Safe Vegetable Production

21 October - 1 November 2019

Eating vegetables is healthy, but how do we ensure that they are also safe to eat? Consumers in poor and rich countries alike are increasingly concerned about the safety of vegetables. Farm level pesticide use is particularly high in vegetable production and many countries observe growing problems with pesticide residues on these crops. Another growing problem is the microbial contamination of vegetables, usually resulting from the use of contaminated water in production and postharvest handling.

There have been various initiatives by the food industry, producer organizations, governments and NGOs to improve food safety through the use of common standards for good agricultural practices (GLOBALG.A.P.). Thailand has been leading the way in Southeast Asia with a public GAP standard that has been adopted by hundreds of thousands of farmers, and various private standards for organic and safe production.

Standards are usually explicit about what farmers are not allowed to do, but do not usually provide much information about how to manage vegetable pests and diseases without the use of chemical pesticides. There is therefore a need to train farmers in integrated pest management (IPM) as part of GAP training. The 38th International Vegetable Training Course (IVTC), jointly organized by the World Vegetable Center and Kasetsart University, aims to fill this gap.

Course objective
This two-week course aims to give participants hands-on experience in safe vegetable production techniques. More specifically it will inform participants about:

• Food Safety (GLOBALG.A.P. certification)
• Healthy seed and seedlings production and vegetable grafting methods
• Sustainable soil fertility management
• Pest and disease diagnosis
• Integrated pest management for key vegetable crops
• Postharvest management and processing

Who should attend?
Early- and mid-career professionals working in agricultural research, development and extension with an interest in enhancing their knowledge on safe vegetable production. The course is particularly suitable for staff of development-oriented projects promoting safe and sustainable vegetable production. The course is focused on Asia, but participants from other regions may be interested to join.
Training method
The course is taught by experts from the World Vegetable Center, Kasetsart University, and the Department of Agriculture (Thailand). The instruction will be in English. The training methods will be a blend of classroom lectures, hands-on exercises, and excursions to vegetable markets and to farmers who are following GAP and organic standards.

Accommodation
Participants will be accommodated in the International Dormitory at Kasetsart University, Kamphaeng Saen Campus. Rooms include air condition, refrigerator, TV and Internet.

Training fees
USD $2,260 including training fees, accommodation, meals, local transportation, excursions, and local health insurance. Not included are airfare and the cost of the visa application. The course organizers are unable to provide scholarships or to offer discounts.

How to apply?
Please fill out the registration form at:

https://ivtc.avrdc.org

or send an Email to:

ivtc@worldveg.org

Application deadline

20 August 2019

The maximum number of participants is 30. Registration operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. Payments must be received by 20 August 2019. The organizers will assist in the visa application process, but the responsibility to obtain a valid visa remains with the applicant.

APPLY NOW!
Safe vegetable production benefits farmers, retailers, and consumers.
Expand your skills to meet the growing demand for a safe, sustainable food supply.

Further information
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