Climate change adaptation in agriculture and natural resources management

Integrating climate change in policy making and programming for sustainable development

Background
This course is developed in an innovative partnership between Wageningen University and Research centre (Wageningen International, Alterra and PRI), the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM), the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The course is the outcome of a process of needs assessment and dialogue between the partners on how to respond to Climate Change challenges in East Africa. It is part of a support programme for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in East Africa, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Netherlands. This training is one way of strengthening the capacities in the region, through well established local structures. The local implementing partner is the Horn of Africa Environmental Centre and Network (HoA-REC) at Addis Ababa University.

Course Focus
Changing climate and weather patterns are predicted to have severe negative impacts on food production, food security and natural resources in East Africa. Without appropriate responses climate change is likely to constrain economic development and poverty reduction efforts and exacerbate already pressing difficulties. Especially countries with economies rooted in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, fisheries and forestry are expected to be hardest hit. Climate change is both a global environment and a local development issue, as it could jeopardize the livelihoods of millions, particularly where its impacts are compounded by other factors or where existing poverty and hunger make it particularly difficult to cope with its impacts. Targets as defined in the Millennium Development Goals will be more difficult to reach.

Simply because for countries in East Africa agriculture is, currently, the main economic activity and agriculture has traditionally been the key livelihood strategy for most people living in rural areas, it is also important in achieving development goals at national levels. Agriculture is at the forefront of shaping the concept of sustainable development. The renewed attention for the role of agriculture in development processes will have to take account of the vulnerabilities and risks posed by climate change. Also possible positive impacts on natural resources should be taken into account.

The formulation of climate change adaptation projects is done by most least developed countries via the National Action Programmes for Adaptation (NAPA's). Most projects focus on technical issues and not on the institutional and technical capacities that should be in place to actually implement possible adaptation strategies.

There is often limited knowledge and understanding of climate change adaptation concepts and local level implication. It is a rather new phenomena with potential risks but limited reaction of policy makers. Moreover the capacities for adaptive planning, informed policy development and climate proof programming are weak. This course will bridge the research-policy divide.
Aims and objectives
Participants of this course will have full understanding of climate change adaptation concepts. They are able to effectively and meaningfully contribute to the debate on climate change adaptation, either in the policy process and or in providing knowledge to the policy process. They will strengthen their positions in these processes on the basis of newly acquired concepts, skills and methodologies. For more information, contact Jouwert.vangeene@wur.nl.

Training methods
The course uses interactive training methods. Subjects are conducted in a combination of lectures, plenary and group work, study assignments and role plays. Experiences of participants are the entry point for interaction. The course includes field work for vulnerability assessment and interaction with policy makers to discuss and refine strategies for policy development and programming.

Target group
The course is intended for mid-career professionals who are engaged at higher levels and deal with policy making either from the research side (as advisor), government side or from civil society. The focus will be on the research – policy interface. This course is intended for participants from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

Requirements for admission
Candidates should meet the following requirements:

• relevant tertiary education and at least five years of experience in one or more of the course-related disciplines (agriculture, water management, biodiversity, forestry, crop breeding, crop production or otherwise related to natural resources management)
• the course needs to be directly relevant to their work for the research – policy interface on climate change adaptation. In their day to day work they have to ‘translate’ the impact of climate change into practical solutions and climate informed policies or programs
• Competence in English.

Programme
The main topics of the course are:

• Understanding climate change (concepts, causes, risks) and implications for food security and agriculture
• Agricultural and NRM vulnerability assessment
• Exploring indigenous knowledge and practices for adaptation to climate change (coping strategies)
• Innovative practices for adaptation
• Competing claims, conflict management, advocacy
• Policy making processes, integrating climate change issues into existing policy processes and rural development strategies.

Wageningen UR reserves the right to change the programme.

Certificate
Participants are granted a Certificate of Attendance.

Fees and accommodation
The tuition fee is € 3200 for two weeks. This amount includes administration fees, lecture materials and excursions. The course will be conducted at Addis Ababa University (HoA-REC). Participants will be accommodated in the vicinity of the University. Prices for accommodation and lodging are available upon request. These costs are not included in the tuition fee.

Fellowships
The deadline for the fellowships application from the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) has passed. There are no fellowships available at this moment. Wageningen International can NOT provide any funds to finance the participants and is also unable to assist applicants in obtaining sponsorship.

Application
The admission deadline for application directly to Wageningen International, is 1 February 2010. Early application is recommended. For additional information and online application, go to: www.cdic.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/ and click on the course of your interest.