

# Value Chain Development Course (VCD)



**T**he future for African small producers depends in their ability to play active and meaningful role in market dynamics. Improvement in their income, which is the basis for overcoming poverty depends on their ability to earn more income from their crops, livestock and small business. This in turn depends on their ability to participate and

control the value chains that link them to suppliers, actors such as traders, consumers and other end users. Active involvement of small producers in value chain and their ultimate control means taking a more proactive role in value chain activities like bulk sourcing of supplies, processing, quality control and grading produce. It also involves them becoming engaged in the management and control of value chain like access to and management of information, market, contracts and cooperation with other actors.

IIRR and Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands have produced two publications in a value chain series. The first and second publications were entitled *Chain Empowerment: Supporting African Farmers to Access Markets* and *Trading up: Building Cooperation between Farmers and Traders* respectively. These books are popular as evidenced by a reprint of the first one. We expect to release the title *Financing the Rural Value Chain in 2009*. It will show case best practices from Africa, Asia and Latin America and analyze emerging models that can be replicated to empower the rural poor farmers. KIT and IIRR have jointly developed a Value Chain training program to address the needs of farmers and other small producers in Africa. The first training was conducted in South Africa in 2008 and more are lined up in other parts of Africa.

# Value Chain Development Course (VCD)

## Your Interest

To increase income and food security of rural poor by supporting traders and farmers in Africa to develop markets, add value to products and improve efficiency in food and other consumables supply chain and distribution system.

## In this course, you will learn...

- Value chain approaches and the importance of the value chain approach for pro-poor economic development;
- To analyze agricultural commodity value chains and find market opportunities for products that are produced by the poor;
- The importance of multi-stakeholder analysis and participatory processes in a value chain;
- How to make a value chain development action plan;
- Monitoring and evaluating value chain development activities.

Over the longer term the participants will be able to assist smallholders to strengthen their position in value chains and, by so doing, contribute to economic development and poverty reduction.

## Highlights of the workshop

- Field practicum
- Analysis of commodity value chains in Africa

## Who should attend?

In principle the main target group of the training includes development professionals who are involved in value chain and local economic development, e.g. local government staff, people working for local and international NGOs, researchers, people working for local producer's organizations etc. In some cases primary chain actors, including companies, key traders and key farmers may also participate.

## Trainers

The trainers/advisors are staff of KIT (Royal Tropical Institute) and IIRR (International Institute of Rural

Reconstruction). The Royal Tropical Institute is an international institute specialized in the generation and dissemination of knowledge and expertise through institutional cooperation. KIT aims to contribute to sustainable development for poverty reduction, information dissemination and the preservation and exchange of culture. It developed the Pro-poor value chain in Western Africa and is currently conducting this training in partnership with IIRR.

### Venue and dates

**Kenya, August 23 – September 2, 2010**

### Contact IIRR Regional office or country offices for details

<b>Africa Regional Center</b>	<b>IIRR Ethiopia</b>	<b>IIRR Uganda</b>
P O Box 66873 – 00800 Nairobi, Kenya Tel 254 20 4440991/2610 training@iirr.org, admin@iirr.org Physical location: Church Road, off Waiyaki Way	P O Box: 7931 Addis Ababa Ethiopia Tel: +251-11-6477238/40 Fax: +251-11-6477237 E-mail: ethiopia@iirr.org	P O Box, 35536, Plot 6 Charles Lwanga Road Ministers Village, Ntinda-Kampala Uganda. ugandaprogramme@iirr.org Tel: 256 41 4 286331