



MASHAV - Israel's Agency for
International
Development Cooperation



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food &
Environment, Division for International Studies

NUTRITION IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

April 20, 2015- May 19, 2015

MASHAV is the Hebrew acronym for the Agency for International Development Cooperation, a department established 50 years ago in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. MASHAV is responsible for designing and implementing Israel's international development programs, carried out in Israel and in partner countries.

In cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Faculty of Agriculture – MASHAV's only academic affiliate – we are pleased to announce the opening of a training and capacity building program on **NUTRITION IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT**. The course will be held in Israel at the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Division of External Studies, in Rehovot from April 20 – May 19, 2015

RATIONALE

Major changes have occurred in the global diet. In the past, malnutrition and infectious diseases were of primary concern. They remain a challenge, but today we also face an emerging trend towards over nutrition and chronic diseases (cardiovascular, diabetes, cancer). Nutrition transition has made fast-food, high in fats and simple sugars, the preferred menu for millions of individuals around the world and in particular for growing percentages of populations in developing countries. More and more processed foods are available and foods made from natural, locally-grown produce are disappearing. As we better understand how diet affects our health, it is clear that drastic dietary changes must be made.

First, the physiological needs of each age group must be understood, followed by appropriate dietary recommendations that will promote good health. It is also evident that exposures throughout the lifespan, including in utero, affect long term health. Health professionals should have the tools to carry out critical evaluation of the most recent nutritional studies and implement appropriate changes in the community. "Informed" food choices based on sound scientific evidence can insure good nutrition for all.

OBJECTIVES

The program's objectives are:

- To provide an overview of the nutritional needs of different populations.
- To understand current nutritional guidelines established to provide optimal dietary intake for all age groups.
- To critically examine how nutritional recommendations are made and to evaluate epidemiological and clinical evidence.
- To understand the lifespan approach to nutrition.
- To discuss emerging trends in modern nutritional sciences.
- To develop new tools for implementing nutritional recommendations.

TOPICS OF STUDY

This program's topics of study will include:

- Nutrition throughout the life-cycle: infants, children, adolescents, mothers, adults and the elderly
- Understanding evidence-based nutrition
- The obesity epidemic
- Malnutrition
- Fetal Programming
- Functional Foods
- Nutrigenomics- how nutrients interact with genes
- Supplementation and fortification
- Nutrition in chronic disease
- Nutrition transition

STUDY CONDITIONS

- Classes will be held at the Faculty's Rehovot campus, where there are laboratories, advanced research equipment and the central library of Agricultural Science.
- Around-the-clock computer access will be provided, and computers will be used extensively.
- We recommend that participants who own a personal computer bring it with them for their own convenience.
- Scientific material and homework will be assigned and graded.
- Professional field trips will be held.
- Full attendance is required.
- We reserve the right to make changes in the academic program.

Application forms may be obtained from the nearest Israeli diplomatic or consular representative or can be downloaded from the website of the Israel Foreign Ministry, MASHAV Study Programs at:

<http://www.mashav.mfa.gov.il/MFA/mashav/Courses/Pages/default.aspx>

Completed applications **MUST** be sent directly to the Israeli representative in your country by March 5, 2015. In addition, please send a copy of the forms in PDF format and **not** JPEG to the Faculty by email to: randyl@savion.huji.ac.il .

COURSE COMPLETION

Each participant will prepare a seminar presentation, which will be reviewed and graded. This presentation should apply knowledge acquired during the course to a nutritional, public health challenge facing your country (for example: obesity, AIDS, iodine deficiency, etc.). Participants are advised to bring with them digitalized data relevant to their countries. On completion of the course and fulfillment of its requirements, participants will receive certificates, which will be accredited by many universities.

REQUIREMENTS

Candidates interested in attending this program require:

M.Sc. degree or above in nutrition, dietetics, medicine, bio-chemistry, health education, or a related field, from a recognized university. (A detailed record of studies and copies of degrees must be included with application forms.)

Documentation of academic studies conducted in English OR a TOEFL score of at least 89 on the internet-based scale OR an internationally recognized equivalent. (The language of instruction is English, Therefore, participants whose native tongue is not English, must furnish proof of proficiency in this language.)

Professional experience in the field is recommended (at least 3 years).

This course is designed for public health practitioners, nutritionists, dietitians, health educationists, and academicians in relevant fields.

An official certificate of good health signed and stamped by a doctor.

Two letters of recommendation are required from the candidate's place of work or university.

