

## **INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE IN POLICY MAKING AND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

An example of course developed in an innovative partnership between IKTI, Public Administrations and University research centres is described below.

The course can be the outcome of a process of needs assessment and dialogue between the partners on how to respond to Climate Change challenges in Europe and Middle East. It can be a support programme for Climate Change Adaptation, realized by WBF and the Ministry of Environment. This training is one way of strengthening the capacities in the region, through well established local structures. The local implementing partner is the Middle East Environmental Centre and Network.

### **Proposal Course Focus**

Changing climate and weather patterns are predicted to have severe negative impacts on food production, food security and natural resources in Middle East . Without appropriate responses climate change is likely to constrain economic development and poverty reduction efforts and exacerbate already pressing difficulties. Especially countries with economies rooted in climate sensitive sectors like agriculture, fisheries and forestry are expected to be hardest hit. Climate change is both a global environment and a local development issue, as it could jeopardize the livelihoods of millions, particularly where its impacts are compounded by other factors or where existing poverty and hunger make it particularly difficult to cope with its impacts. Targets as defined in the Millennium Development Goals will be more difficult to reach.

The formulation of climate change adaptation projects is done by most least developed countries via the National Action Programmes for Adaptation (NAPA's). Most projects focus on technical issues and not on the institutional and technical capacities that should be in place to actually implement possible adaptation strategies.

There is often limited knowledge and understanding of climate change adaptation concepts and local level implication. It is a rather new phenomena with potential risks but limited reaction of policy makers. Moreover the capacities for adaptive planning, informed policy development and climate proof programming are weak. This course will bridge the research-policy divide.

### **Aims and objectives**

Participants of this course will have full understanding of climate change adaptation concepts. They are able to effectively and meaningfully contribute to the debate on climate change adaptation, either in the policy process and or in providing knowledge to the policy process. They will strengthen their positions in these processes on the basis of newly acquired concepts, skills and methodologies.

### **Training methods**

The course uses interactive training methods. Subjects are conducted in a combination of lectures, plenary and group work, study assignments and role plays.

Experiences of participants are the entry point for interaction. The course includes field work for vulnerability assessment and interaction with policy makers to discuss and refine strategies for policy development and programming

### **Target group**

The course is intended for mid-career professionals who are engaged at higher levels and deal with policy making either from the research side (as advisor), government side or from civil society. The focus will be on the research – policy interface. This course is intended for participants from United Arab Emirates and Gulf countries .

### **Requirements for admission**

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

- relevant tertiary education and at least five years of experience in one or more of the course-related disciplines (agriculture, water management, biodiversity, forestry, crop breeding, crop production or otherwise related to natural resources management),
- the course needs to be directly relevant to their work for the research – policy interface on climate change adaptation. In their day to day work they have to 'translate' the impact of climate change into practical solutions and climate informed policies or programs,
- competence in English.

### **Programme**

The main topics of the course are:

- Understanding climate change (concepts, causes, risks) and implications for food security and agriculture,
- Agricultural and NRM vulnerability assessment,
- Exploring indigenous knowledge and practices for adaptation to climate change(coping strategies),
- Innovative practices for adaptation,
- Competing claims, conflict management, advocacy,
- Policy making processes, integrating climate change issues into existing policy processes and rural development strategies.

### **Certificate**

Participants are granted a Certificate of Attendance