

VEGETABLES: From Seed to Table and Beyond

Course objectives

The 33rd International Vegetable Training Course (IVTC) of AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center aims to enhance technical, scientific and managerial skills of participants, enabling them to contribute to the sustainable development of their countries through the increased production and consumption of nutritious and health-promoting vegetables. The training emphasizes advanced and sustainable vegetable production and postharvest technologies, farmer education, human health and nutrition, and marketing. In addition, this training will enhance awareness and understanding of emerging global development issues and technologies. This year's course is dedicated to the 2014 International Year of Family Farming as declared by the United Nations to highlight the significant role of family and smallholder farmers in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, particularly in rural areas. The 33rd IVTC is organized in collaboration with SATNET Asia - a project funded by European Union, and the Horticulture Innovation Lab Regional Center at Kasetsart University. It is endorsed by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), particularly its Commission on Education, Research Training and Consultancy.

Who should attend

Researchers and extensionists from national and international agricultural research institutes, universities, nongovernmental organizations, and policymakers to improve their knowledge and management skills through three separate but interrelated one-month long modules.

Training method

Learning will be through a balanced mix of lectures, hands-on exposure, group discussions, individual exercises, laboratory sessions, and field trips. All modules use English as a medium of instruction, thus, a certain level of oral and written English proficiency is required to fully benefit from the course. Lecturers and presenters hail from AVRDC, Kasetsart University, Thailand's Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Extension, the Horticulture Collaborative Research Support Program (HortCRSP) established by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and other local, regional and international organizations.

Fellowships

AVRDC does not provide any scholarships. Interested applicants without funding may seek financial support from other agencies.

Course fee*

Modules can be taken singly or as a whole. The corresponding fees are as follows:

- One module (any of the three modules): USD 2,400.00
- Two modules (any combination): USD 4,500.00
- Three modules (full course): USD 6,600.00

* Covers tuition, board and lodging, course materials, local transportation and local accident and health insurance. Further details will be provided upon request and are specified in the acceptance letter.



AVRDC Research and Training Station, Kamphaeng Saen, Thailand

Training venue

AVRDC Research and Training Station at Kasetsart University, Kamphaeng Saen, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated at a studio-type apartment close to Kasetsart University's Kamphaeng Saen campus. The single rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with own bathroom, refrigerator, TV and internet connection.

Comments from previous participants

"This training has provided me with more knowledge on vegetable production and human nutrition as well as global development issues of which I was not aware prior to the training. It widened my perspective and understanding on the importance of vegetables for better nutrition."

-- Lilian Teano (Philippines)

"IVTC is important for me as I am involved in rural community development programs. All topics of the course are essential to do my work more efficiently and effectively. I will apply my new knowledge and skills to train my colleagues."

-- Myo Min Aung (Myanmar)

"The best part of IVTC are the many practical activities which provided opportunities for intense discussions among the participants and experts. I really enjoyed the subjects on breeding, seed production, seed health, seedling management, pest & disease management, and statistics as well as all the site visits. As an obese person, one thing that I managed to learn besides the training course was how to change my dietary habits and lifestyle to help me to become a healthier person."

-- Nurul Atilia Shafienaz Binti Hanifah (Malaysia)

"I was particularly happy with the sessions on communication and extension, research methods, and developing capacity building programs. I suggest to have similar training programs also in other ASEAN countries."

-- Rangga Ditya Yofa (Indonesia)

For further information and application forms, please contact:

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AVRDC
The World Vegetable Center

15 September
to
5 December
2014



33rd International Vegetable Training Course

**Vegetables:
From Seed to Table and Beyond**

AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center
East and Southeast Asia
Bangkok, Thailand

In partnership with:





MODULE I: From Seed to Harvest

15 September - 10 October 2014

Module I focuses on the essentials of integrated vegetable production within the framework of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Relevant technologies on seed production, seed health and seedling management will be shared with participants. An overview on how to facilitate and manage farmer education programs is included.

Week 1: Germplasm Conservation, Seed Health and Seedling Management

Topics cover germplasm conservation including community seed banks, role of private seed companies in the vegetable industry, and a two-day intensive seminar, "Seed Health Testing." This seminar includes hands-on laboratory practice and lectures on identifying seed-borne diseases for seed quarantine, production, and storage purposes. Participants will start attending a weekly Vegetable Farmer Field School, specifically designed for IVTC.



Week 2: Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Vegetable Breeding

The essentials of vegetable production following GAP protocols will be discussed with field trips to GAP certified farms. There will be lectures on vegetable breeding and seed production. A session on statistics relevant for agricultural research and development purposes is also included.

Week 3: Integrated Disease Management

The whole week is dedicated to lectures, laboratory and field exercises on major vegetable diseases. Experiences from academia as well as research and development projects related to vegetable disease management will be shared with participants.

Week 4: Integrated Pest Management

Activities will focus on managing insect pests and weeds of vegetables using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies through lectures and field/laboratory exercises. This includes biological control approaches.

Application deadline: 15 August 2014

MODULE II: From Harvest to Table

13 October - 7 November 2014

Module II aims to create awareness of efficient harvesting and postharvest technologies within the framework of Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices (GAP/GMP), including a better understanding of the economics of vegetable production and marketing. This will be complemented by lectures and exercises on improved nutrition through better awareness, access, and consumption of vegetables.

Week 1: Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices (GAP/GMP)

Lectures will focus on the essentials of good agricultural and manufacturing processes (GAP/GMP). Field trips to retail and wholesale markets will be arranged to enable the participants to interact with market vendors, buyers, and vegetable farmers.

Week 2: Vegetable Postharvest Technologies

Lectures and hands-on exposure (laboratory and field) will focus on both low-cost and advanced postharvest technologies, including appropriate packaging and design. Food safety issues will be addressed through a lecture and practicum on rapid methods for pesticide residue analysis.

Week 3: Vegetables, Human Nutrition and Health

Lectures and exercises will focus on interventions for improved nutrition and health of rural and urban consumers through increased awareness, access, and consumption of nutritious, diverse, and safe vegetables. Special attention will be given to the importance of traditional vegetables, as well as home, community and school gardens.



Week 4: Linking Vegetable Producers with Consumers

Economics and market analysis of vegetable production and marketing systems will be a major topic of the week. A field trip will expose participants to successful vegetable production and marketing sites in Thailand. This will include visits to private companies.

Application deadline: 13 September 2014

MODULE III: Vegetables for Sustainable Development

10 November - 5 December 2014

Module III outlines how vegetable research and development contributes to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It explores how vegetables link with other sectors and complement different development initiatives. Participants will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to conceptualize and implement research and development activities.

Week 1: Approaches to Sustainable Development

Different development issues will be presented and discussed. Participants will learn the fundamentals of effective leadership, community development, cooperatives, microfinance, and gender issues. An overview of different extension and communication strategies and their effective use to promote sustainable development will be provided.



Week 2: Environment and Natural Resources

Appropriate approaches that will enhance the climate resilience of vegetable growers and conserve natural resources will be presented. Additional topics include ecological sanitation, participatory planning approaches, GIS and remote sensing, and urban and peri-urban horticulture. Lectures on disaster preparedness and response, mitigation and risk management complement this week.

Week 3: Proposal Writing, Monitoring & Evaluation

Essentials of proposal writing, project monitoring & evaluation and appropriate presentation to different stakeholders will be discussed. Participants will learn about tools to measure outcomes and impact of development interventions.

Week 4: Development Action Plans/Closing

Participants will finalize and present their development action plans for possible implementation once they return to their duty stations. A closing and farewell program is scheduled on the last day.

Application deadline: 10 October 2014