

A photograph of two men in a rice field. The man in the foreground is smiling, wearing a blue and white checkered hat and a light-colored long-sleeved shirt. He is holding a bundle of rice. The man in the background is also wearing a hat and a light-colored shirt, and is looking down. The field is filled with tall rice stalks. Two large, overlapping white circles are superimposed on the image, framing the text.

Knowledge in Action

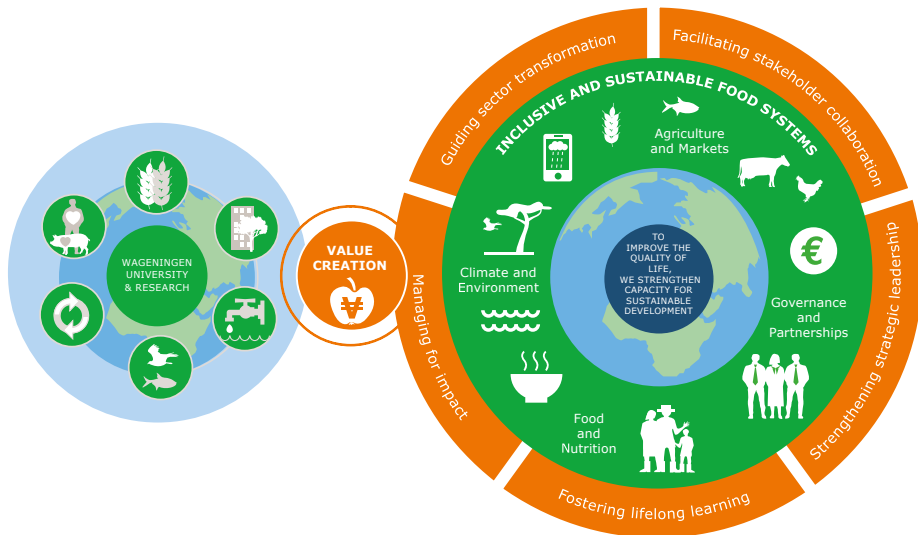
Accelerated by Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



100 years
1918 - 2018



Preface

At Wageningen University & Research we want our knowledge and insights to create a major impact on society. Therefore we strive to increase the value of our knowledge.

Our experts at Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation create this value by bringing knowledge into action. Every day we empower individuals, businesses, sectors and countries and strengthen them in their capacity for sustainable and inclusive development. The strength of our network, the broad knowledge available within Wageningen University & Research, our on-the-ground expertise and the way we combine content expertise with process guidance makes it possible to bring knowledge into action and improve the quality of life.

This brochure gives you an overview of our five action lines (orange boxes), supported with two examples each, in which our inspired and committed experts support various parties worldwide in creating inclusive and sustainable food systems. We are looking forward to adding new projects to this series together with you.

Jack van der Vorst

*General Director
Social Sciences Group
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Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation: Knowledge in action

Headquartered at the heart of the Dutch agricultural sector in the Netherlands, the Wageningen Centre of Development Innovation offers a unique interaction between capacity development and project implementation. As part of the renowned Wageningen University & Research, over 50 advisors with a combined 500-plus years of on-the-ground experience in international development are passionately working on today's challenges.

Our ambition is to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal of feeding nine billion people by 2050 in the domain of inclusive and sustainable food systems. Leveraging on an extensive worldwide network of partners and clients we support projects in low and middle income countries that build up the capacities of people, organisations and institutions. In doing so we strengthen local food systems and bring knowledge into action.

www.wur.eu/cdi



Guiding Sector Transformation: inclusive, effective & sustainable

Agri-food sectors need to transform urgently in order to sustainably feed nine billion people by 2050. The challenge of transforming an entire sector calls for more than simply improving the performance of a single value chain. Increasing the performance of sectors requires an integrated approach, technical and process expertise, a range of different tools and methodologies, and taking interests of multiple stakeholders into account. Our experts are well known for their experience in applying a range of proven and innovative concepts, approaches, models and tools to guide sectors and all stakeholders involved. So they can rise to the challenge.

