

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

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

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

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

Part I

Agro-ecological practices and tools for building sustainable and climate-resilient food systems in different agro-ecological zones

06 - 14 October 2025 in UGANDA

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.

This event in Uganda will focus on the potential of agroecological approaches for sustainable and equitable food systems. Additionally, the workshop will explore effective strategies for linking smallholder farmers to short value chains that are adapted to regional conditions. It will also discuss their vital role in enhancing food security and sovereignty in developing countries.

The seminar is designed in the format of a travel workshop. We will experience and discuss agroecology in practice across various agro-ecological zones, such as highland ranges, savanna grasslands and the Lake Victoria crescent. Participants will visit farmer cooperatives and various agroecology projects and initiatives in these regions. Included in the program are expert-led workshops on specific topics including the principles of agroecology, soil health, agrobiodiversity and climate change adaptation. The seminar aims at fostering collaboration and exchange of experiences and perspectives, facilitating international networks among participants and qualifying the participants in the field of agroecological tools and practices. It will stimulate and promote the development of ideas for joint research, strategy development and knowledge transfer.

This seminar on “Agro-ecological practices and tools for building sustainable and climate-resilient food systems in different agro-ecological zones” in Uganda is the first 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 the National Forestry Resources Research Institute (NaFORRI, <https://naro.go.ug/naris/naforri/>), Uganda 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

06 October 2025	Arrival in Kampala/Entebbe, Uganda
07 - 13 October 2025	Travel Seminar in Uganda
14 October 2025	Departure from Kampala/Entebbe, Uganda

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 Uganda:

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

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 **04 May 2025**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

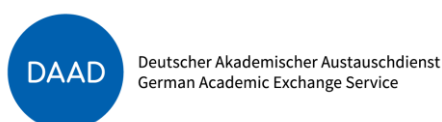
After review by the organizing committee in Witzenhausen and Kampala, all applicants will be notified of the selection results by end of **May 2025**.

Contact Details

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

We are looking forward to your application.

Witzenhausen and Kampala, April 2025



Supported by:

