



## **PLANT BREEDING AND SEED PRODUCTION**

**Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency - SIDA**

### **PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES:**

During the last decades additional tools have been developed for plant breeding, e.g. genetic engineering, molecular marker use and tissue culture technique. As these new technologies have mainly been developed in the North, the speed of transferring the techniques to the South must be increased considerably. In order to increase their food production and self-sufficiency, countries need to establish a viable self-sustainable seed industry in which the private sector plays a major role. The private sector is driven by consumer demand and will be sensitive to market fluctuations and the local needs within the major crops. The private sector will only be interested if they can see an expanding market for high quality seed of improved varieties of a broad spectrum of agricultural and horticultural crops and if the legal framework for their business development is present. There is, however, a strong need for public involvement in seed development for non-cash crops, especially in the South where these crops are often the staple foods. Breeding of these crops has to be focused not only on high quality and production, but also on factors such as drought resistance, low input and nutritional value. These factors are not necessarily the main interest of private breeding centres. However, there is a great potential for public/private partnerships to be formed to secure the development of these crops and to support the local food security. The main objective of this training programme is: To enhance the participants' managerial efficiency by increasing their knowledge in all the essential elements of a modern seed industry.

### **The specific objectives are:**

- To advance the participants' knowledge in the new dimension of a free market economy for the benefit of the farming community and global food security;
- To broaden and develop the participants' knowledge about agro biotechnology-challenges, problems and possible ways forward;
- To enhance the participants' understanding of the organization, management and modern technology in production, processing and storage of seed;
- To improve the participants' knowledge in quality control and certification of seed for the benefit of the farmers as well as seed trade;
- To enable participants to find, use and draw conclusions from sources of information and expertise related to food security and modern plant breeding and seed technology;
- To support the participants in initiating processes of change in their home environments within the above-mentioned fields and enhance their project management and communication skills.

Svalöf Consulting AB plant breeding and seed industry, and improve their understanding of organization management and modern technology in the complete chain from plant breeding via control to marketing. Their comprehension of modern agricultural biotechnology will also be improved. Ethical, ecological and regulatory problems associated with plant breeding (e.g. GMO-crops) will also be covered. Finally, women's increasing influence within the sector will be highlighted.

### **PROJECT OF CHANGE:**

Before the start of the programme the participants are assigned to write a situation analysis describing the current situation in plant breeding and seed production in their home countries. Based on this analysis, they will be asked to identify and provide a short description of a suggested "Project of Change" in the application. This is probably the most important output of the training programme and much time will be devoted to this during all phases. For a project to be successful it is essential that it is anchored in the home organization and a commitment with the home organization is ensured. Each participant will be given a mentor who will assign time to advise during the implementation of the Projects of Change also in the intermediate phase.

### **PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:**

The programme is divided in the following five subject modules:

- Seed Policy, Law and Regulations including Certification and GMO Regulations
- Plant Breeding and Agricultural Biotechnology
- Seed Production and Processing including Seed Treatment and Storage
- Business Development and Marketing
- Project Management and Communication

### **DATE AND PLACE:**

The programme is divided in two phases and an intermediate phase between the two phases. The first phase will take place in Alnarp and Stockholm, Sweden, between September 6 and October 1, 2010. The intermediate phase will consist of the participants' work on their Projects of Change in their respective home countries. Phase 2 will be located in one of the participating countries between March 7-18, 2011.

### **TEACHING:**

The programme will mix lectures, group and individual work, study visits and field studies. Project work and communication will be continuous parts of the programme and focus will be on active participation and the applicability in the participants' respective organizations and countries.

### **Target Group:**

- Individuals working within agriculture and the seed industry. The participants may come from either the private-, public- or NGO sectors.
- Key professionals and decisionmakers working with, aiming to or being responsible for running development processes in their respective organizations and countries.
- Professionals with an academic degree in the area of agriculture, or equivalent knowledge or with an academic degree in other fields but with relevant knowledge and experience within agriculture. Participants are expected to come from the

following sectors involved in plant breeding and seed production: International and regional associations, Public and independent research and training centres, Policy makers, Public administrators, Industry associations, Farmers associations, Private plant breeding companies, Private seed producers and processors, Product traders and Environmental and social interest groups (NGOs).

#### **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS:**

The training programme will be organized and conducted in English and consequently a high proficiency in the English language is required. Candidates should be able to provide independent certification of their language skills, preferably by submitting results from an internationally recognized language test. Due to the character of the programme family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

**Application Process:** Closing date for application is April 15, 2010.

**Applications submitted after closing date will not be considered. Application should be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents.** An English language test should be made with an official body in the home country of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her / his ability. The Swedish Embassy/Consulate does not carry out language tests but may be able to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests. When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country. The application should be submitted to the nearest Swedish Embassy / Consulate. If there is no Swedish Embassy / Consulate in the applicant's country, the application should be submitted directly to the Program Secretariat. Applications can also be sent to Svalöf Consulting by e-mail, provided an authorised digital signature is provided. The authority responsible for official nomination of candidates should approve the complete application. Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or fax. Once accepted, the applicant must confirm participation. An invitation letter containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements will be sent.

#### **COST OF PARTICIPATION:**

The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee, which covers all training costs such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities, and accommodation costs, which cover board and lodging. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs. International travel costs to and from Sweden regarding Phase 1 are not covered by Sida and shall be funded by the participant's home organization. Sida covers all international travel costs for Phase 2, except for those costs incurred in travelling to the nearest international airport in the participant's home country. Personal expenses are not included.

**ACCOMMODATION:**

All participants will be accommodated in a hotel in the city of Malmö. Each participant will have her / his own fully contained single room. Breakfast will be included.

**VISA:**

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. Inquiries should be directed to the respective Swedish Embassy / Consulate alternatively other Schengen representation as soon as possible after acceptance into the programme. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that correct visas are obtained before leaving their home countries, especially for countries not included in the Schengen agreement. The costs of obtaining visas are borne by the participant.

**For more information, the following website offers Swedish visa information:**  
**<http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>**

**Difusión:**

**Dirección de Relaciones Internacionales –USAT**

24/03/10

FUENTE: OBEC