

DAAD Agriculture-Alumni Network Workshop, Germany, Hohenheim - Berlin, 17. – 24.09.2023



Paradigm shifts in tropical Agriculture – synthesis and way forward

DAAD Agriculture-Alumni Network - Workshop

‘Paradigm shifts in tropical Agriculture – synthesis and way forward’

17th – 24th September, 2023

Agriculture provides food and nutrition security, employment, environmental and socio-cultural services for billions of households in Africa. However, rising populations, degraded environmental resources and climatic change are among the considerable risks facing the future of sustainable agricultural production. Transforming agricultural practices and systems is therefore widely considered a promising pathway, however the means and mechanisms to enable transformation remain largely debated. As a result, Africa is witnessing the emergence, permanence and disappearance of competing paradigms to address the challenges facing crop and livestock production. From approaches such as intensification, sustainable land use and management, to the emerging institutional and technological innovations that accompany dominant narratives – the continent represents a mosaic of narratives and practices all seeking to promote the achievement of increased productivity. How can the plurality of these paradigms and associated practices be synthesised and what is the way forward?

To discuss these pertinent questions, the DAAD Agriculture-Alumni Network is organizing a workshop in Stuttgart and Berlin, Germany. The theme for this workshop is ‘Paradigm shifts in tropical agriculture – Synthesis and way forward’. This initiative will bring together German university alumni from eastern Africa for a 7-day workshop hosted by the University of Hohenheim including the international Tropentag conference. The [Tropentag](#) conference in Berlin will focus on the topic “Competing pathways for equitable food systems transformation: trade-offs and synergies”. The entire program will last from 17th to 24th September 2023. Participants are expected to arrive on 16th September and accommodation will be provided until 24th September.

Additionally, for selected applicants, there will be the opportunity to join the Bio-Geosphere Africa conference ([BioGARD](#)), held at the University of Hohenheim from the 14th to 15th September 2023. This conference will focus on three topic areas, that interweave the three major realms of sustainable development in Africa: “Bio- and geodiversity of Africa: Current status and challenges in the face of environmental change”, “Resilient agriculture and resource use in an increasingly unpredictable future” and “Resilient Health and Human Wellbeing under novel climatic and ecological settings”. For those selected for participation in the BioGARD conference, the program would already start on the 14th September.

The workshop program will entail various visits to predetermined projects to allow participants engage with concrete examples of diverse agricultural systems in Germany. This will not only provide the alumni with an excellent opportunity to witness agricultural paradigm shifts, but also strengthen their networks with both existing and new colleagues engaging in

the agricultural sector in Germany and Africa. This initiative is jointly organised by University of Hohenheim, German Institute Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) / University of Kassel in Witzenhausen and the University of Nairobi. The Alumni program is supported by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). BioGARD is funded by the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of Baden-Württemberg and the fiat panis foundation.

Program highlights

- Workshop at the University of Hohenheim with on-site visits and specialised on-farm seminars on University research facilities.
- State of the art workshop contributions of international scientists addressing paradigm shifts in tropical agriculture and implications for the future.
- Introduction of exchange opportunities and tools for German-African Alumni-Networks.
- Participation at Tropentag conference in Berlin on the 20th – 22nd September, 2023 “Competing pathways for equitable food systems transformation: Trade-offs and synergies”, with an expected 800 international participants and over 100 oral and 300 poster presentations. The Tropentag is the largest European annual interdisciplinary conference on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management and rural development.
- Strategy Workshop for multipliers for German-African Alumni-Networks on 23rd September (limited to 10 places).
- Option to participate in the Bio-Geosphere Africa (BioGARD) conference at Hohenheim 14th to 15th September, 2023 “Research for Diversity and Sustainable Development in the Face of Climate Change Conference” for selected applicants.

Costs and Funding

Agri-Alumni Net is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). 100% of the accommodation and transportation expenses will be financed. Accommodation expenses include food and hotels at both workshop venues, while transportation expenses include flight costs to Germany and transport by travel coach from Stuttgart to Berlin and back.

Additionally, a limited number of DAAD Agriculture-Alumni Network - Workshop participants will receive funding for the accommodation and transportation expenses for the BioGARD conference.

Who is eligible to apply

International Alumni of a German learning institution who are **currently based in East Africa** can apply for participation in this workshop. They must have spent **at least 3 months at the German learning institution**. Information about the previous stay in Germany has to be indicated in the CV. **Evidence of abstract submission to Tropentag** conference will highly increase chances of acceptance to the Agri-Alumni Net workshop. Applicants who have

already participated in two of the previous Agri-Alumni Net workshops in Germany or Kenya are **not** eligible to apply for a third time.

How to apply

Please submit the following documents:

1. Application form [here](#).
2. Short motivation letter also indicating the name of and the duration of stay at the German learning institution (ca. 1/2 page).
3. Short Curriculum Vitae (ca. 2 pages).
4. Copy of your submitted abstract for the Tropentag conference 2023.
5. Please indicate in the application form if you wish to attend the BioGARD conference and / or the strategy workshop as part of your participation in the DAAD Agriculture-Alumni Network – Workshop. It is not necessary to additionally apply for the BioGARD conference to be considered for funding.

Please submit all documents as one PDF file to maria.oguche@uni-hohenheim.de by close of business on the **03.05.2023**. The deadline for abstract submission for the Tropentag conference is on the **03.05.2023**.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

For further questions, please contact:

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