



Israel's Agency for International
Development Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



International Training on “Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural Revitalization” July 2nd to July 26th, 2012

Organized by the Weitz Center for Development Studies

The course *Policies, Strategies and Support Systems for Rural Revitalization* reflects a growing recognition that rural decline poses a major challenge for the development of the developing world and especially for the development of economies in transition. Increased urbanization and the decline in importance of agriculture represents some of the main driving forces for this phenomenon. In this context, diversification of economic activities, improvement of social services and the establishment of an effective system of support for economic and social development, is paramount for the revitalization of rural areas.

A central concern of the course is to equip participants with a critical understanding for the ways and means to revitalize rural areas both socially and economically. The course adopts the integrated approach for rural development – The Rehovot Approach, which stresses the importance of integrating economic activities, integrating national policies with local interests, and utilizing local assets for the development process.

The program will introduce participants to:

- + National and regional policies that act as support systems for the revitalization of rural communities.
- + Economic development and diversification of economic niches in the rural realm.
- + The role of agriculture in rural revitalization.
- + Integrating environmental concerns for local development.
- + Partnerships, financial and organizational tools for rural revitalization.

The Israeli experience

Israel gained significant experience in rural development and revitalization. This includes national policies for rural development, the establishment of cooperative rural settlements, adopting novel technologies for agricultural production, and contemporary economic diversification of income generating schemes in the rural population.

This program will provide participants with knowledge and tools in the following subjects:

- + Support systems for rural economic development such as agricultural R&D, extension, infrastructure investments, SME support and settlement upgrading.
- + Israel's experience in PPP and integrated approaches to upgrading rural service delivery and its adaptation to the developing world.
- + Provision of high quality social services in the rural areas such as education and health care.
- + Tourism development in the rural sector.
- + Sound Environmental practices of water management, combating land degradation, soil erosion, reforestation, biodiversity, etc'.
- + Understanding the critical role of an integrated approach, of partnerships and of implementation mechanisms in rural revitalization.

The methodology

Participants will attend lectures in class and on-site conferences, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of high-level Israeli experts and consultants. Israeli cases and practice will be discussed

and exercised throughout the program. Additionally, participants will be required to formulate and present a project of interest relevant to the topic of this course. For this purpose, some pre-course work will be required. Detailed instruction will be sent to the selected participants.

Remark: Please take into consideration that the program involves daily walking on the campus as well as in field visits.

Who may apply?

The training targets highly motivated individuals working to upgrade declined rural areas. Typically we are looking for: administrators and policy makers working in governmental ministries; Employees of local authorities; Representatives of rural association; Managers of cooperatives, NGOs or CBOs; Key workers of rural business; Business organizations; and academic institutions engaged with rural development.

Application Process

*Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronitshp@netvision.net.il) **not later than 25 May 2012**.*

Candidates must also hand in a passport photo by electronic file.

Scholarships

The scholarship includes: 25 days with full board, tuition, accommodation (double room) and meals, medical insurance (not included dental services, eye glasses, chronic illnesses and pregnancy) and transportation from/to the airport in Israel. The scholarship does not include flight tickets.

It should be taken into account when booking the flight tickets that the scholarship covers exclusively from 1.07.2012 (arrival day) to 26.07.12 (day of departure). Any liability or expense out of this term shall be entirely at the expense of the participant.

Arrival and transportation

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to the Residence in Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the training. Transportation will be free of charge only if transported by this company .

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after passing through Customs, in the gallery of level 1 (Arriving Passengers' hall, left staircase near gate 2, towards "Traklin Arbel".)

Medical Insurance

MASHAV will assume the responsibility of the participants' medical insurance for the duration of the course, excluding dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses.

*MASHAV and Weitz Center are **not** responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.*

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

About Weitz Center

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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