

International course

Plant variety protection



Plant breeders' rights

Wageningen, The Netherlands, 18 – 29 June 2018



An important tool for food security and genetic variation.

An effective Plant Variety Protection System can ensure and improve food security in any country. This course aims at:

- facilitating the introduction and practical implementation of Plant Breeders' Rights in accordance with the UPOV Convention in countries where legislation on this matter is being developed or has recently been passed.
- a better understanding of how a Plant Variety Protection System works for those who are involved in the registration of new varieties.

Intellectual property rights for plant breeders

The protection of the rights of plant breeders is an important stimulus for the development of better plant varieties. The possibility to claim intellectual property rights on a variety gives a breeder the exclusive rights to exploit it and to prevent others from doing so illegally.

Many countries are therefore developing and implementing a legal framework for the protection of plant varieties within an intellectual property rights system. Besides developing legislation, the implementation of the Plant Breeders' Rights system has far-reaching consequences of a legal, institutional, technical, financial and commercial nature. In this course, participants will learn about these consequences, and about practical ways to implement new regulations.

Fee:	3,500 Euro
Deadline subscription:	07 May 2018
Deadline NFP (KOP) / MENA fellowships:	18 October 2017

Course subjects

The following subjects will be introduced through lectures, discussions and working groups:

- legal aspects – legal framework, requirements of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), patents, regulations relating to genetic resource use;
- institutional aspects – procedures and administration, organisational setup, variety registration systems, collaboration and testing;
- technical aspects – the principle of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS), practical DUS-testing, UPOV guidelines, field testing, biochemical/ molecular techniques, statistics, data analysis, reporting, variety denomination;
- exploitation of plant breeders rights – enforcing rights, royalty collection, farm saved seed.

Practical trainings on DUS testing form part of the course and visits will be made to seed certification services, breeding companies and the Aalsmeer flower auction.

Organizers

Naktuinbouw is responsible for DUS testing of all varieties of agricultural, ornamental and vegetable crops for Plant Breeder's Rights in the Netherlands, on behalf of the Dutch Board for Plant Varieties and the European Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) and for entry of agricultural and vegetable varieties on the Dutch National List. Naktuinbouw organizes this course in collaboration with Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation.

UPOV Distance Learning Course

Participants that register timely and have been accepted are invited to take part, free of charge, in the UPOV Distance Learning Course (DL-205) 'Introduction to the UPOV System of Plant Variety Protection under the UPOV Convention'.

Target Audience

Applicants should have a position in the plant variety protection system or have a position that will give them such responsibilities in the near future. Countries that have recently developed a plant variety protection law, or those that are currently in the process of developing such legislation, will be given priority. We also welcome employees of the legal departments in the agricultural industry.

Applicants should have an agricultural or horticultural education at a minimum of BSc level or a legal education supplemented with practical experience in agriculture and horticulture.

Participants are expected to be proficient in English.

Further practical information

- **For application**, the procedure is:
 - 1) **Apply at the website of: Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation:** www.wur.eu/cdi. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription (f.e. funding, visa) can take some time.
 - 2) The Netherlands Fellowship Programmes (NFP) and NICHE entered a new phase as per **01 August 2017** and will continue as 'Kennisonwikkelingsprogramma' (KOP). Under the new KOP programme, provisionally NFP fellowships will be available for [30 countries](#). CDI can provide you with the full instructions and the web address for registration in ATLAS. ATLAS is the online application form for an NFP/MENA Fellowship. Please check the eligibility criteria at www.nuffic.nl/nfp or www.nuffic.nl/mena. Please be aware that this application process takes time and effort, and requires several documents. We therefore recommend that you start as soon as possible. Since the number scholarships available is limited, an application may not always lead to a positive result. .
 - NFP/MENA **Fellowships include** travel and full board and lodging.
 - **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials, excursions, administration).
 - Participants will be awarded with a **Certificate** of attendance. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.