COST AND APPLICATION

Scholarships are available from MASHAV (see below) to cover the fee for study. The scholarship covers tuition, board, lodging and travel in Israel required for the purposes of the program of studies. This fee does not include travel costs to and from the home countries or incidental expenses.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOR PARTICIPANTS

ACCOMMODATIONS: Single bedroom accommodation in a shared apartment will be provided in our fully equipped guest house on campus. Meals will be provided. Both laundry (on campus) and dry cleaning (in town) are at the participant's expense.

WEATHER: Spring is the nicest season of the year, with a very comfortable climate. The temperature in Tel Aviv is usually between 16 to 24 Degrees centigrade (61 to 75 Degrees Fahrenheit). Participants are requested to bring clothes suitable for outdoor activities including a light jacket, a bathing suit and comfortable walking shoes. We also recommend that you bring some light sweaters, short-sleeved shirts and a good range of generally light clothes.

INSURANCE: Participants are insured for medical care during their stay in Israel. This does not include pre-existing conditions and /or major dental care. Personal belongings are not insured, and are the responsibility of each individual.

Participants who take regular medication must bring enough medicine for the duration of the course. Participants who wear glasses are advised to bring a spare pair.

We recommend that hand luggage include basic toiletries and a change of clothes for the first day or so. These should be carried separately in case of delay in baggage delivery.

Participants will not receive any allowance or pocket money. Please bring money for out-of-pocket expenses.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION: Those accepted to the course will supply flight details to their local Israeli representative and to us. Upon arrival in Israel, the participant will pick up his/her luggage. After passing through customs, the participant will enter the arrivals terminal and walk towards the left. Go up the escalator to the first floor. On the left, behind the car rental counters, you will see a counter of a company called MONI-SITON. This is a special taxi service, which has a list of expected arrivals. Go to the counter and tell them your name, country and that you're attending a course at the Faculty. You will be taken to the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, free of charge. This service is pre-paid.

PLEASE DO NOT TAKE ANY OTHER FORM OF TRANSPORTATION!

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

This 30-day course is truly a joint venture. Involved in its implementation are:

Academics: Under the auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment. Academic Coordinator: Dr. Aliza Stark.

Administration: The Faculty's Division for International Studies in cooperation with the Division for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV).

MASHAV- Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs.

MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs.

MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.



MASHAV - Israel's Agency for
International
Development Cooperation



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food &
Environment, Division for International Studies

WATER MANAGEMENT: DECISION MAKING, ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS & RISK ASSESSMENT

March 9, 2015 – April 2, 2015

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In cooperation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture – MASHAV's only academic professional affiliate in agriculture – we are pleased to announce the opening of a training and capacity building program entitled Water Management. The course will be held in Israel at the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Division of External Studies, in Rehovot.

RATIONALE

According to the (WWDR), problems of poverty are inextricably linked with those of water - its availability, its proximity, its quantity and its quality. Improving the access of poor people to water has the potential to make a major contribution towards poverty eradication and improvement of quality of life. The combination of safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities is a precondition for health and for success in the fight against poverty, hunger, child deaths and gender inequality. It is also central to the human rights and personal dignity of every woman, man and child on earth. One person in six has little choice but to use potentially harmful sources of water. Billions of people are locked in a cycle of poverty and disease. Policy-makers, economists, environmental officers, water engineers, and influential community leaders have a meaningful potential to advance these efforts with the benefit of exposure to the latest technology, enhanced awareness of proven strategies that can be adapted to their locale, opportunities to interact with experts in the field, and introductions to a network of businesses and professionals serving as resources and collaborators.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem was opened in 1925, preceding the establishment of the State of Israel by more than two decades. The University was designed to be a world class institution of higher learning and research. Today, the Hebrew University comprises seven faculties, 15 schools, some 60 research centers, a student body of about 23,000 and a tenured-track faculty of some 1,500. One third of its enrollment is at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. level.

THE ROBERT H. SMITH FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & ENVIRONMENT

The Hebrew University's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment was established in 1942 in Rehovot, a city at a distance of some 55 km from the main campus of the University in Jerusalem. The site was chosen with considerations of its climate and soil conditions. It is the only agricultural institution of higher education in Israel offering university degrees.

The Faculty's Division for International Studies was established in 1986. One of its aims is to expose academic graduates from abroad to post-graduate programs, giving them insight into the achievements and research of Israel in general and of the Faculty in particular, expanding their knowledge in specific fields and creating opportunities for international cooperation.

