

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) the Centre for International Postgraduate Studies of Environmental Management (CIPSEM) of TU Dresden is organizing the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar 2023

Expansion of Alumni's competencies and network activities in the field of "Food systems and forest products: the role of sustainable consumption and production (SCP)"

12 - 18 September 2023 in Dresden and surrounding area, Germany

followed by the participation in the

Tropentag 2023

Annual interdisciplinary conference on research in tropical and subtropical agriculture, natural resource management and rural development

19 - 22 September 2023 in Berlin, Germany

Background and seminar aims

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) aims to "do more and better with less" – to increase the net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation, and pollution while improving quality of life. Its implementation helps to achieve comprehensive development plans, reduce future economic, environmental, and social costs, strengthen economic competitiveness, and reduce poverty. It also requires a systemic approach and collaboration among actors involved in the supply chain, from producers to end users. This transformation requires a change in consumer behavior through awareness and education on sustainable consumption and lifestyles, the provision of adequate information through standards, labeling and a commitment to sustainable public procurement. For several years, many experts have argued that a significant portion of human environmental impacts, such as biodiversity loss, is directly and/or indirectly related to producing and consuming food. However, while people are becoming more aware of the value of biodiversity, most consumers are still unaware of how their consumption patterns are linked to the causes contributing to the global loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Alumni Seminar is a one-week training and networking seminar for 25 Germany Alumni from the Global South (DAC countries). The seminar will provide training and professional exchange with a focus on "Food and Agroforestry Systems in the Context of Sustainable Production and Consumption". The seminar will address strategies for implementing sustainable land/agroforestry systems, nature-based solutions, and land management. Policy-relevant questions will be explored, such as: (i) What do sustainable food systems look like from a natural resource perspective? (ii) How can resource efficiency be improved to enhance food security? (iii) How can the transition to sustainable food systems be managed? Collaboration among key stakeholders will be essential to ultimately drive a shift towards nature-friendly consumption and production. Therefore, strategies and best practices for communicating sustainable consumption and production will be discussed. Another goal is to strengthen and expand partnership relationships among Alumni of international and development studies programs and CIPSEM at the regional level, fostering South-South as well as interdisciplinary

exchange and collaboration. Keynotes and poster presentations by Alumni and their involvement in all parts of the seminar, will ensure active Alumni participation in the program, stimulating professional exchange. Through an excursion, group work, as well as social activities and cultural framework program, a participatory and practice-oriented seminar process offers ample space for knowledge transfer and experience gain.

The seminar and conference visit are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) as part of its program SDG Alumni Projects (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). The International Germany Alumni Seminar is organized and hosted by TU Dresden. The costs are mainly covered by funds of the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The seminar takes place in the run-up to the Tropentag 2023 (<https://www.tropentag.de/conference/general.php>), jointly organized by universities of Berlin, Bonn, Göttingen, Hohenheim, Kassel-Witzenhausen, ZALF e.V. (all Germany), Ghent University (Belgium), Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic), BOKU Vienna (Austria), and the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Research (ATSAF e.V) in co-operation with the GIZ Fund International Agricultural Research (FIA).

Tentative Program

A preparatory online phase brings participants together. Through several meetings and group work, this phase will support the development of case studies for the seminar and contributions to the Tropentag conference.

The seminar program in Dresden will include

- Sessions and workshops on food and agroforestry systems in the context of sustainable production and consumption
- Presentations by participating Alumni
- Group work activities and professional networking opportunities with scientists and practitioners
- Excursions and cultural events.

The final program in Dresden will be published after all applications have been reviewed.

Participation in the entire program is required: online preparation, seminar, conference, social program, and online conclusion.

A final online phase will evaluate lessons learned and discuss post-training action plans developed by participants.

Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets Alumni of German universities / research institutions (so called Germany Alumni)

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

You should have

- (1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of food systems, forest products, sustainable consumption and production, environmental management, and political activities related to sustainable consumption and production, natural resource management and environmental studies,
- (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 change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training 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**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects (formerly: Alumni Special Projects):

Participations 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 attendance in a completely digital SDG Alumni Project).

Cost coverage

- International return ticket from and to airport in Germany (lowest possible economy class airfare, booked through TU Dresden)
- Train tickets (2nd class): Airport to Dresden – preferably Rail & Fly (booked through TU Dresden)
- Travel health insurance (booked through TU Dresden) and visa costs
- Accommodation and meals during the stay in Dresden during the training seminar
- Transport on excursions
- Transport from Dresden to Berlin
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the conference stay in Berlin
- Entrance fees for the conference in Berlin
- Transport from the hotel in Berlin to the departure airport

Please note:

You must cover by yourself any other costs, such as transport costs between your place of residence and “your” 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 Dresden and Berlin.

Extensions of stays before the seminar/after the Tropentag 2023 are only possible up to 5 working days and upon submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before you start your travel. 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.

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 program 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 program etc.

For any extension, you need to organize your accommodation by yourself, and, very important, you have to make sure to have a valid health insurance for the extension days.

Travel dates:

11 September 2023:	Arrival in Dresden
12 - 18 September 2023:	Training Seminar in Dresden
19 September 2023:	Travel from Dresden to Berlin
20 - 22 September 2023:	Participation in the conference Tropentag 2023
23 September 2023:	Departure from Berlin

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the seminar in Dresden to the last day of the conference Tropentag 2023.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) 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.

Your application (in English language) must include the following documents in one single pdf file:

- A filled-out application form: The form is available on <https://tu-dresden.de/cipsem/alumni/sdg-alumni-training-seminar-tropentag-2023>
- A short CV with photograph and relevant documentation of alumni status
- An abstract of the poster contribution or keynote on the seminar focus.
(Abstracts must not exceed one page; please use font type "Arial", font size 11, 1.5 line spacing. The abstracts will serve as a basis for the preparatory online phase).

The PDF-document should be named 'Last name_First name_country' (e.g., Mustermann_Mara_Germany).

Please send your application, **as one single pdf file**, latest by **07 April 2023** via email to:

unep@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

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 by end of April.

For further questions, please contact Anna Görner (anna.goerner@tu-dresden.de, +49 351 497-9912)

Dresden, 7 March, 2023

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