

## ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the University of Goettingen are organizing the

### International DAAD Alumni Seminar 2019

#### “Scientific Debating about Sustainable Agriculture –

**Biodiversity protection supported by breeding, biological plant protection and mixed crop cultivation“**

**September 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Goettingen, Germany**

Followed by the participation in the

### TROPENTAG 2019,

**the most important conference on tropical and subtropical agriculture and natural resource management**

**September 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Kassel, Germany**

#### Seminar aims

The loss of biodiversity through direct and indirect human causes reduces adaptability to environmental changes and ecosystem services. Agriculture increasingly contributes to the loss of diversity through intensification of crop production and mechanisation of animal husbandry. The constant demand for increased yields of food and feed requires the provision of high-quality plant varieties up to efficient land use systems. In the past, increased yields in plant production were largely due to advances in breeding. In addition, fertilization, crop protection and new agricultural techniques contributed to increasing productivity.

The current social debate on the loss of biodiversity also calls for agricultural research and innovation through systemic approaches to optimise environmental compatibility and yield capacity. **Conflicts of interest and complexity lead to scientifically controversial debates.**

The alumni seminar aims at training and debating in three selected agricultural topics **(1) breeding, (2) biological plant protection and (3) mixed cultivation**, which can counteract the loss of biodiversity. They fit thematically to the conference title "Filling gaps and removing traps for sustainable resource development".

The seminar and the conference visit are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the program Alumni Special Projects ([www.daad.de/alumni-special-projects](http://www.daad.de/alumni-special-projects)). The International DAAD Alumni Seminar is organised and hosted by the University of Goettingen. The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The seminar is scheduled in the run-up to the Tropentag 2019 ([www.tropentag.de](http://www.tropentag.de)) at University of Kassel.

## Program

The seminar program in Goettingen will include:

- Sessions and workshops on sustainable agriculture topics and scientific debating techniques
- Poster presentations from the participating alumni
- Group work activities and professional networking opportunities with scientists and industry
- Excursions and cultural events

The final program in Goettingen will be published once all applications have been reviewed.

## Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets Alumni of German universities

- from countries, listed on the DAC list of 'developing' countries,
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for at least 3 months and
- who are currently living and working in their home countries.

You should have

- (1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of (organic) agriculture, organic production, handling, transport, processing, marketing, certification, accreditation or legislation in the field of organic agriculture, rural development, natural resource management, environment, forestry
- (2) **professional experience and personal interest in one of the following areas**: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders
- (3) the **requirements to act as a potential multiplier** who will present the seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation
- (4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held **in English**

## Cost coverage

- International return ticket from and to airport in Germany (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- Train tickets (2nd class): Airport to venue – preferably Rail & Fly
- Transport to and from company visits
- Accommodation and meals during the stay in Göttingen
- Travel health insurance (max. 30 Euro) and visa costs
- Transport from Goettingen to Tropentag 2019 in Kassel
- Transport from the hotel in Kassel to the departure airport
- Entrance fees at the Conference in Kassel
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in Kassel

**Please note: All other costs, such as transport costs from participants' home town to their home airport or travel costs for visa application in the home country have to be borne by the participants.**

**Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stay in Kassel.**

**Travel dates:**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2019:** Arrival at the venue in Göttingen

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2019:** Departure from Kassel

## Application procedure

Your application should emphasize your motivation and personal/professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

Please conduct your **online application** via our **application portal** on <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/606549.html>

**latest by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.** The portal will close at midnight!

In addition to the **online application form**, you should send a **single PDF** to [spfeiff@gwdg.de](mailto:spfeiff@gwdg.de):

- 1) **Short CV** with photograph and relevant documentation of alumni status

The PDF-document should be named 'Last name\_First name\_country' (e.g. Pfeiffer\_Simone\_Germany).

Please mention in your application form **if you have already registered for Tropentag 2019** – however, this **does not affect your eligibility as participant** of the alumni seminar. In general, the DAAD is responsible for the registration for Tropentag 2019.

**Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the online application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.**

After the review by the local organizing committee and DAAD, the invited participants will be notified at the end of June.

**For further questions**, please contact

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Goettingen, April 2019