COMMUNICATION

Further information relating to the subject matter of the course may be obtained from:

Division for International Studies
Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment
P.O. Box 12
Rehovot, Israel 76100
Tel. 972-8-9489509, or 972-8-9489511
Fax. 972-8-9470171
Website: <http://departments.agri.hu.ac.il/extension/studies/index.php>

Program Administrator: Ms. Randy Lang

E-mail address: randy@isa.gov.il

OBJECTIVES

Today's challenges are various and contradictory: improving water quality in order to feed a growing population, and minimizing negative environmental impacts in order to limit water hazards for both humans and animals. The aim of this program is to train participants in various aspects of sustainable water management regarding water quantity and quality.

Today's challenges regarding sustainable water management are various and contradictory. Challenges include increasing water quantity and improving water quality in order to feed growing populations and provide clean drinking water while minimizing negative health and environmental impacts.

Israel has extraordinary experience in water management including conveying water, developing irrigation technologies, reusing treated wastewater for irrigation and building desalination plants to supply clean water for domestic use. Advancements increase the quantity of natural and secondary water resources and improve the quality of water with minimal environmental damage. Awareness of health and environmental risk factors is needed, due to increased use of unconventional water sources, including treated wastewater for agricultural reuse and desalinated water for domestic use.

The program addresses multi-disciplinary tools related to water resources management including policy-making, economic, environmental, planning and technical considerations. Participants will gain knowledge in innovative technologies for supplying and treating water designated for irrigation and drinking. The program provides exposure to rapidly expanding areas of research which are making major contributions to economic decision making and to developments in water supply and treatment. Participants will acquire crucial concepts, methodology and information, which they can transmit and adapt to the unique development challenges of their own countries. The program promotes networking and research cooperation among the participants and with the Israeli researchers, planners and managers.

TOPICS OF STUDIES

Water Management- the Global View

Introduction to global water resources
Climate change and water resource management
Governmental and institutional issues

Water Management in Israel - the National View

Water resources management
Structure of agriculture

Economic Considerations

Production function
Optimal allocation
Irrigation- multidisciplinary approach

Irrigation Management

Soil water storage, movement and availability
Crop water relation

Irrigation Technologies

Historical background
Sprinkler and drip irrigation

Treatment Technologies

Wastewater treatment
Desalination

Environmental aspects

Health impacts– pathogenic and toxic micro-organisms
Standards of water use

STUDY CONDITIONS

- Classes will be held at the Faculty's Rehovot campus, where there are laboratories, advanced research equipment and the central library of Agricultural Science.
- Around-the-clock computer access will be provided, and computers will be used extensively.
- We recommend that participants who own a personal computer bring it with them for their own convenience.
- Scientific material and homework will be assigned and graded.
- Professional field trips will be held.
- Full attendance is required.
- We reserve the right to make changes in the academic program.

COURSE COMPLETION

Each participant will prepare a seminar presentation, which will be reviewed and graded. It should apply knowledge acquired during the course to a topic in water management. Participants are advised to bring with them digitalized data relevant to their countries.

REQUIREMENTS

Candidates interested in attending this program require:

Background: M.Sc. degree or above in water science, economics, water management, hydrology, agriculture, environment, water engineering, or in a related field from a recognized university.

Language: A high level of proficiency in all English skills is required for participation in the program. An authorized certificate of English proficiency at a level of at least 89 on the TOEFL new internet based scale or an internationally recognized equivalent.

COST AND APPLICATION

Scholarships are available from MASHAV (see below) to cover the fee for study. The scholarship covers tuition, board, lodging and travel in Israel required for the purposes of the program of studies. This fee **does not include** travel costs to and from the home countries or incidental expenses.

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Their address is:

<http://www.mashav.org.il/English/Forms/FormsDefault.aspx>

Completed applications (2 copies) **MUST** be sent directly to the Israeli representative in your country by **Feb. 1, 2015**. In addition, please send a copy of the forms in PDF format and not JPEG to the Faculty by e-mail to asab@savonim.ac.il.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS FOR PARTICIPANTS

ACCOMMODATIONS: Single bedroom accommodation in a shared apartment will be provided in our fully equipped guest house on campus. Meals will be provided. Both laundry (on campus) and dry cleaning (in town) are at the participant's expense.