Creating a vibrant seed sector

Our goal is a vibrant, pluralistic and market-oriented seed sector, achieved by strengthening the capacities of entrepreneurs to produce and market quality seed; creating market demand for a wide range of new, improved and adapted crop varieties; empowering smallholder farmers (in particular women) in decision making; improving services to the seed sector; brokering trade relations with Dutch and international companies; and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships for improving seed sector governance. Our integrated seed sector development approach is applied to national programmes in Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Myanmar; a regional community of practice for Africa; and an annual international course in the Netherlands.

www.ISSDseed.org



Bringing the Ghanaian vegetable sector to a higher level

We are in the lead of the GhanaVeg consortium, aimed at establishing a sustainable and internationally competitive vegetable sector. Key objectives include improving productivity, facilitating more efficient markets and further professionalising value chains for increased vegetable production and consumption. This is achieved by supporting frontrunners with information on technical innovations and business opportunities. We facilitate coordination between government, industry and knowledge institutes to tackle hampering issues, improve the business climate and enhance sector growth. In addition to facilitating public-private dialogue on issues of strategic concern, GhanaVeg funds innovative business ideas for R&D; arranges trade missions and offers B2B matchmaking services.

www.ghanaveg.org



Orientations:
People, Learning, Context

Communication



Capacities and Conditions

Managing for Sustainable Development Impact: Making informed decisions

Facing up to complex challenges such as food security and climate change requires more than technical solutions alone. It is crucial that different stakeholders come together to examine an issue within its particular context and explore the best way forward. Our approach revolves around the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes involved in managing development initiatives. Our comprehensive framework goes way beyond monitoring and evaluation (M&E) by stressing the importance of engaging people in change processes. We help form effective strategies based on sound situation analyses, and ensure M&E processes that facilitate adaptive management and informed decisions for sustainable development.

Monitoring and evaluation for improved nutrition

The SPAR supermarket Rural Hub project in South Africa shows how the M&E needs and capabilities of multiple partners can be addressed and put to use. After developing a Theory of Change (the foundation for a results framework and learning agenda), the partners co-developed methods and tools for monitoring and evaluating processes and outcomes. A scientific baseline study on Food and Nutrition Security was conducted among households shopping at SPAR stores. This was complemented by action research on local food choices involving school children. Findings and insights from the studies are used to inform a nutrition campaign targeting low-income households. Intensive monitoring and regular reflection support improvement and potential upscaling of the Rural Hub model.



Joint evaluation of development interventions

We were involved in the joint evaluation held as part of the Dutch funding system for development cooperation (Co-financing II: MFS-II) from 2012 (baseline) to 2015 (endline) in eight countries. We focused on evaluating organisational capacity in four countries (38 organisations in the South) and strengthening civil society in three countries (28 organisations). As these were complex issues to evaluate, theory-based evaluation approaches were used to assess whether changes in organisational capacity or civil society could be attributed to Dutch support. Rigorous and qualitative methods based on process tracing and contribution analysis were used. The main conclusion of the joint evaluation was that 'Dutch development cooperation is effective'.





Facilitating Stakeholder Collaboration: Partnerships that work

Government, business, civil society and science are increasingly working together in multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) to tackle complex challenges. Many MSPs fail due to poor design and facilitation. By designing and facilitating stakeholder collaboration, we ensure effective and efficient multi-stakeholder partnerships that bear fruit thanks to their solid design and facilitation. Our MSP guide provides a practical and proven framework for collaborative processes which transcend boundaries and borders.

