



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Leipzig is organizing the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Entrepreneurship For Agriculture: Methods, Energy, Ranch 4.0 (E-FARMER 4.0)

24 - 29 June 2024 in Leipzig, Germany

with the previous participation in

the trade fair **The Smarter E Europe 2024 in Munich,**

and **the International Campus Days of**

Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT)

in Freising (Agriculture, Food Production and Biotechnology), **and**

in Triesdorf (Renewable Energies and Digital Agriculture)

18 - 23 June 2024 in Munich / Freising / Triesdorf, Germany

Training seminar aims

Today, agriculture in most African countries is predominantly structured by smallholder farmers (80%) with a limited level of mechanization. While there is growing pressure to increase production, the vulnerability to local effects of global climate change represents a huge challenge. Africa is classified by IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) as the most vulnerable continent, due to impacts of climate change e.g. the increased droughts in tropical regions and in the Mediterranean. The challenges are increasing through the growing costs of inputs, water, and fuel. According to the World Meteorological Organization (2023), Africa is the continent which is the least able to cope with the negative impacts of climate change.

What, if technology in the areas of energy and digitalization has the potential to provide solutions to African farmers to reduce vulnerability and increase crop yields?

This alumni training seminar aims to discuss how new technologies from energy and digitalization can be integrated in novel business models. The seminar aims to build on a great network of young international experts in all of the relevant fields to create a room for discussion on how those ideas can be transformed into agronomic innovations that work for the home countries of the participating alumni.

The SEPT (Small Enterprise Promotion and Training) Competence Center has more than 30 years of experience in business development and innovation management in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We are eager to bring this knowledge together with the experience and knowledge of our international alumni community in fields of agriculture, energy, and digitalization.

This sounds interesting to you? Alumni organizers as well as the SEPT Competence Center are inviting you to be part of it! Apply. Be inspired. Discuss solutions with a global perspective.

The training seminar and the participation in the trade fair The Smarter E Europe 2024, and the International Campus Days Freising and Triesdorf are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development for Germany Alumni from the Global South (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects).



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Supported by the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



The International Germany Alumni Training Seminar is organized and hosted by the SEPT Competence Center at Leipzig University. The training seminar is scheduled after participation in the trade fair The Smarter E Europe 2024 and the International Campus Days.

The costs will be covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Tentative programme

The training seminar programme in Leipzig will:

- provide room for presentations from the alumni as well as from experts. Innovation management methods will be applied to reflect on ways to integrate the impressions from The Smarter E Europe as well as the campus days and the expert knowledge into project ideas and business models. In workshops, participants will practice to innovate in sustainable business models.
- allow participants to gain insights into the processing of agricultural produce in Germany and the implementation of energy and digitalization in the field of agriculture through visits to established firms, start-ups, and labs,
- foster networking among participants with fellow alumni as peers and potential business partners facilitated through excursions and socializing activities. The SEPT community app is available to sustain the networks beyond the seminar.

The final training seminar programme in Leipzig will be composed and published once all applications have been reviewed since the organizing team would like to give room to the knowledge and experience that is provided by the participating alumni.

Eligibility criteria for participation

This SDG Alumni Project in the framework of The Smarter E Europe 2024 targets Alumni of German universities/research institutions/the DAAD

- who are citizens of countries listed on the OECD DAC list (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/daclist.htm>)
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for at least 3 months OR
- who are funded within the framework of
the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme,
the Centres of African Excellence or
the SDG Graduate Schools

Primarily, alumni who are currently living and working in their home countries / in the Global South can apply. However, Alumni who are currently based abroad for educational reasons are also eligible to apply, but in a clearly limited number.

Participants should have

- (1) proven **academic background or a practical relation** with at least one of the relevant topics: entrepreneurship, agriculture, energy, smart solutions related to agriculture or energy,





- (2) **professional experience and professional/personal interest in one of the following areas:** research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy-making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,
- (3) the **ability to act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in the home country or in virtual communities of practice (e.g. through the Alumniportal Deutschland or groups on the community app that connects the SEPT summer school community) 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**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects:

Participation in SDG Alumni Projects are limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. (This rule does not apply for attendances in completely digital SDG Alumni Projects (formerly: Alumni Special Projects)).

