

WIAS News



23 March 2006

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WIAS Science Day

A record number of 120 participants on the WIAS Science Day filled the congress room in the nearby Hotel School, last 9 March. Inspiring lectures were given by new WIAS professor Wouter Hendriks and ILRI general director Carlos Seré, nice oral presentations by eleven PhD students, and poster presentations by another eleven students. Drinks and dinner concluded this successful event, again well organised by our PhD students.

Prize winners were:

- Publication prize: Talitha van der Meulen and Heidi Huttenhuis (*ex aequo*)
- Presentation prize: Rosemarijn Gerritsen
- Poster prize: Paula Urán
- Education prize: Johan van Leeuwen (for initiating the Zodiac lectures)

Don't miss next Science Days: block your calendar for the coming years on the second Thursday in March. In 2007 that is 8 March.

Meeting International Advisory Board

The day after the Science Day, our IAB met with WIAS Director, Board and PhD Students Council. All five members were present, of which two were new:

- Jean Michel Elsen of INRA, Toulouse, France
- Jeff Armstrong of Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA.

Subjects discussed were, among others: career opportunities for high potentials, mentoring system for PhD students, collaboration with the CRO-ASG in Lelystad, extending our network in Europe.

Kor Oldenbroek WIAS Assistant Director



Already some time ago, WIAS director Johan van Arendonk had indicated that combining WIAS with his Chairgroup was difficult. Kor Oldenbroek has been found willing to assist him for 1 day per week. Among his tasks is to stimulate the collaboration with the CRO-ASG.

Kor knows WIAS very well. He has been member of the WIAS Board and has worked in Lelystad for many years, lastly as head of a division. He now works in Wageningen at the Centre for genetic resources.

Kor is planning to be at Zodiac every Thursday. His room is B.0129 near the Zodiac main hall

Seminar Plus: Animal Production Systems in Indonesia: interactions of livestock and livelihoods

April 10th, 2006

- 13.30 h Opening
Akke van der Zijpp, Animal Production Systems (APS), WU
- 13.35 An animal's history; historic perspectives on the rise and fall of the *Peranakan Ongole* in Java
Martine Barwegen, Royal Netherlands Institute of South East Asia and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), Leiden; APS-WU
- 14.00 The invasion of cattle crossbreds; perceptions of stakeholders in Central Java
Sutresniwati, APS-WU; Faculty of Animal Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta
- 14.25 The values of livestock for livelihoods
Leontine Visser, Rural Development Sociology, WU
- 14.50 Sheep, goats and people
Gede Suparta Budisatria, Faculty of Animal Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta; APS-WU
- 15.15 Tea break
- 15.35 Livestock for poverty alleviation: mission (im)possible
Endang Baliarti, Faculty of Animal Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta
- 16.00 Community projects
Bob Ørskov, Macaulay Institute, Aberdeen
- 16.25 Panel discussion
Nawaz Ibrahim, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Bob Ørskov; Akke van der Zijpp
- 16.45 Informal get-together

Animal Production Systems Group (www.aps.wur.nl), Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences, Wageningen University (www.wias.nl)

Venue: room 41, ZODIAC (building 531), Marijkeweg 40, Wageningen

Please register before April 3:

E: ymkje.tamminga@wur.nl

Ph: 0317 483959

In Asia, Indonesia is one of the countries where the majority of the farmers are found in resource-poor production environments. The smallholder livestock systems are complex and dynamic, and they provide more than just food through their versatile roles in supporting human welfare. Livestock production depends on the agro-ecological and socio-economic situation as well as the specific objectives of the farm households. The Animal Production Systems Group organises a seminar to highlight the contribution of livestock to livelihoods and the impact of livelihoods on livestock systems: 'Animal Production Systems in Indonesia: interactions of livestock and livelihoods' on Monday April 10, 2006. The programme is attached. You are cordially invited to attend this seminar!

