



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL) in Witzenhausen and the Department for Plant Production and Agroecology in the Tropics and Subtropics at the University of Hohenheim announce the

### **GrassNet Summerschool 2012**

#### **”Modeling approaches to support grassland management”**

held September 18th (arrival date) to 29th 2012 (departure date)  
in Witzenhausen, Germany  
including the participation at the international conference  
**”Tropentag 2012: Resilience of agricultural systems against crisis”**  
jointly organised by the Universities of Göttingen and Kassel/Witzenhausen  
September 19th – 21st 2012 in Göttingen

The Summerschool is part of the GrassNet project and is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Organizer and host in 2012 is the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (Assoc. Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kaufmann and Dr. Christian Hülsebusch, [www.ditsl.org](http://www.ditsl.org)) in Witzenhausen.

The GrassNet Summerschool 2012 targets PhD students and Post Docs from Argentina, Kenya and China preferably associated with the GrassNet Partners ([www.grassnet.info/](http://www.grassnet.info/)). The applicants should be conversant with modeling approaches and will have priority in the selection process if their PhD study is in the area of modeling grassland/rangeland based production systems.

Rangelands are viewed as ‘social-ecological systems’ shaped by the people who use and manage them and their state results from long-term human-animal-environment interactions. Rangeland or grassland based production systems consist of pasture, livestock, and livestock keepers’ households as the main components. Livestock keepers gain their livelihood by transforming pasture resources into valuable products through the use of animals. The management geared to achieving this purpose needs to consider various bio-physical, climatic, economic, social and cultural factors or constraints. In this complex situation, modeling can help to better understand the interrelations in the system and help to learn about consequences of changes in management through “what – if” analysis.

During the GrassNet Summerschool 2012 we will look into models that deal with different components of rangeland based production systems and that support a cross-continental assessment. These are

- pasture resources, e.g. modeling fodder supply by use of spatial data and satellite-based weather monitoring system data
- livestock resources, e.g. modeling herd development using bio-economic herd models that permit the ex-ante analysis of changes in management
- human agents, e.g. modeling the effects of changes in decision making using multi agent models.

## Participants

Eligible for participation are PhD students and Post Docs:

- from Argentina, Kenya and China, preferably associated to the GrassNet partners (see , [www.grassnet.info/](http://www.grassnet.info/))
- working in the field of rangeland or grassland based production systems and with modeling approaches

## Application

Are you interested and eligible? Then send your application by May 21th 2012 by email to: [m.frank@ditssl.org](mailto:m.frank@ditssl.org). The application must include the following documents in one single pdf-file:

- A letter of application, stating your motivation for participation and your special interest in the topic,
- A short CV,
- Your personal data (please list: Surname, First Name, Organization, Department, City, Country, Phone, E-Mail (one address only), incl. a copy of your passport,
- Title and abstract of your current research,
- An abstract of a topic related to the subject of the GrassNet Summerschool 2012 that you want to present (abstract should not exceed 1 page).

The GrassNet Summerschool 2012 will be held in English, hence English proficiency is essential to follow the presentations and participate in the discussions.

## Cost Coverage

Following costs will be covered from DAAD GrassNet funds:

- International return ticket (to and from Frankfurt or Hannover),
- Transport from airport to Witzenhausen (by train),
- Transport from Witzenhausen to the Tropentag conference in Göttingen,
- Registration fee for the Tropentag conference
- Accommodation and living expenses during the stay in Witzenhausen
- Travel health insurance and visa costs for the stay in Germany.

All other costs, such as transport costs from participants' home town to their home airport have to be borne by the participants.

## For any further questions please contact the organization team

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