Cost coverage

- International return ticket from and to the airport in Germany (lowest possible economy class airfare)
 - Maximum of 1,100,- Euro for participants from Latin America
 - Maximum of 975,- Euro for participants from Africa
 - Maximum of 1,050,- Euro for participants from Asia
 - Maximum of 800,- Euro for participants from the Arabic-speaking region
 - Maximum of 650,- Euro for participants from East Europe

You will get the final calculation after the selection of all participants.
- Train tickets (2nd class): Airport to the Hotel in Freising (near Munich Airport)
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the participation in the trade fair The Smarter E Europe 2024 in Munich and the International Campus Days in Freising and Triesdorf
- Entrance fees at the trade fair The Smarter E Europe 2024 in Munich on 19 and 20 June 2024,
- Transport from the hotel in Freising to the other visiting places: International Campus Days of HSWT in Freising and Triesdorf
- Transport from Munich / Ansbach to Leipzig
- Travel health insurance (max. 30 Euro) and visa costs
- Accommodation and meals during the participation at the training seminar in Leipzig
- Transport on excursions
- Transport/Train Tickets from Leipzig to the departure airport

To prevent discrimination against alumni in difficult economic conditions due to prefinancing flight costs, Leipzig University will facilitate flight booking through a travel agent.

Regarding the flight costs, the organizers are very committed to enable alumni regardless of their current economic status to participate. Due to the limited amount of funds that are available, flight costs can only be guaranteed to be taken care of to a maximum of the above-mentioned amounts.



If the flights are more expensive, the alumni should prepare to take care of the amount beyond this budget.

If some flights can be purchased at cheaper rates, the free funds can be used to reduce the burden on alumni with economically difficult conditions and higher flight costs.

Please note: You must cover by yourself any other costs, such as transport costs between your place of residence and your departure airport, and travel costs for visa application in your country of residence. Please keep in mind that living expenses are only covered partly during your stay in Leipzig and Munich.

Travel dates:

- 18 June 2024: Arrival in Munich/Freising, Germany
- 19 - 20 June 2024: Participation in the Smarter E Europe in Munich, Germany
- 21 June 2024: International Campus Days HSWT in Freising, departure to Ansbach
- 22 June 2024: International Campus Day of HSWT in Triesdorf
- 23 June 2024: Excursions, networking
- 24 June 2024: Travel from Triesdorf / Ansbach to Leipzig
- 25 - 29 June 2024: Training Seminar in Leipzig
- 30 June 2024: Departure from Leipzig

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the SDG Alumni Project (The Smarter E Europe 2024 and the International Campus Days of HSWT in Freising and Triesdorf) to the last day of the training seminar in Leipzig.

Extensions of stays before the SDG Alumni Project / after the training seminar, therefore before 18 June 2023 and after 30 June 2023, are only possible up to 5 working days and upon submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before you start your travel.

Extensions beyond 5 days must be of an official nature which you need to justify, e.g. through visits to universities, organizations, institutions, companies etc. and with details about contact persons and a day-to-day programme of activities. These extensions must be approved by DAAD before you start your travel. Decisions by DAAD are made on an individual nature based upon your justification, your programme etc.

For any extension, you will have to pay any difference between the flight ticket prices for the official arrival/return date (see below) and your actual date of travel before/after your extension. You must also cover by yourself any additional travel costs, subsistence costs and other additional costs of your extension. Furthermore, you need to organize your accommodation by yourself, and, most importantly, you have to make sure to have valid health insurance for the extension days.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and relevant experience as well as professional benefit for your participation. Further, you should give the organizers an idea of how you can add value to the training seminar. You should also illustrate how you are planning to apply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.



Your application (in English language) consists of the filled application form: The form is available here: <https://umfrage.uni-leipzig.de/index.php/752731?lang=en>

Please schedule enough time to fill in the application form. This requires some preparation on your side as the form contains sections for

- Your motivation statement including your interests in the topic as well as desired benefit from participation
- The description of your relevant experience to the theme of the E-FARMER 4.0 workshop and The Smarter E Europe
- An idea sketch of your possible contribution to the seminar

The application deadline is 30 November 2023, 23:59 CET.

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 in January 2024.

For further questions, please contact

Mr. Robert Meyer, Robert.meyer@uni-leipzig.de, +49-(0)341-9739764

or the alumni organizer team, daadsdgevent.leipzig2024@gmail.com.

Leipzig, October 2023

This call for application was prepared under the assumption that funding will be available. The implementation of the project is subject to the provision of funds.