WEATHER: The weather in Israel during the spring months is varied, approximately 12-25° C. There may be some sunny days where light clothing is appropriate, but it might also rain and be cool during the season. Participants are requested to bring clothes suitable for outdoor activities including a warm jacket and comfortable walking shoes. We also recommend that you bring some light sweaters, long-sleeved shirts, a rain coat and an umbrella.

INSURANCE: Participants are insured for medical care during their stay in Israel. This does not include pre-existing conditions and /or major dental care. Personal belongings are not insured, and are the responsibility of each individual.

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PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

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Academics: Under the auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment. **Academic Coordinator:** Dr. Yael Mishael

Administration: The Faculty's Division for International Studies in cooperation with the Division for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV).

MASHAV

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COMMUNICATION

Further information relating to the subject matter of the course may be obtained from:

Division for International Studies

Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment

P.O. Box 12

Rehovot, Israel 76100

Tel. 972-8-9489509, or 972-8-9489511

Fax. 972-8-9470171

Website: <http://www.rhsmf.ac.il/facultyinternationalstudies/index.asp>

Program Administrator: Ms. Mala Braslavsky

E-mail address: mala.braslavsky@rhsmf.ac.il



STATE OF ISRAEL



MASHAV

Israel's Agency for
International Development
Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs



CINADCO

Center for International
Agricultural
Development
Cooperation
Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Development

International Course on Agro ecological Approaches for Sustainable Agriculture

27/4-12/5/2015



Israel's Agency for International Development
Cooperation – MASHAV together with the Center for International
Agricultural Development Cooperation – CINADCO invite
professionals to participate in the aforementioned training
program, which will take place in CINADCO's Training Center,
Israel.

About the course

Introduction

Agro ecology is the science of applying ecological concepts and principles to the design, development, and management of sustainable agricultural systems. Agro ecology requires a whole-systems approach based on traditional knowledge, alternative agriculture, and local food system experiences. It links ecology, culture, economics and society to sustain agricultural production, healthy environments, and viable food and farming communities.

Environmentally sound and sustainable agriculture can lead not only to high quality crops but to a better environment as well. Agriculture can help protect open spaces, prevent urban sprawl and preserve the landscape. At the same time, it can facilitate the disposal of urban, industrial and agricultural waste, prevent desertification and promote sustainable development.

Awareness of the environmental degradation which may result from improper agricultural practices has led Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to set up an Agro-Ecology Division. In cooperation with stakeholders, including the farming community, agricultural organizations and government ministries, the division is promoting a holistic approach to address the challenge of intensively cultivating high-quality produce that meets both agricultural and environmental standards.

Aims

The course aims to share Israel's research, technologies, applications, practices and open questions for intensive sustainable agricultural growth while minimizing environmental damage. As well as raising the awareness to the ecological and environmental implications caused by the agricultural sector.

The Program

The course will include professional lectures and visits on the following subjects:
Soil conservation and rehabilitation • Watershed management • Improvement of water use in agriculture • Integrated Pest Management • Treating and recycling agricultural waste • Adaptation to climate change • Biodiversity and ecosystem services • The conflict between natural and agricultural environment • Economical considerations • Enforcement actions and legislation

Requirements

This course is designed for professionals from governmental institutions, universities and research institutes, private companies and non-governmental organizations involved in agriculture production, environmental and ecological aspects of agriculture. Candidates should hold an academic degree in related disciplines . A full command of English is required.

Application

Application forms and other information may be obtained at the nearest Israeli mission and at Israel's Foreign Ministry's website:

<http://mashav.mfa.gov.il/MFA/mashav/Courses/Pages/default.aspx>.

Completed application forms, including the medical form, should be sent to the relevant Israeli mission and to CINADCO's Training Center in Israel, by or before **8th March 2015**.

Fax N°: +972 9 959 5733 or e-mail: rochale@cinadco.co.il

General Information

Location and Accommodation

The course will be held at CINADCO's International Training Centre at Kibbutz Hotel Shefayim, situated 20 km north of Tel Aviv near the coastal city of Netanya. Participants will be accommodated at Hotel Kibbutz Shefayim in double rooms.

