



# European Master in Food Studies

An international and industry oriented MSc programme in food science and technology

## Annual Report 2010-2011

15 August 2010 – 14 August 2011

The European Masters Degree in Food Studies is a two-year accredited MSc Programme studied by a select group of international students, organised by four top universities in Europe and sponsored by eleven multinational food companies.

The purpose of the programme is to provide academic training in an international context, with a strong emphasis on the European Food Industry. By having a group of students from different countries following classes at universities in four countries, an exposure to multicultural environments is emphasized and is part of the learning. By a combination of classes and thesis work in industry, the programme helps as well to build a bridge between university and industry.

This educational journey provides the students with a strong awareness of cultural, social and economic realities of modern European and global Food Industry.

The programme is coordinated by Wageningen University and has both an Executive Board and an Academic Steering Group.

### HIGHLIGHTS

In the morning of the Friday July 8, 2011 two teams of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition presented their team project work. The audience got introduced in the use of yam as an ingredient for gluten free and fair trade biscuits. The other team showed that okara has a potential as an ingredient in extrusion products, such as breakfast cereals.



okara breakfast cereals



yam biscuits

Both teams emphasized the various aspects of the learning in the team project.

The graduation ceremony closed the programme for the students of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition.

### THE STUDENTS

In August 2010 the 12<sup>th</sup> edition started their educational journey. As in previous years, we had the pleasure to welcome a fine mix of nationalities. Once more a country was represented for the first time, Malaysia. In total the programme has welcomed 39 nationalities in 12 editions. The group took academic courses in Wageningen, Cork, Massy/Paris and Lund in the first year of their studies. In the first study year the industry orientation of the programme was expressed by meetings between students and industry representatives and by the preparation for and start-up of the team projects.

The 11<sup>th</sup> edition students individually carried out their thesis research project in industry and as a group worked on their team project. After the final course they received the MSc diploma with certificate; the highlight of this report year.

The increasing attention for the European Master programme proved to be persistent; 92 candidates have shown interest in the programme of which 66 have submitted their application. For the start in August 2011 a group of 19 students have been recruited.



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## **THE ALUMNI**

The number of alumni has grown to 146. Many of the alumni hold leading positions in the food industry world-wide. It is estimated that almost 50% is currently employed by one of the participating companies in the programme. Following the career path of alumni will provide input for keeping the programme up to date. For this purpose an alumni database will be developed.

## **THE PROGRAMME**

In the reporting period updates were realised in some of the courses. The significance of Food Safety for the food industry was recognised and therefore additional items on this topic were integrated into the programme. Furthermore both the Thesis Project and the Team Project will become more pronounced elements in the programme for future editions.

The last overall review of the programme took place in November 2009; preparations have started for a next overall review of the programme in February 2012.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

Three partial fellowships have been granted to students from non-EU countries. Unfortunately the full fellowship reserved for students from Africa could not be granted to a candidate starting in September 2011.

## **THE PEOPLE**

All academic and industry partners have reconfirmed their active participation in the programme for the next years.

The Foundation's consortium wishes to extend their activities. Options for additional courses or programmes are under review.

## **PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE**

In the 2012 the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the programme will be celebrated by an open seminar at one of Europe's major food events.



students of the 12<sup>th</sup> edition

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