



**APRACA CENTRAB
in partnership with
Wageningen University and Research
cordially invites nomination to the**



**European Innovations in Agri and Rural Finance
and Agricultural Insurance
Wageningen and Amsterdam, The Netherlands
April 8 - 12, 2019 (excluding of travel time)**

INTRODUCTION

The Netherlands is one of the world's largest exporters of agricultural and food products, thanks to its innovative agrifood technology. The Dutch agrifood sector is a sustainable source of healthy, safe food that is produced with respect for nature and the environment. The foundation of Dutch agricultural success in the 20th century is formed by the successful collaboration between agricultural research/education, industry and government. This collaboration is called the 'Golden Triangle' developed in the 19th century. Currently, the Netherlands is growing not only into one of the most important export countries in agricultural products, but it is also an international leader in innovation, knowledge expansion and knowledge dissemination.

Wageningen University, the host of this program, ranks #1 in the world in the field of Agriculture and Forestry, according to QS World University Rankings. It is likewise ranked as the best university in the Netherlands for the fourteenth time in a row based on the assessment of Keuzegids Universities 2019.

Wageningen University is part of Wageningen University & Research which is a globally-renowned research leader in the areas of sustainable agro-chains, healthy environment, healthy food and food safety. It has also strong global position as a supplier of application oriented and field based research. Its high scientific level is confirmed by its prominent position in international ranking and citation indices. Obviously, Wageningen University & Research has been playing an important role in the Dutch agricultural success being responsible for agricultural research and MSc- and PhD-education.

The Golden Triangle



FOCUS

The program will provide the participants with the following takeaway after the program:

- ✚ Overview on the Innovations in Dutch Agriculture and the importance of rural finance and agri insurance in the Netherlands.
- ✚ Reflect upon state-of-the-art rural innovation, farmer entrepreneurship and farmer-inclusive value chain and agribusiness development.
- ✚ Analyze farmers' relations with sourcing companies, banks and MFIs, input dealers, research and extension and other stakeholders and learn about options to improve the relationships;
- ✚ Discuss experiences with farmers' positioning and empowerment in the external policy and business environment

- ✚ Explore alternative intervention strategies and modalities for external support to farmers and their organizations based on a critically reflection on prevailing practices.

During the programme, experts from Wageningen University & Research as well as key players in the agri sector in the Netherlands will introduce the golden triangle and other innovative programs and services they provide to strengthen the agri sector. Furthermore, input from financial institutions and field visits to various farms and interaction with farmers will be included in the itinerary.

As part of the programme of activities, the participants are expected to prepare a 15 minute PowerPoint presentation/country paper on rural banking and finance in their respective country. Below is the suggested outline to facilitate its preparation:

- Brief background about the country being represented by the participants
- Laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations applicable on rural finance and banking activities;
- Major Programs and Projects of your country's rural banking and finance;
- Your bank's best practices/strategies and approaches in the promotion and development of agri and rural finance.

PARTICIPANTS

The expected participants are male or female middle or senior officers from private or government banks or private organizations which operate for agri or rural development and financing.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Please note: Schedule or presentations may change depending on the availability of resource speakers

April 7, Sunday

- ✚ Arrival of Participants and Hotel Transfer

April 8, Monday

- ✚ Welcoming of Guests, Administrative Briefing about the structure/composition of the five day programme, Introduction to Wageningen Academy,
- ✚ Country Paper Presentation (15 minutes per country)
- ✚ Group Photo Taking
- ✚ Briefing/Presentation about the "Golden Triangle" in the Netherlands
- ✚ Briefing and Powerpoint Presentation about Rural Finance and Agri Insurance in the Netherlands
- ✚ Guided Tour of the Facilities

April 9, Tuesday

- ✚ Briefing/Powerpoint Presentation and Interaction about the Development of Dutch Agriculture in the 20th century and agricultural policy of the European Union
- ✚ Briefing/Powerpoint Presentation and Interaction about the Business Economics and Financing in Dutch Agriculture
- ✚ Field Visit to a local farm

April 10, Wednesday

- ✚ Briefing/Powerpoint Presentation and Interaction about the Organized farmers as partners in Agribusiness
- ✚ Visit and Interaction with financial institutions
- ✚ Field visit

April 11, Thursday

- ✚ Discussion about Dutch Agri Insurance
- ✚ Field Visit

April 12, Friday

- ✚ Closing, Evaluation and Awarding of Certificates
- ✚ Cultural Exposure – Must See Places in Amsterdam

April 13, Saturday

- ✚ Departure Participants

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Venue

The programme will take place in **Wageningen and Amsterdam, The Netherlands** from **April 8 – 12, 2019**, excluding arrival and departure.

Training Fee

The fee for the study visit is **USD 3,940.00** per participant. The fee covers local transfers (airport reception, send-off, exposure visits and cultural exposure), lunches (April 8 – 12), facilitation fee, training materials and supplies and other administrative requirements.

The fee does not include the international round trip air ticket, costs of hotel accommodation, dinners, travel insurance and other incidental expenses. These will be for the account of the nominating organization. The host will not pay for any medical expenses that will be incurred by the participant in case there will be a need for medical assistance.

