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Funding: Horizon 2020, European Union

Call: Rural Renaissance – Fostering Innovation and Business Opportunities

Topic: RUR-13-2017 Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice

Grant agreement: No 771738

Duration: May 2018 to April 2022

Coordinator:

Dr Martin Melin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Alnarp, Sweden

WEBSITE:

<https://www.nextfood-project.eu/>



Nextfood - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system

Practice Abstract #27 - Requirements to interact with farmers and non-university actors in a field-based course

Authors: Dr. Manju S. Nair, Anupama Augustine, Kerala University, India

University of Kerala hosts a One-month Certificate Course on Agroecology and Action Research for students from multidisciplinary backgrounds which employs flexible curricula, field action and peer learning. This includes farmers and non-university actors as facilitators. Students spend about two weeks at a farm, and farmers guide their learning. Agroecology course 2019 had support from farmers and local self-government officials. This experience produced major recommendations:

- Plan the process of inclusion: The action plan developed to include non-university actors in Course contained;
 - ✓ Visiting prospective fields/institutions as an extension activity and understanding the nature (of farms), structure (of institutions) and meeting major stakeholders.
 - ✓ Conducting workshop with selected stakeholders and explaining the nuances of the course and expected role of each participant.
 - ✓ Listening to apprehensions and communicating benefits to stakeholders.
- Make instruction/communication multi-lingual: The norm regarding medium of instruction as English at the University was made flexible and the farmers were given freedom to choose their language during discussions. This boosted confidence of illiterate farmers.
- Familiarizing farmers and other stakeholders with University systems: Organizing seminars/symposiums prior to conduction of course and honoring of farmers. This made attitudinal change in both students and teachers and earned recognition for farmers.



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Practice Abstract # 27 – Requerimientos para interactuar con agricultores y actores no universitarios en un curso de campo

Autores: Dr. Manju S. Nair, Anupama Augustine, Kerala University, India

La Universidad de Kerala organiza un curso certificado de un mes en agroecología e investigación activa para estudiantes de diferentes disciplinas que emplea planes de estudio flexibles, acción de campo y aprendizaje entre pares. Esto incluye a agricultores y actores no universitarios como facilitadores. Los estudiantes pasan dos semanas en una granja y los agricultores guían su aprendizaje. El curso de agroecología 2019 contó con el apoyo de agricultores y funcionarios de auto-gobierno local. De esta experiencia se obtuvieron importantes recomendaciones:

- Planificar el proceso de inclusión: El plan de acción desarrollado para incluir actores no universitarios en el Curso contenido;
- Visitar campos / instituciones potenciales como una actividad de extensión y comprender la naturaleza (de las granjas), la estructura (de las instituciones) y conocer a los principales interesados.
- Realización de un taller con los actores interesados seleccionados y explicando los matices del curso y el rol esperado de cada participante.
- Escuchar aprehensiones y comunicar beneficios a los actores externos participantes.
- Hacer que la instrucción y la comunicación sean multilingües: la norma con respecto al medio de instrucción como el inglés en la Universidad se flexibilizó y los agricultores tuvieron libertad para elegir su idioma durante las discusiones. Esto aumentó la confianza de los agricultores analfabetos.
- Familiarizar a los agricultores y otras partes interesadas con los sistemas universitarios: organizar seminarios/simposios antes de la realización del curso y homenajear a los agricultores. Esto provocó un cambio de actitud tanto en los estudiantes como en los profesores y ganó el reconocimiento de los agricultores.