PhD students have the possibility to attend this seminar in combination with a WIAS seminar plus scheduled on April 11. The objective of this seminar plus is to discuss interactions of livestock and livelihoods in relation to the research of individual PhD students. 'Does your research contribute to improve the livelihoods of the people in your research area?'

Programme:

April 11, room 40 ZODIAC

- 9.30 h Short lecture and practical exercise on the contribution of individual PhD research projects to sustainable development
- 10.30 h Short individual presentations of PhD students on their research aims and the contribution of their research towards sustainable livelihoods;

Comments of experienced researchers, Prof Ørskov and Prof Ibrahim, on these presentations;
Group discussions

Organizers: Karen Eilers and Henk Udo, Animal Production Systems

Second WIAS Workshop 'Writing Winning Grant Proposals'

After the success of the first workshop, a second one will be organised this year. Dates are (all Thursday afternoons 13.30 – 17.00): 11 May, 15 June, 14 September, 19 October, 23 November.

The workshop aims at young researchers (near-finished PhD students, postdocs, young staff) who are planning to write a research proposal in the coming half year. We aim at about six participants. An intake interview will be held with all who registered for the workshop.

Registration by email to info@wias.nl: mention the subject of your envisaged project and the sponsor where you want to submit it, end of this year. Note that preparing a grant proposal asks for a lot of time, so register only if you have that time available.

First WIAS Stakeholder Meeting cancelled

The PhD course 'WIAS Stakeholder Meeting' on animals' contributions to food safety, planned for next month, has been cancelled. Interest from PhD students was zero. The relevance and set-up will be discussed with WAPS Council and WIAS Education Committee. WIAS Board and International Advisory Board still emphasise the importance of raising the PhD students' awareness of the social context of their research, and of promoting involvement of stakeholders in WIAS research.

Last call for participation in WGS Course 'Career Perspectives'

After four successful courses given in 2005, "Career Perspectives" will be offered by Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) again in April/May in two simultaneous running courses. This is the last possibility to register!

Dates:

Course 1: 4, 11, 18, 25 April & 9 & 23 (morning) May 2006

Course 2: 5, 11 (morning), 12 (morning), 19, 26 & 10 & 23 (afternoon) May 2006

Aim and Target Group:

Career Perspectives aims for preparation and conducting an effective job search. Career Perspectives is meant for young scientists (PhD candidates and postdocs) who know what they want, but have trouble getting a handle on how to find this job or even in general: the right track to follow the desired career. The course will focus on questions like: What kind of jobs are available? Which one fits my interests and skills? Where do I find such jobs? And most of all: How do I get this job when there are many others who apply for it? The course is organised by Meijer & Meijaard (Wageningen), specialists in job counseling and job coaching.

Intermediar PhD Career Event, Amsterdam (11 May 2006) // Bio Career Event, Utrecht (18 May 2006):

As part of this Career Perspectives Course participants will visit one of the above mentioned national career events. During these visits participants can practice the tools and skills they have been trained for during the course.

Costs:

PhD students of WU with an approved TSP of one of the WGS* and post docs registered at one of the WGS* pay € 350,-. All others pay € 900,-.

*EPS, VLAG, PE&RC, WIAS, MGS, WIMEK or CERES

Note that this course is highly subsidised by WU and that if you would want to follow such a programme individually after your PhD the fees will be up to 5 fold. This can be another reason for participating in the above mentioned course.

Information and registration:

For more information and registration for one of the courses look at:

http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_CareerPerspectives

WGS Course Scientific writing

Course code: ENG-SW CT06-143

This writing course is designed for doctoral students in life science disciplines who are ready to begin, or who are currently working on, a doctoral dissertation. The course assumes that writing is inseparable from thinking, and that if you begin your articles early, your project will benefit as a whole.

Scientific Writing provides a framework for integrating your writing within the accepted scientific genres. It provides you with the opportunity to discuss your work with and present your work to other students who are involved in the same process. By the end of the course you should be able to view your own work within the context of your discipline through writing and through oral presentations in English.

The course assumes that students learn best through interaction with others and with the course materials. We will spend time looking at samples, critiquing them in small groups, and as a class. We will also look at each other's work and respond to it in a collaborative process.