The training fee should be remitted by telegraphic transfer to **APRACA CENTRAB**. However, all bank charges including that of the intermediary bank shall be for the account of the remitter.

Please be advised that after CENTRAB's confirmation of the nomination of your officer/s to attend the program, and for any reason, the nominee cancels his/her participation, the nominating bank/institution will still be required to pay the full training fee.

Accommodation

Delegates are advised NOT to book their hotel accommodation because the host will be the one to reserve the hotel accommodation of all the delegates while they are in The Netherlands.

The name of the hotel and its rate will be provided once booking has been confirmed. The participants will pay their respective hotel accommodation upon their hotel check in.

Dress Code

Formal attire is suitable for the opening ceremonies. For the other days of the study visit program, smart casual wear is alright unless requested by the host. Gentlemen are advised to bring a coat and blazer or national costume for ladies.

Travel and Airport Reception

Participants will be met by the representative of the host provided flight schedules are sent in advance.

Travel Requirement

The participant must be in possession of a passport valid for at least six months from time of travel with proof of **confirmed** return tickets. The participant is requested to work out his/her Schengen visa with the nearest Netherlands Embassy in his/her own country. Formal invitation shall be sent upon confirmation of the nomination of the participant by APRACA CENTRAB.

Travel and Medical Insurance

The nominating institution should cover for the participants' comprehensive health/accident insurance. APRACA CENTRAB nor the host will not be responsible for any costs related thereto.

Reservations and Nominations

Kindly accomplish the nomination and application form and send to the contact person not later than **January 31, 2019**.

Contact Person

LECIRA V. JUAREZ

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Language

The official language is Dutch but English is widely spoken.

Climate

The Netherlands has a moderate maritime climate, with warm summers and cool winters, and typically high humidity. Average temperatures in September range from 10 °C up to 19 °C with an average of 15 °C. The average precipitation (rain) in September totals up to 80 mm over a period of 14 days. But the Netherlands is known for having unpredictable weather and wind and rain are common throughout the year, so please check the [weather forecast](#) for an accurate forecast. Note that the number of sunshine hours (daylight) are affected by the geographical latitude, in the second week of September sunrise is at approximately 7 am and sunset at approximately 8 pm.

Electricity

In the Netherlands the power sockets are of type C (2 pins, not grounded) and F (2 pins, grounded), see examples. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. Please check your device to see what voltage range it handles.



<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

Communications

The international access code for the Netherlands is +31. The outgoing code is 00 followed by the relevant country code (e.g. 001 for the United States). City/area codes are in use, e.g. (0)317 for Wageningen and (0)20 for Amsterdam. The whole country is covered by mobile phone networks (2G/3G /4G).

Internet

The hotel provides free wifi, as well as Wageningen University.

Money and Currency

In the Netherlands we use the Euro currency. There are 8 coins; 1, 2 and 5 cent, 10, 20 and 50 cent, 1 and 2 Euro coins. Then there are the bills of 5, 10, 20 and 50 Euro, 100, 200 and 500 Euro notes. Not many places will accept the 500 Euro note however. Most of the small shops including supermarkets do not accept 100 and 200 bill as well. Generally, 50 Euro bills remain the most convenient denominations.

Major credit cards are widely accepted in the cities and tourist destinations. ATM's are available in all the cities as well as in Wageningen. US dollars are not accepted in the Netherlands, but are easy to exchange. Banks open in general from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, their ATMs are open 24 hours. It is advised to carry Euro's when travelling in the Netherlands.

Airport Facilities

Passenger services at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol include shops, restaurants and bars; ATMs, banks with currency exchange, left-luggage and postal services.

Travel Health

Comprehensive medical insurance is advised. No special vaccination certificates are required upon entry.

Tipping

Bills already include a 10% service charge, tipping is optional.

Social programme

We have arranged a small but attractive social program consisting of the following elements:



Amsterdam

The history of Amsterdam is intimately connected with water. Its 165 canals were created over the centuries to stimulate trade and transport and reclaim land to expand the city. They continue define the city's landscape and in 2010 Amsterdam's canal ring was recognized as a UNESCO world heritage site. www.cosbo-amsterdam.nl/

Canal Cruise

The best way to discover Amsterdam is through a Canal Cruise. We invite you to board one of the boats to take a guided Canal Cruise.



KEUKENHOF, the best day out among the flowers! Over 7 million bulbs will bloom this spring, with a total of 800 varieties of tulips. A unique, unforgettable experience! You will participate in a guided tour along the highlights of the park in 60 minutes. You will hear about the history of the park, the theme, the different planting techniques, the inspirational gardens, the mill and the many indoor flower shows. <https://keukenhof.nl/en/>

Royal Flora Holland

As commissioned by the cooperative, Royal Flora Holland organises the international marketplace for flowers and plants for growers and buyers, our customers. They have proudly been doing just that for over 100 years. They bring supply and demand together, for an optimal price and the lowest transaction costs, offer a wide range of services, and work intensively together with new and existing partners in the horticultural sector. That is how they supply the world with fresh flowers and plants.

