

Local Economic Development

Catalyzing vibrant rural economies

Pretoria, South Africa, 15 - 26 August 2011

A regional course organized in collaboration with Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) of South Africa.

Market-led, economic development is 'hot' these days. It is considered to be an important vehicle for poverty reduction and sustainable development. However, the focus tends to be on global and niche markets, and international trade. But for most smallholder producers, rural economies driven by the dynamics of local-to-local markets are far more important.

Course focus

The focus of the course is on the changing roles of rural policies and services to revitalize rural economies in sub-Saharan Africa. It shares experiences and presents (new) insights on developments, concepts and innovative approaches that promote demand-driven, rural economic development that is both inclusive and sustainable. It centers on rural wealth creation through increasing the robustness, resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities in relation to developing the (economic) performance of local market systems. This is done by looking at options of pro-poor agribusiness development models in selected agricultural sub-sectors that are interlinked with the effective delivery of rural services, leading to increased levels of local industriousness.

Aims and objectives

The course aims to support the stakeholders involved in developing market-led, inclusive local economic development by enhancing their capacities. More specifically, the course aims to:

- Introduce participants to conceptual frameworks to identify development opportunities for rural communities and spin-offs for rural wealth creation
- Assist participants to appreciate the linkages between poverty and livelihood strategies, the potential of local-to-local markets and value chains to 'work for the poor', and the role of agribusiness development and effective services delivery in an integrated manner
- Expose participants to participatory approaches and methodologies for innovation and change processes
- Provide tools and instruments to develop appropriate strategies and effective interventions that tackle causes rather than symptoms.

Who can participate (target group)

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. Typically, the course will be beneficial for:

- Policy staff responsible for drafting strategic development policies and/or the implementation of these, in particular related to local economic development
- Programme managers of developmental organisations drafting and/or implementing rural development projects
- Staff of universities and colleges involved in curriculum development, training, capacity building and/or outreach activities
- Staff of local service providers, civil society organisations and business associations.

Participants should meet the following requirements:

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

Training methods

The course is highly interactive. It builds on the participants' own experiences and personal cases. These serve as the building blocks for 'bankable' project proposals that will be developed during the course. The programme offers a balanced diet including: introductions to concepts, practice, participatory group work, guest lectures, case study presentations, exchange of experiences, panel discussions, a seminar, excursions. Learning is encouraged through the application of innovative processes and formats based on the principles of life-long learning and competence-based education.

A number of different cases in the programme illustrate that rural economies can be revitalised in active collaboration with local communities:

- Linking women groups to supermarkets in Kwa Zulu Natal Province, Rep. of South Africa (RSA)
- Sustainable sourcing by a multinational maize processing company in Gauteng Province, RSA
- Improving the economic performance of the local-2- local tomato market in Rift Valley Province, Kenya
- Commercial broiler production with locally processed feed in Limpopo Province, RSA, etc.

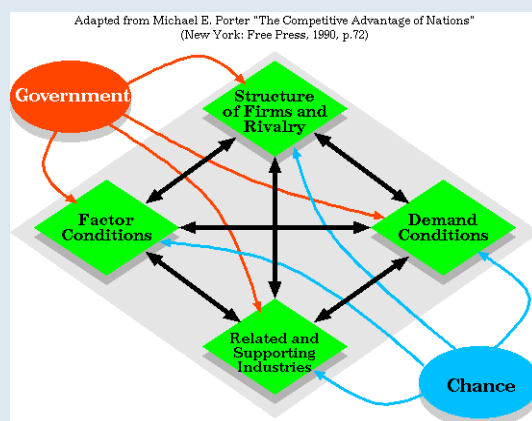




Programme

The course will follow a modular approach in which the concepts and relevant frameworks of analysis will be discussed and practiced. Content wise, it will first assess how rural poor people can engage in local market-economic activities in a sustainable way. The principal question to be answered in this respect is: which development efforts have a lasting positive outcome at household level? Only after this micro-level question is answered, the focus moves to core meso-level issues.

The interaction between factors conditioning demand, production, competition and services in specific local situations will be analysed next. Also, the role of government will be addressed and chance factors assessed. It will be shown that policies and programmes can create an enabling environment through which new market demand is attracted. This, in turn, can lead to a local cluster of related agribusinesses and services that is able to sustain itself and at the same time increasing the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural communities and local production systems.



An adapted version of Porter's Diamond will be used as the guiding model for situation analysis and the identification of effective development interventions. This model uses an interactive systems approach for regional development and interlinks the critical factors of local economic development. It is tailored to the situation of rural localities with a growth potential and updated with new insights, perceptions and modalities stemming from (applied) research and documented practical experiences. The model will be actively practiced during the course.

The individual components of the model and related subjects will be discussed in detail. Successful cases from practice, with different intervention angles, e.g. through the formation of producer associations, value chain development, sustainable sourcing initiatives, agribusiness development, etc will be presented by the 'case owners' and evaluated on their scalability.

A selection of cases contributed by the participants will be used to test the new insights presented in the course's curriculum on their applicability through the rigor of reality. These 'lessons learned' will, in turn, be integrated into the selected participants' cases, transferring them into realistic project proposals on a step-by-step basis. The resulting 'bankable' project proposals will be a tangible take-home output of the course.

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation reserves the right to change the programme. The course will be tailored to the needs of the participants, based on an inventory of their expectations.

Certificate

Participants are awarded a Certificate of Attendance

Fees and accommodation

The tuition fee is **€ 2000** for two weeks. This amount includes administration fees, lecture materials and excursions. The course is residential and will be held in Pretoria, South Africa. The exact place of venue and accommodation will be announced at a later stage.

Fellowships

There are no fellowships available for this course through the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP).

For other sources of funding please visit:

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

Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation 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 UR Centre for Development Innovation is **31 July 2011**. Early application is recommended.

For additional information and online application, go to: www.cdi.wur.nl/UK/newsagenda/ and click on the course of your interest.