

International course

Seed potato technology, certification and supply systems



Gain productivity and improve financial results in a growing market for high quality (seed) potatoes

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 02 - 27 June 2014

Advances in seed potato technology and novel methods of multiplication generate numerous options for improving local seed supply systems. Moreover quality control, realistic standards and seed certification are the base of a viable potato industry.

Potato, worldwide the fourth food crop, has far more potential to feed the world

Potato is a major food security crop, highly productive in a short period of time. At the same time we face a fast growing global market for processed products. Seed potatoes are the base of the potato production chain and the most critical factor for success. Often the seed potatoes are supplied through a complex combination of traditional seed systems and official seed programmes. Developing seed certification and realistic standards, improving local seed supply systems and crop management, and implementing chain management in the potato sector can double the productivity in many countries. New technologies, modern seed production practices and the development of adequate seed policies make a difference.

This course reviews the newest knowledge on seed production technology and its application in different agro-ecological regions of the world. The Netherlands is internationally a leading partner for practical approaches in the seed potato sector worldwide. Together with Netherlands General Inspection Service for Agricultural Seeds and Seed Potatoes (NAK), Institutes of Wageningen University and Research centre, Plant Protection Service (NVWA), Netherlands Potato Organisation (NAO), International Potato Centre (CIP) a world class course is delivered to an international audience.

Fee:	4,900 Euro
Deadline subscription:	21 April 2014
Deadline NFP fellowships:	01 October 2013



We invite technical staff, policymakers, scientists, and programme / project managers

who want to develop the potato industry in general and seed supply systems in particular. Participants have a least a BSc, three years of professional experience and are committed to the subject. For those focusing on policy or certification, a 3 or 9 days module is available; contact us for more information.

Make a difference as professional

As participant you get an extensive training, mixing theory, practice and field trips providing:

- in-depth knowledge of technical, organisational, institutional and socio-economic aspects of seed potato supply systems;
- broad expertise based on current research concerning all major aspects of seed potato production, including multiplication methods and implementation, quality factors and management, certification and set up of systems, institutional and policy development, and practical means to tackle constraints in specific situations.



The programme covers the complete seed potato chain, from laboratory to seed grower to the final seed user. It addresses the role of public and private organisations – and partnerships between them – in breeding, variety development, seed production and marketing. It also includes the institutional requirements for the development of seed policies and regulations.

Various systems for producing pre-basic and basic seed will be demonstrated. We will discuss the production of certified and other forms of improved seed, integrated pest and disease control, as well as the phytosanitary issues in international trade. We will address possibilities for improving formal and informal seed supply systems in different regions and environments. The programme also covers the implications of using true potato seed as an alternative to vegetatively-produced tubers.

Part of the course is devoted to the topic of seed certification and its application in local seed systems. We will present methods for field inspection (including hands-on experience), demonstrate how to monitor aphid populations and discuss the role of haulm killing in seed production. We will demonstrate post-harvest control tests for virus and bacterial diseases, together with batch inspection and certification procedures. Finally, we will examine the development of appropriate rules, regulations and certification standards.

The training programme gives participants the opportunity to learn from the broad international experience represented not only by our trainers, but also by other participants. We facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience through a variety of formats: lectures, practicals, demonstrations, brainstorming sessions, group discussions and assignments. We use case studies to illustrate theoretical concepts, and field visits and excursions to demonstrate practices in the Dutch seed potato industry and tackle practical issues the participants have to deal with in their work.

Already over 30 years we provide in-depth courses on potato to strengthen the worldwide industry creating an active network of professionals working on impact.

Further practical information

- **Application**, the procedure is:
 - 1) Apply at the website of CDI, Wageningen UR:** www.wageningenur.nl/cdi
You will receive a confirmation and more information within a week. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (e.g. funding, visa) can take some time.
 - 2) If you want to apply also for a NFP Fellowship**, check the eligibility at www.nuffic.nl/nfp. A limited number of scholarships is available. To apply for it, register at this website through Scholarships Online. As this application takes time and requires several documents, we recommend you to **start it as soon as possible**.
- Participants will be granted a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might change to incorporate new insights.
- Participants are expected to be proficient in English.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
- **Accommodation:** Hof van Wageningen, Wageningen, The Netherlands. For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. **NFP Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
- CDI is unable to assist you in obtaining financial support.

Proven concepts & state-of-the-art science and methodology For an overview of all the courses visit our website: www.wageningenur.nl/cdi. More than 20,000 participants have gained access to the latest insights from research and best practices. From September 2013, all participants of our courses offered in Wageningen will use tablets as a learning tool.

