rapidly due to declining natural resources, continuing rural-urban migration and reduced access to productive land. On top of this, local economies are impacted by global forces like market liberalisation, expanding global production systems and the changing terms of trade. Amidst these dynamics, local governance structures, civic society and research institutes are expected to come up with effective strategies to revitalise rural areas into vibrant local economies. This regional course, organised jointly with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa, is doing just that: assisting these organizations to design strategies that can catalyse rural economies through smallholder inclusion and employment creation.

Participants’ cases are the starting point from which the course departs. It builds on the participants’ own experiences and situations. A selection of these cases will be further analysed and elaborated throughout the course. In a learning by doing and step-by-step process, strategic action plans are developed to improve these situations. The resulting strategic action plans are the ‘take-away-home’ harvests of the course.

The drafting of a post-course case report is the concluding activity of the course, which results in a tangible output.

The economic capacity of a local area will be assessed using a sub-sector development approach. To meet the objectives of the course, while taking the rural setting into account, a deliberate and motivated choice for the sub-sector approach is made. Hereby, the focus of development is centred around a particular produce or commodity that has a competitive advantage over other sub-sectors or products produced in the same and/or neighbouring localities. The next question than is, of course, how this advantage can be exploited best.

It is at this junction where the course is really making the difference. Where contemporary policies, programs and instruments form the heart of economic development planning, in the course the focus is on targeted, action oriented interventions. Five generic types of interventions will be introduced and discussed that, on their own or in combination, can contribute to strengthen the economic capacity of local areas. These will be illustrated by actual examples from the field.

An adapted version of a strategic economic model called “Porter’s Diamond” will be used to appreciate and assess both the competitive advantage of particular sub-sectors over others, and the potential of a particular (set of) intervention(s). A particular emphasis here will be on assessing the potential of agribusiness clusters to boost local economies. A number of examples of these clusters will be shared and discussed.

Requirements

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- relevant tertiary education;
- three years of professional experience;
- proven competence in the English language.

Strengthening Rural-Urban Linkages

Within the context of the course, an open field day is organised whereby various stakeholders are brought together to share and learn from experiences with community development and youth engagement initiatives in rural and urban settings.

During the day, and in a very energizing and interactive way, it will be explored how local communities, and in particular youth, can play a role in co-creating pathways for positive change.

The development of these pathways will be guided by the questions:

1. Which initiatives can be distilled that mobilise urban and rural communities respectively?
2. Which future perspectives can be created for vulnerable people in both rural and urban areas, but especially for young people, to work on and take the lead in?
3. What are the critical success factors to sustain and upscale these initiatives?

Application for this course

On top of this page you can apply for the course 'Local Economic Development: towards Local Agribusiness Cluster Development'. Depending on your nationality, your organisation and the type of course you wish to join, your eligibility and the application procedures may differ. Find out more about the [requirements and the application process](#).

How to apply

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation welcomes all mid-career professionals from low and middle-income countries to develop their knowledge and skills on sustainable & inclusive food systems through our short courses. Depending on your financial situation, you can apply as a scholarship candidate or as a self-funded participant. Unfortunately, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation has no budget for financial support but we provide you support to obtain a scholarship from Nuffic.

Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation short courses are designed for **professionals** with at least a **BSc-level (or equivalent)** and a **minimum of three years of relevant work experience**. Applications from students will not be taken into consideration.

The Application Procedure

1. Register for the course of your interest by clicking the 'apply' button on the webpage of this course. A registration form will open;
2. Fill in the required fields of the registration form. Please note to write your date of birth without a zero (e.g. 1-5-1980 instead of 01-05-1980);
3. Before you submit, check your details on the final page of the registration form;
4. After submitting, you will receive a confirmation email. Make sure to directly click on the link in the email to confirm your registration. Without your confirmation, your registration cannot be processed;
5. If you apply as an OKP or MSP-scholarship candidate, you will receive a registration letter for the scholarship at the beginning of the scholarship cycle.
6. If you apply as a self-funded participant: we will forward your request for acceptance to the course leader. This can take some time as it depends on the coordinators' schedule (1-3 weeks);
7. If you're accepted into the course programme, we'll send you an admission letter by e-mail;
8. You receive all required travel documents from us after you are selected for the scholarship (OKP/MSP-scholarship candidates) or when we've received your payment (self-funded participant).

Technology Requirements Online Learning

Minimum technical and software requirements for online learning courses are:

- **Stable internet connection:** required to access the online learning platform and assignments (at least 3G mobile network).
- **Hardware requirement:** access to a laptop, smartphone, tablet or a personal computer with webcam and microphone.

