

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Kassel, DITSL Witzenhausen and Egerton University, Kenya organize the

### International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

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

### Part II

**Innovations for the development of just and sustainable agricultural value chains**

**15 - 23 June 2026 in Kenya**

#### Seminar objectives

Diverse smallholder agriculture plays a crucial role in ensuring regional food security in many developing countries, supporting the livelihoods of billions involved in agricultural value chains. To effectively adapt to global changes such as climate change, demographic shifts, and globalization, significant transformation efforts are essential, particularly within smallholder agriculture. Ecologically sustainable land management in line with agroecology principles with closed nutrient cycles, the promotion of agricultural biodiversity, the reduction of external inputs and efficient use of water and energy, are important building blocks for a sustainable transformation of agricultural and food systems worldwide, particularly in marginal or vulnerable regions.

The event in Kenya will focus primarily on promoting and further developing locally adapted value chains and on their potential for ensuring diverse, healthy and affordable food supplies, as well as employment and income prospects in rural areas. In this context, we take an in-depth look at rural value chains, focusing on opportunities to reduce losses in quantity, quality and value, and discuss the potential for additional value creation through small- and medium-scale decentralised technologies for post-harvest treatment and food processing at various stages. Participants gain comprehensive insight into the possibilities for sustainably supporting the development of rural value chains through the intelligent use and combination of various technological applications (renewable energies, solar technology, water treatment, storage technology, sensor technology, control and regulation technology).

The seminar is designed in the format of a travel workshop in order to experience practical approaches in agroecology, to discuss agricultural value chains in development, and to explore innovations and technological applications in practice. Participants will visit farmers, cooperatives, private sector activity entities, research institutes, and initiatives. Included in the program are expert-led workshops on specific topics, including social innovations, agroecology, food security and land regeneration, and climate change mitigation.

The seminar on “Innovations for the development of just and sustainable agricultural value chains” aims at fostering collaboration and exchange of experiences and perspectives, facilitating international networks among participants and qualifying the participants in the field of innovations for the development of just and sustainable agricultural value chains. It will stimulate and promote the development of ideas for joint research, strategy development and knowledge transfer.

This seminar in Kenya is the second 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 Egerton university Kenya (Prof. Dr. Joseph Matofari of

the Department of Dairy, Food Science and Technology, (<https://dft.egerton.ac.ke/>) 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](http://www.uni-kassel.de/fb11agrar)) and DITSL Witzenhausen ([www.ditsl.org](http://www.ditsl.org)), Germany.

## Travel dates

15 June 2026	Arrival in Nairobi, Kenya
<b>16 - 22 June 2026</b>	<b>Travel Seminar in Kenya</b>
23 June 2026	Departure from Nairobi, Kenya

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 Kenya:

- International return ticket to/from Nairobi, Kenya (lowest possible economy class airfare, regional ceiling prices)
- Public transport to Nairobi for participants from Kenya
- Airport transfer and local transport in Kenya



- 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 Kenya.

**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](mailto:transfarmation@ditsl.org) by **31 January 2026**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

After review by the organizing committee in Witzzenhausen and Egerton University, all applicants will be notified of the selection results by end of **February 2026**.

## Contact Details

For further questions, please contact Anne Siegmeier ([a.siegmeier@ditsl.org](mailto:a.siegmeier@ditsl.org)) and Joseph Matofari ([jmatofari@egerton.ac.ke](mailto:jmatofari@egerton.ac.ke))

We are looking forward to your application.

Witzenhausen and Egerton, January 2026



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