Arrival and Departure

Participants should plan to arrive at CINADCO's training centre on the **27.04.2015** and leave on the day **12.05.2015**

Insurance

The participants are medically insured by a health insurance policy. This policy does **not** cover the treatment of chronic or serious diseases, dental care, eyeglasses, pregnancy and/or specific medication taken by the participant on a regular basis. Participants are required to bring with them their usual medication. No insurance for personal belongings such as money, video cameras, laptops or jewelry will be provided.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. **MASHAV** concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. **MASHAV's** approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

About CINADCO

The Center for International Agricultural Development Cooperation - **CINADCO** is part of Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Since 1958, **CINADCO** has been in charge of the international agricultural cooperation programs conducted by **MASHAV** in Israel and in many developing countries around the world. **CINADCO's** activities consist of international, regional and tailor-made training programs, short missions as well as planning and implementation of long term projects <http://www.moag.gov.il/agri/English/>

For further information please contact:

CINADCO - English Division

Hotel Shefayim 60990, Israel

Tel: 972-9-9595729/30 Fax: 972-99595733

e-mail: rochale@cinadco.co.il

<http://www.cinadco.moag.gov.il>

<http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>

Advanced Workshop on CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGRICULTURE

**Shefayim, Israel
03– 14 May 2015**

1. Introduction

The IMS/WMO RTC Bet Dagan of the Israel Meteorological Service has provided training at a post-graduate level since 1967. Several thousands of participants from all over the world, mainly from developing countries, have taken advantage of the opportunities provided by our RTC to study the application of meteorology to various aspects of economic activity.

The topics of this workshop are in accordance with the concept of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), where agriculture is one of the four key areas selected by the High Level Taskforce of GFCS.

Since Israel was successful with developing agriculture, despite the negative impact of its climate and water resources scarcity on its agricultural production, many of the methodologies developed during the years could be used also for mitigating the results of climate change and increasing the agricultural production.

This workshop will demonstrate advanced methodologies and techniques developed in order to compensate for the impact of unfavorable climate conditions on agricultural production. It will introduce Israel's knowledge in various fields such as: (i) Irrigation under changing climate conditions (ii) Microclimate Control in Agricultural Buildings (iii) Forecaster-Farmer Interaction (iv) Cultivation of crops resistant to Climate Change, etc.

The workshop's curriculum will include a combination of classroom lectures, exercises, demonstrations, field trips and round-table discussions.

2. Workshop Objectives

- a) To discuss the effects of climate change on different fields of agriculture and agricultural production.
- b) To demonstrate modern agrometeorological techniques and methods for mitigating the effects of climate change.

3. Learning Outcomes

After the workshop, participants will be able to:

- a) Communicate the existing and potential effects of climate change to the agricultural stakeholders in their country or region.
- b) Make rRecommendations to agricultural stakeholders on advanced irrigation | methods for efficient water usage
- c) Use GIS and remote sensing for decision making
- d) Advise government officials on soil conservation and eco-agricultural strategies.

- e) Improve the work of the forecasting units in their services and strengthen the provider-user relations between the forecasters and other professional staff with the local farming communities.

4. Main Workshop Content:

Effects of climate change on agricultural production:

- Precipitation distribution and changes
- Extreme events – floods, droughts, frost and heatwaves
- Phenological effects
- Pest and disease effecting agricultural yields

Agrometeorological techniques:

- Evapotranspiration (Penman-Monteith) and advanced irrigation methods
- Usage of marginal water
- Climate control in horticulture and livestock buildings
- GIS and remote sensing as integrative tools for decision making
- Soil conservation (increase soil degradation caused by intensive precipitation)
- Eco-Agriculture (the coexistence between the agriculture and natural environment)

Forecast and risk management for improving agricultural production:

- Weather and Climate forecasts and their impact on agriculture
- Usage of Economical Tools for mitigating the impacts of climate change

5. Participation cost

The airfare cost should be covered by the participant, by his/her employer, or by the granting institution. The total cost of lodging at full board for single in a double room during the duration of the workshop, including tuition fees and field trips transportation will amount to app. 270\$ per day (incl. insurance). Total for the whole period is 2700\$.

6. Scholarships

Scholarships, covering accommodations at full board (two persons per room) during the duration of the workshop, tuition fees and field trip transportation will be provided for participants from developing countries, by the Government of Israel – MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation.

7. Criteria

The advanced workshop is designed primarily for meteorological staff of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services engaged and interested in application of advanced agrometeorological methodologies and techniques in mitigating the effect of climate change.

8. Language

The workshop will be held in English. A working knowledge of English is mandatory. All the relevant candidates will be interviewed by local representatives of MASHAV in their countries.