More information about funding

There are several options to fund your participation in our short courses.

Nuffic Scholarships

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiates different programmes for individual scholarships. The selection of these scholarships is done by Nuffic, the Dutch organisation for facilitating the internationalisation of education.

The most common programmes are the Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP), MENA Scholarship Programme (MSP) and StuNed. Depending on your nationality, Nuffic's selection criteria and your country's plan of implementation, you are welcome to attend one of [our short courses](#) by means of these scholarships.

Please note that you separately need to apply for the scholarship in Nuffic's registration system DELTA. We will send you all required instructions to do so within the OKP or

MSP-registration letter. Be aware that the scholarship application period closes at least 6 months before the actual start of the course and is spread over three different time periods a year.

We recommend you to start your application well in advance as the application process requires time and the following documents:

- Copy of your international passport, valid until at least three months after the scholarship application deadline (PDF)
- [Employer statement](#) and a plan of how to implement the acquired knowledge (PDF)
- [Depending on](#) your nationality and profession, some candidates need to provide a [Government Statement \(PDF\)](#)

Detailed information and the application criteria can be found under '[Scholarship Information](#)'.

Orange Knowledge Programme - Statement of Government Authority

A number of countries on the OKP (Orange Knowledge Programme) country list require a statement from the government before candidates can apply for an OKP individual fellowship. In this statement the government expresses its support of the fellowship application.

Please check with your government and/or the Netherlands Embassy if this applies to your country.

Candidates must upload a government statement with their online fellowship application.

Fellowship applications from countries that require a government statement that do not contain an attached or uploaded government statement will not be considered eligible, and will not be further assessed for an OKP individual fellowship.

Before submitting your application, you can print your application for your own administration. This print can also be used for the government authority concerned, in order to obtain a government statement. Candidates can use the format below.

STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY (if applicable)

The government of _____ hereby supports the above application and certifies that the programme to be undertaken will benefit and foster the development of the country, and that all the information provided is complete and correct.

Name of OKP applicant: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Position of the responsible government official: _____

Signature and official stamp:



Orange Knowledge Programme: Youth Entrepreneurship in Agriculture and Changing Food Systems 2021

Deadline: 16-Mar-21

The Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation (WC DI), part of Wageningen University & Research, is seeking applications for the “[Youth](#) Entrepreneurship in [Agriculture](#) and Changing Food Systems 2021” under Orange Knowledge Programme. The programme starts from 01 November 2021 until 10 December 2021.

The global population is growing, and getting ‘younger’ by the day across [Africa](#) and [Asia](#). Young [women](#) and men in these continents need jobs or support to start their own businesses. Food systems are straining to feed this expanding population and need to evolve to do this sustainably. Using tools, frameworks, case studies, interactive sessions and site visits, this course blends practical hands-on [training](#) with cutting-edge research.

What will you learn?

- How to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the [education](#), labour and finance markets for youth, and how to improve them;
- How to apply various tools and models, including food systems modelling, to raise the socio-economic impact from multiple country case studies and site visits in the [Netherlands](#);
- Good practices to apply about general trends in demographics, nutrition, and migration;
- New methods of teaching, training and managing multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- How gender, age, education and access to resources makes 'youth' a heterogeneous group and require different approaches to successfully target them.

Course Date

- **Date:** Mon 1 November 2021 until Fri 10 December 2021
- **Duration:** Part-time, 16hrs per week (6 weeks)
- **Venue:** Facilitated online sessions

Eligibility Criteria

- This course is intended for practitioners, business leaders and policy makers, preferably with a minimum of 3 years' practical work experience. Applicant backgrounds include:
 - Business leaders in the agri-food, educational and finance sectors;
 - Practitioners in development and aid-funded programmes;
 - Public sector workers and policy makers working in the fields of agriculture, education, finance or youth & gender;
 - Researchers from think-tanks, universities or other educational institutes.
- Participants are intentionally selected from a variety of backgrounds so that during group work participants also learn from the variety of one another's experience.

For more information, visit

<https://www.wur.nl/en/Research-Results/Research-Institutes/centre-for-development-innovation/online-learning/show/Youth-entrepreneurship-in-agriculture-and-food-systems-1.htm>

SEEP launches Call for Proposals for Innovation Fund in Africa

Deadline: 22-Jan-21

As a part of [Women](#) Saving for Resilience (WS4R), SEEP is delighted to launch a *challenge fund to support innovations in gender intentional COVID response and recovery efforts related to Savings Groups.*

Women Saving for Resilience (WS4R) – a two-year program, implemented by the SEEP Network and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – aims to improve the technical, adaptive, and collaborative capacity of Savings Groups, and [organizations](#) that work with them, to respond to and recover from the gendered effects of COVID-19.

