



ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Kassel, DITSL Witzenhausen and Mkwawa University College of Education, Tanzania organize the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Strategies for the sustainable and just transformation of agri-food systems in the global South

Part III

Integrating agroecological strategies for sustainable food systems amid global change – marketing and income strategies for improving livelihoods

5 - 13 October 2026 in Tanzania

Seminar objectives

Diverse smallholder agriculture plays a crucial role in guaranteeing regional food security in many developing nations, providing livelihoods for billions of people participating in agricultural value chains. To effectively adapt to global change issues such as climate, population growth, and globalization, considerable transformation initiatives are required, particularly in smallholder agriculture practices. Ecologically sustainable land management in line with agroecology principles, such as closed nutrient cycles, the promotion of agricultural biodiversity, the reduction of external inputs, and the efficient use of water and energy, are critical building blocks for the sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems around the world, particularly in marginal or vulnerable regions.

The event in Tanzania focuses on agricultural production and marketing, land conservation, product development, and access to export markets. It explores quality assurance mechanisms, including quality seals and certification, which help inform consumers and build trust, particularly in lengthy marketing channels. Certification is often necessary for accessing export markets to secure local food and income.

The seminar is designed as a travel workshop to explore, experience, and discuss agroecology in practice in respect to agricultural production, value chains, certification and marketing. Participants will visit farmers, cooperatives, research institutes, and initiatives. Included in the program are expert-led workshops on specific topics, including social innovations, agroecology, land management, and climate change mitigation.

The seminar aims to foster collaboration and the exchange of experiences and perspectives, as well as to facilitate international networks among participants and qualifying the participants in the field of integrating agroecological strategies for sustainable food systems in the face of global change—marketing and income strategies for improving livelihoods. It will stimulate and encourage the development of ideas for collaborative research, strategy creation, and knowledge transfer.

This seminar on “Integrating agroecological strategies for sustainable food systems amid global change—marketing and income strategies for improving livelihoods” in Tanzania is the third in a seminar series on the overall topic “**Strategies for sustainable and just transformation of agri-food systems in the global South.**” Participants are expected to provide one expert contribution each from their individual perspective on the transformation of agri-food systems. The seminar is organized and hosted by Mkwawa University College of Education (Dr. Michael Elias Mgalula, <https://muce.udsm.ac.tz/>) Iringa Tanzania under project coordination of the Department of Agricultural Engineering in the Tropics and Subtropics of



the Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences of the University of Kassel (Prof. Dr. Oliver Hensel, www.uni-kassel.de/fb11agrar) and DITSL Witzenhausen (www.ditsl.org), Germany.

Travel dates

5 October 2026	Arrival in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
6 - 12 October 2026	Travel Seminar in Tanzania
13 October 2026	Departure from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Participants **must attend the entire program**: seminar and social events from day one to departure day.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

This project targets Alumni of German Universities/Research Institutions

- who are German University Alumni, nationals of countries as per [OECD DAC list](#),
 - who are currently living and working in their home countries / in a DAC-listed country, and
 - who carried out research or studied in Germany for **at least 3 months**
- OR**
- who were funded within the framework of
 - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme,
 - the Centres of African Excellence or
 - the SDG Graduate Schools
 - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed

Participant's Profile

You should have

- 1) **a proven academic background in** agriculture and sustainable transformation of agri-food systems and related fields,
- 2) **professional experience and personal interest** in research, education, policy-making, project development, and are ready to engage with local communities, NGOs, government agencies, and related stakeholders,
- 3) **an interest to act as change agent (multiplier)** i.e. communicate and disseminate contents and knowledge gained during the seminar within your professional networks and develop further ideas and projects in your home countries,
- 4) **English language proficiency at professional level.**

Cost coverage

The **organizers** cover the following costs for the training seminar in Tanzania:

- International return ticket to/from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- Public transport to/from Iringa for participants from Tanzania
- Airport transfer and local transport in Tanzania
- Accommodation and subsistence
- Visa costs



Please note: All other costs, such as transportation costs from your hometown to your airport of departure/arrival, and travel costs for visa application in your home country, **must be covered by yourself**. Please keep in mind that **living expenses are only covered partly** during your stay in Iringa Tanzania.

Please also note that **participants must take out a travel health, accident and limited liability insurance** at their own expense. These must be booked by participants individually.

Application procedure

Applications must be made in English language and must include the following in one single pdf file:

- a **filled application form**: available at <https://ditsl.org/en/news-events>
- a **short CV** with relevant documentation of your Alumni status (2 pages max.)
- a **motivation letter** (please illustrate how you plan to apply and disseminate the gained knowledge (1 page max.).)
- an **abstract on a subject related to the seminar topic** (1 page max., font type "Arial" 11pt, 1.5 line spacing)

The PDF file should be named **'Last name_First name_country'** (e.g. Siegmeier_Anne_Germany) and must be sent via email to: transfarmation@ditsl.org by **31 March 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

After review by the organizing committee in Witzenhausen and Iringa, all applicants will be notified of the selection results by end of April 2026.

Contact Details

For further questions, please contact Anne Siegmeier (a.siegmeier@ditsl.org).

We are looking forward to your application.

Witzenhausen and Iringa, March 2026



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