9. Training Staff

The workshop will be conducted by senior staff of the IMS/WMO RTC Bet Dagan having extensive knowledge and experience in Climatology, Agrometeorology and Agronomy, in Israel and elsewhere. Invited guest lecturers will also participate in providing and sharing their knowledge and experience in specific fields of expertise.

10. Visa Information

Most of the participants will require a visa in order to enter Israel. For additional information - <http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ConsularServices/Pages/Visas.aspx>

The required time for obtaining a visa varies from country to country, but might take up to a few weeks. For participants flying through other countries, an additional entrance visa for these countries may be required.

11. Registration

Interested candidates are requested to complete the attached Participant Application Form for the workshop and return it directly to RTC Bet-Dagan, Israel Meteorological Service, P.O. 25 Bet-Dagan 5025001 Israel, to rmtc@ims.gov.il or to gershteing@ims.gov.il not later than the 15 March 2015.

International Training on
"Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural Revitalization"
May 4th – 28th, 2015

Organized by the Weitz Center for Development Studies

The decline in the profitability of agriculture and environmental degradation has jeopardized the health and success of rural areas and their residents. Processes of urbanization, trade liberalization, government investment elsewhere and industrialization have left many rural areas in developing countries and countries in transition with limited income or employment for rural residents.

The international training *Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural Revitalization* is designed to empower participants to approach these difficulties by identifying channels for rural development and revitalization, specifically through diversification of economic activities; improvement of social services; the establishment of an effective system of support for economic and social development and strengthening agricultural production. The course adopts the integrated approach for rural development – The Rehovot Approach, which stresses the importance of integrating economic activities, integrating national policies with local interests, and utilizing local assets for the development process.

The course aims to:

- Provide participants with knowledge, tools and strategies related to rural revitalization
- Inspire and energize participants to be agents for positive change in their countries
- Expose participants to new approaches and opportunities in the field of rural revitalization
- Present Israel as a case study from which to draw valuable lessons about rural revitalization
- Enrich participants with professional skills with which to develop their careers and best benefit their communities and countries
- Connect participants with an international network of professionals in their field

The program will provide participants with knowledge and tools in the following subjects:

- + The role of agriculture in rural revitalization (information and communication technologies, agricultural R&D, extension work, market access and competitiveness)
- + Economic development and diversification of economic niches in the rural realm (eco/agro-tourism, agro-industry, stimulating entrepreneurship).
- + Ways to address the challenges posed by the provision of social services to dispersed rural populations. (community participation, empowerment and resilience)
- + Sustainable development approaches (Green growth, asset-based development, sound environmental practices, adapting to climate change risks).
- + Partnerships, financial and organizational tools for rural revitalization (the role for local government, infrastructure investments, SME support, settlement upgrading, PPP's).
- + Israeli examples and case studies which illustrate the above-mentioned concepts.

The Israeli experience

Israel has gained significant experience in rural development and revitalization. This includes national policies for rural development, the establishment of cooperative rural settlements, adopting novel technologies for agricultural production, and contemporary economic diversification in the rural areas.

The methodology

Participants will participate in both classroom based lectures and study visits, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of high-level Israeli experts and consultants. Israeli case studies and practice will be discussed throughout the program. Additionally, participants will be required to formulate and present a project of interest relevant to the topic of this course. For this purpose, some pre-course work will be required. Detailed instruction will be sent to the selected participants.

Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as during field visits.

Who may apply?

The training targets highly motivated individuals working to upgrade declined rural areas. Typically we are looking for: decision makers and policy makers working in governmental ministries, specifically in the field of rural development, environment, agriculture and resource management, planning and economics; Employees of local authorities in the relevant fields; Representatives of rural association; Managers of cooperatives, NGOs or CBOs; Key workers of private sector businesses which operate in the field.

Application Process

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted in **WORD documents** at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronit@weitz-center.org) **not later than February 27th, 2015**. Candidates must also hand in a passport photo by electronic file.

Scholarships

*The scholarships includes: tuition, 25 days with full board accommodation (sharing a room with one other participant), medical insurance and transportation from/to the airport in Israel. MASHAV assumes responsibility for the cost of participants' medical insurance for the duration of the course **excluding costs arising from dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses**.*

MASHAV and the Weitz Center are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

The scholarship does not include flight tickets and additional out of pocket expenses. It should be taken into account when booking the flight tickets that the scholarship covers exclusively from 3- 4.5.15 (arrival day) to 28.5.15 (day of departure). Any liability or expense out of this term shall be entirely at the expense of the participant.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

About Weitz Center

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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