Starting level: Course participants should score at least 75% (level B2) on the placement test.

End level: Scientific Writing level C1. Can write well-structured texts about complex subjects.

Course objectives:

By the end of the course you should be able to

- Identify and understand how a well-conceived rationale, organisation, focus and conclusion relate to specific audience needs
- Understand how to organise and compose a scientific article
- Identify and correct the most common writing errors and thus become more independent in your work
- Understand what makes an effective oral presentation and be able to present your own work accordingly
- Use writing to help develop your thinking as a scientist.

Study time:

24 tutored hours + 24 self study hours

Registration procedure:

Candidates can apply at CENTA. Candidates will then have to sit a short computer-based placement test. A minimum score of 75% is required for this course. The registration period for this course is open all year.

Organisation:

Number of participants: 10-14. Time: 09.00- 12.00 hours

Course schedule: Thursday morning

4, 11, 18 May. 1, 15, 22, 29 June. 6 July 2006

Course fee:

The course fee is € 480, 00 per person (inclusive of admission test + course materials). **There is a 50% reduction in course fee for Wageningen PhD students with an approved TSP (Training and Supervision Plan)**

Course materials: The Craft of Scientific Writing

Ring binder with course materials developed by CENTA

WGS Course Presentation Skills

Course code: ENG-PS CT06-101

This course is intended for people who regularly have to give presentations in English.

How do you come across as being enthusiastic and convincing and which techniques can you apply to achieve that? The different aspects of giving a presentation in the English language will be dealt with in small groups. In addition, attention will be given to sentence structure, pronunciation, intonation and body language. Every participant of the course will be required to give a presentation of his/her own work on the third and fourth day of the course.

Entry level: The minimum entry level with regard to fluency of the participants is B2 (Common European Framework). This is equal to a test score of 70% in the Quick Placement Test.

This test can be taken at the language Centre.

Exit level: Fluency level C1.

Objectives of the course: After completing the course, the participant: will

be able to give an effective presentation

be able to form well-structured sentences

have mastered presentation vocabulary

be able to use audiovisual aids in an adequate way

have improved his/her non-verbal behaviour such as body posture, gestures and intonation

have a thorough command of a number of presentation techniques

Registration procedure:

Persons interested can register by completing the registration form.

Upon receipt of the completed registration form, the candidates will be invited to take a "Quick Placement Test" at the computer (approx. 20 min.). The test score should be at least 70% in order to be able to participate in the course.

Organisation:

Number of participants per course: 8-10

Schedule: 2006:

Monday – 24 April 2006 09.30 – 12.30 and 13.30-16.30 hours

Monday – 01 May 2006 09.30 – 12.30 and 13.30-16.30 hours

Monday – 08 May 2006 09.30 – 12.30 hours

Monday – 15 May. 2006 09.30 – 12.30 hours

Teachers: This course is a joint effort of the Language Centre (CENTA) and the Education and Competence Studies Group. One teacher is an expert in the English language and the other specialises in presentation skills. This ensures the improvement of all aspects of your presentation skills.

Course fee:

The fee for this course € 500,00 per person. **There is a 50% reduction in course fee for Wageningen PhD students with an approved TSP (Training and Supervision Plan)**

These costs are inclusive of the ring binder with teaching materials developed and selected by CENTA and course materials provided by the Chairgroup Education and Competence Studies.

Supporting materials, such as dictionaries, newspapers, magazines, grammar books, CDs and workbooks are available in the multimedia section of the library. The course participant can also order supplementary materials via the secretarial office.

NZV MSc thesis prize for WIAS project



Daniël de Jong has won the thesis prize of the NZV (Netherlands Zootechnical Society) for his MSc thesis on social-cultural values in dairy farming. His winning MSc thesis was part of the PhD project by Birgit Boogaard, an interdisciplinary project jointly funded by WIAS and the Rural Sociology Group.

Graduations in the next four weeks

11 April

Gede Suparta Budisatria