

International course

# Inclusive aquaculture development



## Empowering fish farmers' business organisations

Wageningen, The Netherlands, March 18 – 29, 2019

### A sector on the rise ...

On a global scale aquaculture has shown a steady growth in the past decades. The amount of fish and other seafood products for direct human consumption resulting from aquaculture is equal to the amount supplied by capture fisheries. Aquatic products are rich in unsaturated fatty acids, micro-nutrients and protein. Besides from the increasing world population, the global demand for aquatic products is also driven by a growing awareness of the positive impact of fish consumption on human health. In Europe and North America the local production and supply of fishery products are not sufficient to meet the demand. Fish and other seafood have become very important export commodities for Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand and several other countries. Especially in East, South and Southeast Asia aquaculture is a well-established and fast growing sector; these regions contribute 88% to the global aquaculture production (FAO, 2014).

### But not everywhere ...

In many other regions however aquaculture development has been slow and problematic. Programs to assist the start and further growth of fish farming have often not reached their objectives or initial successes could not be sustained. Causes are many: wrong siting and construction of ponds, lack of good quality water; insufficient availability of inputs (feeds, fingerlings); unavailability of trained professional staff and credit; unsuitable and unsupportive policies and legal framework, to name just a few.

Fee:	3,700 Euro
Deadline subscription:	04 February 2019
Deadline OKP/ MENA fellowships:	16 October 2018

### And not for everyone

Aquaculture producers come in a range of scales, from owners of a small backyard fish pond to large multi-million companies registered at the stock exchange. Due to their size (which comes with a stronger financial muscle, more skilled manpower) larger companies find it easier to operate at a national, regional or international scale than individual small producers. However, small producers can become serious aquaculture business partners if they effectively work together.

### Fish farmers as partners in agribusiness

Small and medium fish farms constitute the majority of the world's small and medium aquaculture enterprises. This course perceives fish farmers as autonomous entrepreneurs (and not as target groups or beneficiaries), and their organisations as aquaculture business supporters. The central question is how fish farmers, through collective action of their organisations, can better access inputs and credit, improve their production and yields in a sustainable way, manage the costs and quality of their products, create value through post-harvest operations and access more remunerative markets.

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## Are you a professional interested in the promotion of small producer-inclusive aquaculture business?

Then this course is the course for you. You will learn about fish farmer professionalization and empowerment, and collective action of farmers' business organizations. And you will add practical approaches and tools for promoting competitive, sustainable and inclusive value chains to your skills kit. We welcome professionals from aquaculture producer organizations, governmental organizations, private sector, civil society organizations, universities, research and extension.

### Main subjects in the course

- State-of-the-art of aquaculture: drivers, trends, challenges and opportunities;
- Position of small-scale aquaculture producers: perspectives and challenges;
- Obtaining the required inputs and finance;
- Producing the planned product volume and quality in a responsible way;
- Creating value and access to markets;
- Relations with public and private actors that have a direct or indirect stake in aquaculture sector development;
- The role of aquaculture producer organizations in terms of service provision for members and for business partners;
- The challenges for the management and performance of aquaculture producer organizations;
- Development of aquaculture small producer-inclusive programs.

The course programme might be changed to incorporate new insights.

The course will be organized in Wageningen, the Netherlands, in collaboration with private companies.



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## New insights, capacities and tools of direct relevance to your work situation

By the end of the course you will have adapted your perspective on rural innovation and aquaculture business development processes and you will be motivated to become a 'game changer' in your country and organization. You have gained new insights on fish farmer-inclusive business models and value chain development that can be shared with colleagues and partners. And, last but not least, you will be capable to use operational approaches and practical tools to facilitate better performance and market engagement of fish farmers and aquaculture producer organizations.

### Further practical information

**Application**, the procedure is:

- 1) Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation [www.wur.eu/cdi](http://www.wur.eu/cdi)**  
You will receive more information within a week. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (such as funding, visa) can take some time.
- 2) Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation** does not provide financial support. If you want to apply for a **OKP/MENA Fellowship**, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation will provide you with all information for registration in **ATLAS**. ATLAS is the online application form for an OKP/MENA Fellowship. You can check your eligibility at [www.studyinholland.nl](http://www.studyinholland.nl) or [www.nuffic.nl/mena](http://www.nuffic.nl/mena). A limited number of scholarships is available. As this application process takes time and requires several documents, we recommend that you **start as soon as possible**.

**Location:** Wageningen (The Netherlands). For prices, see the cost estimate on our website. OKP / MENA Fellowships include travel and full board and lodging.

**Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).

Participants will receive a **Certificate of attendance**.

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