

## **AgTrain** **Agricultural Transformation by Innovation**

**Duration:** 36 months

**Programme description:**

AgTrain is a fully integrated doctoral programme offered by six leading European universities and their worldwide associated partner institutions, in the field of agricultural development, commercialisation and farmer innovation in developing countries. Development of the agricultural sector is one of the most effective ways to achieve equitable and pro-poor economic growth and increase food security. Improved understanding of production systems, value addition of products and commercialisation are all necessary to unlock the development potential. AgTrain doctorates will be equipped with a wider set of competences, which match the requirements of the public and the private sector within agricultural development and facilitates the contact between scientists, practitioners and beneficiaries.

The AgTrain Programme offers an added value to existing programmes through linking and extending European academic networks through joint supervision and mobility periods for students and staff. The inclusion of third country partners in the consortium brings a wealth of contextual, academic expertise and local networks to farmer organisations, developers and agro-industries. Adopting interdisciplinary perspectives to the doctorates specialisation through co-supervision and joint field campaigns with other researchers ensures the broadening of research foci as well as ensures relevance and applied perspectives through consultations with associated partners and external stakeholders. A key feature of the program is the involvement of key stakeholders in identifying research questions and participating in the project formulation. The involvement of stakeholders at this stage creates linkages with the program that creates opportunities for further research as well as opens up connections that may lead to employment of the doctorates.

The AgTrain programme has one annual call. AgTrain has common training modules and joint supervision as well as shared evaluation and quality assurance principles. All coursework can be completed in English. The mandatory mobility between two partner institutions will ensure exposure to two European languages and cultures during the doctoral training. The programme's cost model ensures that all doctorates have full funding for living, operational costs and study fees. All AgTrain doctorates will be employed on contracts, with social security measures matching national standards.

**Website:** [www.agtrain.eu](http://www.agtrain.eu)

**Partners:**

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, Denmark (Co-ordinating Institution)

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MADRID, Spain

MONTPELLIER INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HIGHER STUDIES IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE,  
France

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF CORK, Ireland

UNIVERSITY OF CATANIA, Italy

WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY, Netherlands

**Contact:**

Dr Andreas De Neergaard  
FACULTY OF LIFE SCIENCES

Thorvaldsensvej, 40

1871 Frederiksberg, Danmark

[adn@life.ku.dk](mailto:adn@life.ku.dk)

[www.AgTrain.eu](http://www.AgTrain.eu)