

International Graduate Course on the Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition

Announcement
March 2010

15-26 November
Pretoria, South Africa

Organized by



*Graduate School VLAG (Advanced Studies in
Food Technology, Agrobiotechnology, Nutrition
and Health Sciences)*



*Division of Human Nutrition of Wageningen
University*



University of Pretoria



Agricultural Research Council

*In cooperation with United Nations University (Food and Nutrition Programme for
Human and Social Development), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United
Nations (Food and Nutrition Division), the Medical Research Council of South Africa,
and the European Food Information Resource Network of Excellence (EuroFIR)*

Background

Compilations of data on the nutritional composition of foods are essential tools for nutritionists, especially those concerned with monitoring adequacy of dietary intake, for linking diet to health and disease, for planning and prescription, education, food security, and for trade, export and legislation. A two-week training course on the production and use of food composition data in nutrition is offered by Graduate School VLAG, University of Pretoria, and the Division of Human Nutrition in cooperation with United Nations University (UNU), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), and the European Food Information Resource Network (EuroFIR) in Pretoria, South Africa from 15-26 November (FoodComp 2010).

In October 2009 the 9th edition of this course was held at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. Earlier editions of this course were held in South Africa in 1997, 1999, 2002 and 2005.

Objectives of course

The aim of FoodComp 2010 is to demonstrate how to produce, manage and use good quality food composition data in a standardized way, using harmonized procedures, so that the requirements of the multiple users of food composition data can be met. The course will be based on the philosophy that the preparation of nutritional databases requires close understanding of the needs of the users by both compilers and producers of analytical data. The course will show how this understanding can be achieved and the benefits that flow from the collaboration of users, analysts and compilers.

Course structure

FoodComp 2010 will be structured around the second edition of the book 'Food Composition Data, Production, Management and Use', by Dr H. Greenfield and Professor D.A.T. Southgate. The course will cover: ways in which nutritional databases are used and how these determine the range of nutrients for which values are required; stages in the production of a nutrient database; selection foods for which nutrient values are needed; biodiversity, crop variety and nutrient composition; sampling procedures and the statistical aspects involved in sampling; choice and validation of analytical methods to give nutritionally relevant values using novel work forms such as E-learning; quality control, quality evaluation and quality management of food composition data, food description and classification. Participants will become familiar with rules for data documentation as well as structures for constructing computerised relational databases.

Who should attend?

FoodComp 2010 is intended for those involved in nutritional database programmes as analysts and/or compilers and will be of value to those teaching nutrition and nutritional aspects of food chemistry. Users of nutritional databases who wish to have a better understanding of how databases are prepared and the constraints upon their use will also find the course useful. Applicants should hold a Master degree in nutrition, food science, agricultural sciences or related fields. Preference will be given to citizens of African countries and to those who have relevant work experience in the field of food composition.

Course content

The major elements of the course, which will comprise lectures, seminars, excursions, E-learning, and group work, will be:

- Requirements and use of nutrient databases at different levels
- Steps in establishing a food composition database
- Selecting and establishing priorities for including foods, nutrients and other food components in databases
- Sampling of foods
- Dietary diversity, crop variety and nutritional value of underutilized species
- Methods of analysis: critical evaluation and choice of methods
- Data quality (management) and evaluation
- Reviewing existing data
- Format and modes of expression
- Food nomenclature, classification and identification
- Recipe calculations
- Compilation of data
- Nutrient calculation software
- National and international activities in food composition issues
- Documentation and database management

Venue and duration

FoodComp 2010 will be held at Brooklyn Guest House and University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa for two weeks from 15 - 26 November 2010.

Language

The language of the course is English. Therefore, fluent English is essential.

Registration and course fee

Please register by completing the attached application form. The final registration date is 15 May, 2010. The number of participants is limited to 30. The course fee, including a Euro 350 non-refundable deposit, is Euro 3500. The fee covers accommodation and meals from 14-27 November at Brooklyn Guest Houses, a copy of the handbook and other course materials, tuition fees and excursions. It does not cover the cost of travel to the course, medical insurance and pocket money. The fee is payable on notification of acceptance for the course. Please note that no daily subsistence allowance (DSA) will be provided.

How to apply

All applicants should fill in the application form attached and send it together with their curriculum vitae before 15 May 2010 to the Course Secretariat.

Fellowships

A limited number of fellowships from United Nations University (UNU) and the Netherlands Fellowship Programme (NFP) for persons will be available for candidates that have been admitted to the course. Please note that the graduate school VLAG and the Division of Human Nutrition are not in a position to supply fellowships for the course.

Procedures for a grant application for the Netherlands Fellowship Programma (NFP) is as follows:

- Candidates should obtain admission to the course before 1 June 2010 by sending in the application form and a letter of motivation to attend this course in time (before 15 May) to the course secretariat.
- With the letter of admission candidates can submit a request at the Netherlands Embassy in the countries listed below #). This should be done before 1 July 2010.
- Candidates are advised to complete all procedures in time.
- Further details about the procedures of the NFP, rules for eligibility etc. can be found at www.nuffic.nl/nfp, then go to 'short courses'.

Candidates from non-NFP countries may apply for a UNU fellowship. A request for such a fellowship should be sent to the course's secretariat together with the course application form.

Scientific Advisory Board

- Prof Frans J. Kok, Division of Human Nutrition, Wageningen University
- Prof Patrick Stover, Division of Nutrition, Cornell University and director of the Food and Nutrition Program, United Nations University.
- Dr Paul Finglas, Institute of Food Research, Norwich, UK
- Dr Barbara Burlingame, FAO, Food and Nutrition Division, Rome, Italy

Course directors

- Prof Hettie Schönfeldt, School of Agricultural and Food Sciences University of Pretoria South Africa
- Ir Paul JM Hulshof, Division of Human Nutrition, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Course Secretariat

Ms L.A. Duym-Brookman,
Secretariat Foodcomp courses, Division of Human Nutrition, Wageningen University
P.O. Box 8129, 6700 EV Wageningen, The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 317 48 30 54/48 25 89, Telefax: +31 317 48 33 42, E-mail: lous.duym@wur.nl

After 15 July: Dr S.M. Van Heerden
Agricultural Research Council (ARC-LBD)
Private Bag X2, Irene, 0062, South Africa
Telephone: +27 12 672 9212
E-mail: ina@arc.agric.za

Grants through the NFP programme with short courses are available for participants from 61 countries (worldwide). From Africa NFP grants are available for nationals from: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Dr Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Application form

International Graduate Course on the Production and Use of Food Composition Data in Nutrition,
15 - 26 November 2010, Pretoria, South Africa.

Please complete and return this form at the latest **before 15 May 2010 together with your curriculum vitae** to the Course Secretariat of FoodComp 2010. Applications can also be made by filling in the application form in Word at <http://www.vlaggraduateschool.nl/courses/food-comp-reg.doc>

Family name:First name:M/F.....

Address:

Postal Code / City:

Country:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Position:

Address for correspondence:
(if different from above)

Wishes to be considered for a fellowshipYES/NO

Name and address of current employer:

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Will your employer meet the cost of you attending the course by paying for tuition fees, travel and allowancesYES/NO
(Please attach letter confirming the above if YES)

Invoice for tuition fees should be sent to (if not candidate, then provide name and address of person/institute providing funds)

Candidate

Employer

Other

Declaration and signature of candidate seeking admission:

I declare that the information given on this form and in the attached **curriculum vitae** is correct. I have read and understood the arrangements for payment of tuition fees to which I will adhere. I understand that the course may be cancelled if the number of participants prove insufficient and that in such circumstances course fees will be refunded.

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Date

Signature