

## **Master's Degree (Second Cycle) Programme in Agricultural Genetic Engineering**

### **Program Profile**

Master program in Agricultural Genetic Engineering Department has been initiated with No. 36041 dated 06.07.2013 decision of the Board of Higher Education and started recruiting students from the 2013-2014 academic year.

Within the Department, there are currently 2 professors, 3 assistant professors and 1 research assistant making a total of 6 academic staff.

In recent years, the agricultural sector has entered into a rapid change, particularly technological advances in gene technology and technological advances in all areas have made agriculture a sector that requires use of knowledge and technology to move ahead. In parallel with the developments in gene technology, the international seed market has shown rapid growth. As a result, in recent years, encouragement and investments have increased on issues of the cultivar breeding and seed production in our country. However, background knowledge about cultivar breeding and the number of trained personnel are extremely limited in our country. Also, depending on developments in biotechnology in recent years, molecular techniques have been used widely in plant breeding. Therefore, to compete domestic firms with the global breeding companies, integration of modern biotechnological methods with breeding program has become mandatory. At this point, there has been an intense demand to professionals who know and apply conventional and biotechnological breeding methods. Agricultural Genetic Engineering Graduate Program offers a unique alternative in our country, for especially agricultural engineers, those who would like to master the field of agriculture and those who would like to have expertise on topics such as plant breeding and genetics, biotechnology, seed production, agricultural genetic resources and bioinformatics. Agricultural Genetic Engineering Program with modern building, laboratories equipped with the latest technology equipment serving to department and distinguished academic staff, has been a right choice for domestic and foreign students who want to study graduate program.

### **Employment Profiles of Graduates**

Students who will graduate from the program, with a master degree, will have the opportunity of employment in fields operating in all private and public institutions related to agricultural research and production (cultivar breeding, nursery and seed production, tissue culture, agricultural biotechnology, etc.). They can also continue to both domestic and international doctoral programs.