Uganda Nutrition Action Plan applied in all districts

We were actively involved in a USAID-funded project aimed at strengthening local governance for nutrition in Uganda together with eight ministries, CSOs, academia and the private sector. We coached the project team and designed, tested and finalised the tailor-made MSP tools applied. Key challenges were finding ways to integrate nutrition in the district plans, aligning multiple sectors to the goal of reducing malnutrition, and having the envisioned impact to improve the nutrition situation. All Uganda districts now apply the approach with the set of tools we built together, which can be viewed on the Prime Minister's website.

nutrition.opm.go.ug



Combat climate change in the Horn of Africa through regional knowledge exchange

We are involved in a range of programmes looking at landscapes in an integrated and inter-sectoral manner. One example is the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Centre and Network (HOAREC&N), established to increase the regional exchange of knowledge and practice within the Horn of Africa. We assisted HOAREC&N in designing a 'landscape governance learning journey', bringing regional players together and enhancing their capacity to better understand the spatial dynamics in their landscape, build stakeholder coalitions, mitigate conflicts and strengthen local, national and regional institutions to combat climate change in a collaborative manner.

hoarec.org/2016/11/11/horn-of-africa-climate-change-program/





Strengthening Strategic Leadership: A new approach based on experience

Global food systems are exceptionally complex domains, featuring complementary and conflicting layers such as food security and water scarcity, rural economic growth and urbanisation, agribusiness, and the inclusion of women and youth. Driving inclusive and sustainable transformation processes through this complexity requires capable and committed leadership.

At the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation we have developed a new approach to meeting these demands, generating the personal capacities, strategic insights and motivation required by leaders active in developing global food systems.

Facilitating collective learning experiences in Tanzania

Together with the Sustainable Food Lab, we co-designed and facilitated a leadership summit in Tanzania in 2016. Aimed at stimulating more sustainable and socially inclusive agriculture, around 100 people, many in influential positions, joined from around the world to represent business, NGOs, government and research. The summit offered a collective learning journey experience, bringing people together who can influence the system in which they operate in order to gain inspiration from others and discover things they can apply in their own contexts. The participants benefited from a continuous discussion on key elements of a common vision and how to stimulate system change.

www.sustainablefoodlab.org



Where expertise meets leadership development

Our course on Fisheries Governance offers people a range of content-specific topics as well as competence development on governance. A specific module on leadership, communication and conflict management provides participants with more insight into their own leadership style, and increases their ability to be a strategic leader. It also examines ways of driving forward change in the fisheries sector and the leadership needed for this. How do you take leadership, how do you get people to buy into it, and how do you communicate effectively when experiencing resistance to change? How do you get the big fish on the table? This training course recognises how leadership is a universal rather than a local or content-specific topic.





Fostering Lifelong Learning: Investing in people

Our lifelong learning approach is developed for institutions and professionals that want to invest in their capacities and leadership skills to be creative, adaptive and responsive to the dynamics of a rapidly changing world. We combine knowledge of practical situations on the ground with new insights and approaches. This way professionals can overcome bottlenecks they face in their day to day work. Already for more than 60 years we specialise in interactive learning and training methods and offer professionals great opportunities to share ideas and experiences, create new insights and to develop their network; we bring the knowledge of professionals in action. On the job, through customised training programmes and blended trajectories.

Customised Food and Nutrition Security course for 150+ participants

We create and facilitate online learning trajectories (including e-courses) such as a six-week course on Food and Nutrition Security for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was co-designed with the client to give background information to staff members at Dutch embassies in countries where the Netherlands' policy on Food and Nutrition Security is implemented as well as policy makers of other ministries and implementing organisations. The course was highly valued by the 150-plus participants for the way the different modules mixed a small amount of theory with a great deal of practical examples and tools, plus lots of interaction via webinars and discussion platforms.



Bringing professionals together with students

Since 2003 we offer a regular short course for mid-career professionals from low and middle income countries that is simultaneously offered to MSc students from Wageningen University to the satisfaction of both groups of participants. This is a fine example of how we bring together different audiences in a setting that stimulates sharing and problem-solving, combining the practical knowledge of professionals with the more theoretical know-how of students. MSc students highly appreciate the applied character of this type of education and the interaction with mid-career professionals; mid-career professionals highly appreciate the more theoretical and refreshing insights the MSc students bring with them.



Services

Our aim is to bring knowledge into action. Therefore we offer a range of services, all of which are designed to help our partners and clients make progress towards sustainable and inclusive development.

