International course

Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships to foster sustainable and inclusive food systems

Using interactive approaches to learn and innovate with a diverse range of stakeholders
Pokhara, Nepal, 25 October – 3 November 2017

Multiple stakeholders, multiple interests! Are you in the challenging position to design, facilitate or participate in complex change partnerships, in which diverse stakeholders are involved? Are you wondering how best to deal with power dynamics and conflicts? What are the best strategies when working in such complex situations? How to create social learning processes and enable effective communication between the different actors? The Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) course helps you in taking up this challenge!

Multi-stakeholder partnerships Today’s world is faced by many complex issues: the over use of natural resources, climate change, continuing poverty and inequality. Quite simply, these complex problems require innovative solutions that call for new ways of working together across the boundaries of business, government and civil society.

However, good processes don’t just happen, they need to be designed and facilitated. Specifically, they need to be designed and facilitated on the basis of a sound rationale for change based on a good understanding of the context, with a clear purpose and vision in mind, and based on principles for transformative change.

This obviously implies some quite specific facilitation capacities and skills - from the capacity to engage with the complex political context underpinning the rationale for the MSP, to the capacity to work with individuals and groups in a way that enables them to challenge themselves and each other in the quest for new approaches and collaborative learning.

The course covers state-of-the-art thinking about designing and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships and institutional change.

We invite MSP practitioners We welcome participants who are involved, or will be in the future, in the facilitation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. They can be from NGOs, government, private sector, research, universities or consultants.

Using and learning from your own experiences The course is highly interactive and builds on the participants’ own experiences and cases of MSPs. You will have active discussions, work on group assignments, engage in role-plays and undertake fieldwork to explore a real-life MSP. You will practice with a wide range of participatory methodologies and tools. The course facilitators follow a flexible programme that allows adaptation to the specific needs of individuals and the group.

Becoming a good process facilitator At the end of the course you will feel confident to design and facilitate complex change processes, in which diverse stakeholders are able to meet, share experiences, learn together and contribute to decisions.

Fee: 2,700 Euro
Deadline subscription: 18 September 2017
Participants are requested to arrange their own travel to Pokhara. Nepali applicants will receive a fee waiver. Please contact training@libird.org or 9851230438.
The course objectives are:
- to understand the concepts and rationale of multi-stakeholder partnerships, complexity and institutional change;
- to analyse different types of multi-stakeholder partnerships in terms of the issues at stake, the stakeholders, their interests, (power) relations, conflicts, external context, etc.;
- to discover how to design and plan an extended MSP;
- to practice and learn how to use a broad range of participatory methodologies and tools in MSPs;
- to be challenged on your own facilitation, and communication skills.

Programme

The main topics of the course are:

1. **INTRODUCTION:** What is an MSP?
   - a. Where is it applicable? What are the different types?

2. **RATIONALE:** Why do we need MSPs?
   - a. Introductions to complexity thinking, systems thinking, institutional change, experiential learning, Theory of Change.

3. **PRINCIPLES:** What are the key elements for successful MSPs?
   - a. Embrace systemic change; transform institutions; work with power; deal with conflict; communicate effectively; promote collaborative leadership; foster participatory learning.
   - b. Using interactive processes and tools to achieve this.

4. **PRACTICE:** How to design and facilitate MSPs?
   - a. Different phases of an MSP: initiating, adaptive planning, collaborative action and reflective monitoring.
   - b. Reflections on group dynamics, preferred communication and facilitation styles.

Further practical information

- **Application**, the procedure is:
  1) Apply at the website of Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation: wur.eu/cdi. You will receive a confirmation and more information within a week. Early application is recommended as some procedures to finalise subscription can take time.
  Please note that CDI and Libird are unable to assist you in obtaining financial support.

- **Accommodation:** We will accommodate all participants in a hotel in Pokhara with full board and lodging, as part of the course fee.
- **Fee** includes all course related costs (materials like the MSP book, field visit, administration).
- Participants will be awarded with a **Certificate of attendance**. The programme of the course might be changed to incorporate new insights.

Joining one of our courses will expand your horizon, both in a social and scientific way. You can share experience and knowledge with others working in similar fields, get up-to-date in current scientific insights methodologies and practices, and become part of our 20.000 strong alumni network.

This training is being organized in Pokhara, Nepal – an astonishing place with majestic view of Himalaya surrounded by rich biodiversity landscapes and beautiful lakes. It is also a Ramsar site for wetland conservation. This course has a 2-days field visit in the Begnas-Rupa watershed area where LI-BIRD is working for over two decades.

For field work, the participants will be taken to Begnas-Rupa watershed areas to interact with local stakeholders of the lake watershed. The participants will have an opportunity to meet with stakeholders with different interests from upstream and downstream communities and assess the areas of conflict and its nature and intensity. The lake watershed is a common resource where people living in surrounding areas have the rights to use local resource and benefit from it. An institution has been developed to bring different stakeholders together and reduce potential conflict by employing different conflict mitigation measures.