

## Invitations to the workshop

### **Does interdisciplinary research result in new concepts, new methods and new science?**

Date: 1 December 2009  
Location: De Wageningse Berg, Wageningen  
Time: 09h00 – 17h00

Dear all,

INREF programmes are based in a number of assumptions related to interdisciplinary work. The three major ones are:

- 1) Complex problems require interdisciplinary approaches to lead to solutions that have higher societal relevance.
- 2) Complex problems require interdisciplinary approaches to gain a better understanding of such problems.
- 3) Interdisciplinary approaches result in new concepts, new methods, and new science.

The external evaluation of INREF phase 1 emphasized the importance of monitoring the achievements of the programme, especially in terms of development of interdisciplinary approaches. The evaluation explicitly advised to document the learning on interdisciplinarity.

A group of Wageningen UR colleagues from different INREF programmes and beyond met several times in 2009 to discuss the potential of interdisciplinarity to lead to new concepts, new methods, new science. The group studied literature on interdisciplinarity and concluded that most papers were in essence about organizational aspects and improved communication, and not so much about the development of new science.

I like to invite you to the workshop “Does interdisciplinary research result in new concepts, new methods and new science?” Participation is not limited to colleagues involved in INREF programmes, but researchers involved in other interdisciplinary programmes or has a strong interest in interdisciplinary research are very welcome. Because learning on interdisciplinarity is an objective of the INREF programme, I expect that all teams of the INREF programmes will participate to the workshop.

The detailed programme of the workshop will be communicated later.

**Please subscribe to the workshop before 15 November 2009 by sending an e-mail to Lonneke Budel ([lonneke.budel@wur.nl](mailto:lonneke.budel@wur.nl)).**

Best regards,  
Pieter Windmeijer