Architect

We design, facilitate and support innovation processes by process design and facilitation services. Our experts, methodologies and tools are suited to deal with complex processes. The people involved get inspired, critical choices are made, momentum is gained, and innovations emerge.

Advise

We advise a broad variety of food system stakeholders from young professionals to experienced policy makers around the issues they face. We offer practical, fact-based, advise supported by the technical, economic and social expertise of Wageningen University & Research.

Action

Together with partners we combine research and practical work to improve strategies, practices and knowledge. We assess existing ways of working, test innovations and reflect on their impact. This paves the way for developing and improving technical, organisational and institutional capacities.

Acquire

We offer a range of capacity development services at different levels. Through open-access and tailor-made training activities and targeted support individuals, teams, organisations and institutions acquire new knowledge and skills.

Short courses for professionals

We offer a wide range of courses which will help you to develop the capacities and leadership qualities needed to be creative, adaptive and responsive to the dynamics of a rapidly changing world. This means we organise a total of 35 courses and realise over 10,000 course days per year for around 850 participants. **See for our full program:**

www.wur.eu/cdi/shortcourses



Some examples of our courses

Climate change and food security nexus

Climate Change is real, action is needed now! You will learn about climate trends, adaptation actions to protect food systems and livelihoods, how to create incentives for mitigation action and tackle one of the root causes of vulnerability: poor governance.

Market access for food security

Local fresh food markets and value chains are potential vehicles to achieve inclusive development, food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction. This course provides a platform for professionals where experiences in these domains are shared, and strategic action plans for positive change developed.

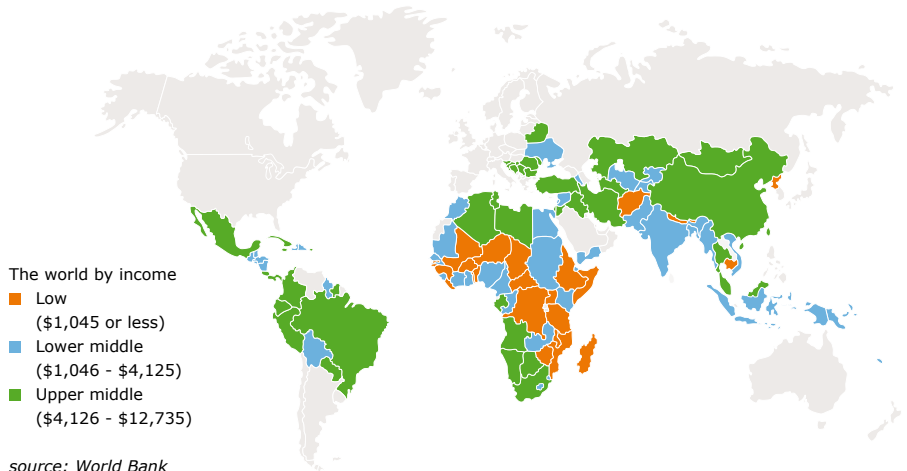
Evaluation and managing for sustainable development impact

Addressing the complex challenges of today calls for an integrated, learning-oriented approach to planning, monitoring and evaluation. You will learn about concepts, frameworks, methodologies and tools to engage stakeholders in these processes for sustainable development impact.

A selection of clients we work with



We support projects in low and middle income countries with partners all over the world





Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation is the international expertise and capacity building business unit of Wageningen University & Research. The aim of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation is to support value creation by strengthening capacities for sustainable development.

In 2018, Wageningen University & Research will celebrate 100 years of existence. Focusing on the mission "To explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life", we combine fundamental and applied knowledge in order to contribute to resolving important questions in the domain of healthy food and living environment.

Our 5,000 employees and 10,000 students are inspired by nature, society, and technology and tackle the issues with an open and curious perspective. This inspiration has enabled us to be amazed, develop knowledge, and apply this knowledge internationally for a century, which we also like to call "100 years of Wageningen Wisdom & Wonder."

Design


Communication Services, Wageningen University & Research

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More information at

www.wur.eu/cdi



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