

About CIEA

A brief introduction to the CIEA

The CIEA (International Centre for Agricultural Education) is an international study centre for education and extension both in agriculture and in the rural area. The CIEA is based at the Federal Office for Agriculture (part of the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs) in Berne. It was founded in 1956 on the suggestion of F. T. Wahlen, at that time director of the Agriculture Department of the FAO in Rome. The CIEA holds seminars – in Switzerland and abroad - for experts in agricultural education and extension. Since 1995 the CIEA has been managed by the Swiss College of Agriculture, Zollikofen.

What participants is the CIEA-Seminar aimed at?

The CIEA-Seminar is aimed at experts in agricultural training and extension (heads, lecturers and teachers) who have a university degree and several years' experience in agricultural vocational training. It is also open to people who work in administration and are responsible for agricultural education. The CIEA-Seminar is intended for participants coming from industrialised, emerging and developing countries.

What are the main objectives pursued by the CIEA-Seminar?

The main objectives pursued by the CIEA-Seminars are the following:

- to offer high quality further education to experts in agricultural training and extension, i.e. to polish up and deepen their knowledge as teachers and pedagogues.;
- to show current pedagogic-methodological developments in education, in educational science as well as in extension;
- to create the framework necessary to promote an intensive exchange of views and experiences in the field of pedagogy and didactic between colleagues from different countries and backgrounds.

Financing of the CIEA

It is mainly thanks to the generous financial and staffing support of the Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture (BLW) and the Swiss Government Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) that the CIEA is able to carry out its activities. These two federal institutions have made a crucial contribution to the success of the CIEA's work, both in the planning stage and in the later course of its development. And today, when the management of the CIEA has been mandated to the Swiss College of Agriculture, the two federal departments are still the load-bearing pillars that are the main support of the CIEA. The two mandators accompany their support with a clear expression of the great importance they attach both to agricultural training and extension and to the international exchange of information and experience.

The CIEA is also supported by various patrons. The CIEA management team is extremely grateful to the mandators and patrons for their manifold support.