



Announcement

Online Course: Diaspora Investment in Agribusiness

16 January 2017 – 27 February 2017

Since 2013, the African Diaspora Policy Centre (ADPC), in cooperation with The Network University (TNU), has undertaken the “Strengthening Policy Making Capacity of the Emerging Diaspora Ministries in Africa” programme. The overall objective has been to contribute to strengthening the policy making capacities and practical operations of African government officials serving at the newly-formed Diaspora Ministries and related institutions tasked with overseeing diaspora and development-related matters. In particular it aims to facilitate African policymakers responsible for diaspora engagement for homeland development to gain access to up-to-date information, good practices both in policy making and effective implementation of programmes, positive exceptions and lessons-learned in the field of migration and development.

One of the activities that is offered as part of the programme is an Online Course on *Diaspora Investment in Agribusiness*. This course will take place from **16 January - 27 February 2017**. The course aims to provide a number of ideas that can be used in discussions between migrants and relatives who engage in agriculture, processing and marketing. It concentrates on small initiatives which are within reach of migrant households. Although many migrants already invest in land, the focus of this course is on a better use of existing farmland and on all further steps – “from farm to fork”. The term “agribusiness” stands for all the phases of agricultural production from the preparation of the soil to the storage, transport, and the selling of the processed products.

Most examples in this programme are taken from an African context, but many ideas are also relevant in other countries where smallholders account for a large share in agricultural production.

The **target beneficiaries** of the course can be categorized into three groups;

- Migrant organisations and migrants who send remittances to people engaged in agriculture related activities. Members of the diaspora could use the information offered in this course to start a discussion on small scale investments which would increase productivity and income. They often have access to more information than people who stay at home. Sharing this information could lead to highly beneficial initiatives.

- Those engaged in food production and food processing in the countries of origin, who have relatives or friends abroad. They could develop their own plans further with the information in this course and could approach their friends abroad with concrete proposals for investment.
- Institutions involved in agricultural development and diaspora engagement, which could use the information to support projects, programmes and policies that assist smallholders to increase productivity and income.

The online course will take place from **16 January 2017 – 27 February 2017**. Participation in the course is **free**, that is, a scholarship of 400 euro will be provided, corresponding to the course value. The scholarships will be granted to selected applications on the basis of the application.

To be considered for the training, and for further information, please visit <http://agri.netuni.nl> and fill out the application form no later than **7 January 2017**. If you require any further information please contact Ciaran Hickey, c.hickey@diaspora-centre.org.

Please note that all participants should:

- be in command of the English language;
- Participants are involved in aspects of diaspora and/or agriculture policy making and implementation,
- be able to spend **a minimum of 4 hours per week** (every week) on course work;
- Are motivated to participate actively,
- have basic ICT skills and a minimum of internet access.

For more information about the SEDIMA programme more generally, visit: <http://www.diaspora-centre.org/sedima/>

SEDIMA is supported by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands