

This training course is developed to introduce the writeshop process as a methodology to distill, capture, share and document program and project learnings. It can be applied to various situations and purposes and is proven to be effective in making field-based experiences widely available to target readers.

Some of the best field experiences by development organizations and practitioners have not been properly documented due to lack of guidance, skills or capacities of field workers in writing these lessons in a structured and organized manner. Also, although some faculty members and researchers write well, they lack the field perspective that development workers and local communities need.

The differences in background, expertise, experiences, exposures, beliefs and cultures of the writeshop participants help shape the topics and content of materials produced. A multi-disciplinary approach towards the development of a publication is adapted as this ensures the unbiased and objective drafting of materials by the authors.

The writeshop process started in IIRR. To date, more than 50 writeshops were conducted by the institute on various topics ranging from agriculture, agroforestry, livestock, environment, health, fisheries, farming systems, participatory tools and others.

Course Description

The course will build on the experiences of various development practitioners who wish to document and share their field-based experiences to their partner communities and institutions, donors and local government collaborators. They will be assisted in how they can help their organizations, colleagues and themselves capture the important achievements of projects and programs in writing to highlight the most essential, meaningful and unforgettable part of their experiences.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

June 18 - 29, 2012



Course objectives:

Participants will be guided on the writeshop methodology which will efficiently organize, facilitate and manage the pre-production, production and post-production requirements of the desired publication.

By the end of the course, participants are expected to

- improve their writing and analytical skills
- acquire basic skills and capacity in producing publications
- appreciate the roles and responsibilities of all writeshop players
- improve their confidence in conducting their own writeshops; and
- replicate/share learnings from the course

Course duration and contents

The course will run for 12 days and shall focus on the following modules:

Module 1: Understanding the Writeshop Process

This module introduces the history, concepts, principles and processes of a writeshop. Management of the writeshop process and fundraising for writeshops and publications will also be discussed.

Module 2: Documenting Field Experiences

This module discusses experiential learning models and theories, linking learning with monitoring and evaluation and producing various materials for publications.

Module 3: Experiencing a Mini-Writeshop

In this module, the participants will experience holding a mini writeshop where they will apply all the lessons they have learned from the first two modules. Draft materials will be produced by the participants after this session.

Module 4: Action Planning

This module will require the participants to prepare an action plan indicating their next course of action after the writeshop. It is expected that participants will finalize and improve on the materials that were produced during the writeshop or hold/sponsor writeshop activities in their organizations.

Training approach and trainers

The course will use a participatory training approach. Short lectures are complemented by individual, group exercises and plenary discussions. The trainers are experienced IIRR professionals and management level staff of partner organizations who also have undergone and experienced the writeshop process.

Who should attend?

This course is designed for scientists, faculty members, researchers, local government staff, NGO workers, extension workers or researchers, farmers and fisherfolks involved in community programs and projects.

Course prerequisites

The diversity of the participating writeshop members ensures that significant and helpful suggestions from all concerned sectors are considered and incorporated in all materials produced. Participants are expected to be well versed in writing and speaking in the English language, basic computer knowledge and use of MS Word software program.

Where and When?

The two-week course will be held at IIRR's Y.C. James Yen Center in Cavite, Philippines. Course participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course. IIRR is an ideal environment for learning and reflection. Courses are held in IIRR's 50-hectare campus in Silang, Cavite, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and hostel and dormitories. IIRR also has recreational facilities and nature trails.

Course fees

The course fee of USD1500 includes course-related materials, field and agency visits, airport transfers and a weekend excursion. Participants will pay USD850 per person for double room occupancy and board for the duration of the course. Single room occupancy is available for an additional cost. The food includes three full meals and two coffee breaks. The fees do not include all international and local airfares, laundry, and incidental expenses. A minimum pocket allowance of USD100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses. Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies. IIRR reserves the right to cancel the course one month before its schedule if the required quorum is not met. This will be immediately conveyed to the applicants. Course fees will be refunded in full.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Highly participatory methods (simulation exercises, focus group discussion, video showing, case stories, games, etc.)**
- **Participants are active resource persons, facilitators and learners**
- **Mini writeshops for hands-on practice in the writeshop process**
- **Action plan**

How and When to Apply?

For more information and to receive an application form, contact:

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email: dulce.dominguez@iirr.org

Deadline for application: May 18, 2012

Deadline for payment: June 1, 2012

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