



COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Quality in International Horticultural Production Chains

(March 26th to April 6th 2007 Leuven, Belgium)

www.QMHortChains.org

Introduction

Modern horticulture has evolved from localized production near end-user markets towards complicated global production chains. Locations for breeding, propagation, production, processing, and consumption within one production chain might be spread all over the world. Most of the horticultural products are fresh and possess a limited life-time. Organizations of production chains, knowledge of product quality within these chains and quality aspects of the production processes are all important to meet the high quality standards of the consumer market today.

The course

Approximately 30 students from all over Europe learn how to handle complicated multidisciplinary problems related to international horticultural production chains. A group of professors from several participating universities in Europe will teach a broad range of topics (e.g. pre- and post harvest quality, modern production techniques, biotechnology and quality assessment, consumer behavior) and students will intensively work in international teams on case studies about specific problems occurring in international production chains. Excursions to horticultural relevant sites in Belgium are an integrated part of the IP. The course (6 ECTS) can be broken down into 3 parts:

1. a preparation period at home (free to plan; deadline March 5th), when students prepare a poster and oral presentation (1.5 ECTS),
2. an Intensive Program at 'Katholieke Universiteit Leuven' (www.kuleuven.ac.be) in Belgium (3 ECTS)
3. an exam project (1.5 ECTS), which starts in Leuven but will be finalized working together on distance using modern communication media on the internet (deadline max 5 weeks after the Intensive Program).

Organizers and Participants

The course is organized for students specializing in Horticulture in the last phase of their MSc (or study-program equivalent). There is a limited number of positions available, open for students studying at one of the 9 partner Universities (see list below). The partner universities will select the students. English will be the language of communication and examination. The ability to communicate well in English is a pre-requisite for acceptance. The EU only subsidizes travel and housing costs of students from the partner Universities outside Belgium (IP in Warsaw).

How to Apply:



1. Contact your local teacher as soon as possible:
2. After approval of your participation by your local teacher register online:
www.qmhortchains.org

Partner Universities: Sweden (SLU), Denmark (KVL), Finland (Helsinki), Poland (SGGW), Germany (Hannover), Netherlands (WU), Belgium (Leuven), France (INH Anger), Portugal (UTAD)

QM HortChains is coordinated by Wageningen University, Netherlands (info: www.wur.nl) and sponsored by the EU Socrates/Erasmus program.