Globally, eighty per cent of Savings Group members are women. In order for the COVID response and recovery efforts of Savings Groups and their partners to effectively mitigate the disproportionate and multi-dimensional effects of the pandemic on women, they must be gender intentional.

Women are disproportionately affected by disease outbreaks. COVID will be no different, with gendered primary secondary effects across multiple dimensions:

- **Health**
 - Increased infection rates and death rates as frontline health workers or primary caregivers in the family and community.
 - Reduced access to reproductive health care.
 - Increase in intimate partner violence, its severity and frequency due to confinement.
 - Increased rates of unwanted sex and pregnancies in girls due to school closures.
 - Increased anxiety and symptoms of depression.
- ***Economic***
 - A disproportionate decrease in [employment](#) and income due to the types of sectors women are concentrated in (hospitality and tourism, for example), their disproportionate representation in informal jobs/sectors, and the gap in social protection provisions.
 - The increased burden for unpaid work and existing gender inequalities in time [poverty](#) as women are more likely to be primary caregivers.
- ***Social***
 - The disproportionate impact of containment measures which restrict access to common areas as well as women's mobility and opportunities for socialization.
 - Decreased social interactions.

Funding Information

- Within the program, SEEP is delighted to launch a challenge fund to support innovations in gender intentional COVID response and recovery efforts related to Savings Groups.

SEEP will award four to six 18-month grants, worth a total of \$600,000.

- Awards may range between \$75,000-\$150,000.

Activities

The fund will be responsive to promising innovations of diverse types and scope. This may include communications and [training](#) materials, program models, policy development, technology, new partnerships, or disruptive collaboration. Activities and interventions the fund might support include:

- Technologies or adaptations in Savings Group methodologies that better meet the needs of women to mitigate the effects of health, economic, and social shocks;
- Technologies or approaches that enable Savings Groups to effectively adapt to physical distancing requirements; and
- Partnerships and disruptive collaboration between Savings Groups and market actors (government, [civil society](#) and private sector) as part of gender intentional COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Selection Criteria

- Demonstrated contribution to the expanded body of knowledge, tools, or institutional capacity of sector stakeholders for gender intentional COVID response and recovery efforts related to Savings Groups in [Africa](#).
- Demonstrated contribution to improved capacity of Savings Groups – and COVID response and recovery efforts – to meet the needs of women in targeted populations in Africa. We particularly welcome applications for proposed innovations that address health (reduced access to reproductive health care, increase in intimate partner violence, increased anxiety and symptoms of depression); economic (disproportionate decrease in employment and income, increased burden for unpaid work); and social

dimensions (disproportionate impact of containment measures, decreased social interactions) effects of the COVID pandemic on women through Savings Groups.

- Potential for replication and scale of the proposed innovation.
- Organizational experience in designing and implementing gender intentional or gender-transformative interventions related to economic empowerment, justice and rights – including, but not necessarily limited to, Savings Groups.
- Gender intentional in all phases – design, implementation, and monitoring. Gender intentional programs need to meet at least three of the following criteria:
 - Gender equality and/or women and girls' empowerment is the main goal of the proposed project.
 - The proposed project will contribute to a reduction in gender gaps or barriers in access to resources.
 - The project will monitor the reduction in gender barriers and gaps through collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data.
 - The project is informed by or will incorporate a gender analysis.
 - The implementation team includes someone with significant expertise in gender equality programming who is dedicated to ensuring effective gender integration.
 - The project proposes an approach for monitoring gender-related negative consequences that may arise from the innovation and appropriate mitigation strategies.
- Organizational experience related to Savings Groups programming, monitoring and results in measurement.
- Addresses one or more of the 25 indicators for Measuring Empowerment and Economic Outcomes of Women's Groups as established by the Evidence Consortium on Women's Groups.
- Commitment to host at least one national stakeholder meeting and three local consultations with Savings Groups

and community leaders, to both, inform their work and disseminate results among key stakeholders, including targeted Savings Groups and communities.

For more information, visit

[**https://seepnetwork.org/WS4R-Innovation-Fund**](https://seepnetwork.org/WS4R-Innovation-Fund)