



Wageningen World no. 3, 2012 - enclosure page 50



**Peter Oldenkamp**

*Studied: agricultural plant breeding, specialising in field crop cultivation (1992)*

*Now: head of R&D at KWS POTATO BV in Emmeloord*

“Straight after my studies, I started work at a trading company setting up a crop improvement and introduction programme for potatoes. Over the course of 20 years, I developed along with the company, but a partial takeover by KWS in 2008 meant organisational changes, some of which I wasn't terribly chuffed about. I wondered whether it was time for something else after 20 years. But it didn't come to that. Together with the careers guidance coach from the KLV, I took a good look at myself and my work. The analysis helped me get a clear picture of my objectives and priorities, as well as getting that across to my employer. With KLV's help, I've been able to make my job challenging and motivating again.”



**Katia Leber**

*Studied: environmental technology (BSc, 1999), international land and water management (MSc, 2007)*

*Now: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) programme coordinator at Dorcas Aid International*

“When I started my master's, I already had a lot of work experience in various jobs. After the course, I wanted to go and work in Africa in the water sector, but I found it difficult to find the right sales pitch. I took a critical look at my CV with a careers counsellor from KLV. We found a recurrent theme: aspects of capacity building could be found in each of those jobs. That helped me put a good story together. I've had some really nice jobs in the five years since then, including work in the Philippines and Sudan. At the beginning of this year, I thought it was time to take the step to a more coordinating role, but I didn't have much demonstrable experience with management. More careers discussions, picking elements out from my previous jobs that realistically showed my strengths and fitted in with what I want to do. It worked, too: I now coordinate WaSH programs in six countries.”



**Petra Hofs**

*Studied: international development studies, specialising in law and governance (2009)*

*Now: full-time mother of Sven (3) and Nina (9 months) and looking for a part-time job.*

“My career got off to a flying start when I was able to stay with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after completing a graduation work placement there. It did mean my studies were put on the back burner for a while, though. After two years, I did a short consultancy job for the World Bank in Sudan and then finished my studies. After my second child was born, I was back from abroad and living in Arnhem and so I started looking around on the jobs market again. That was what took me to the KLV career guidance people. I talked with a coach about where I am now and where I want to go, both in my work and in my private life. An eye-opener. It took the pressure off me of needing to find a new job straight away. I've been applying now and then since February, and I've been more relaxed in my efforts to use my 'tools' to find a new challenge.”