

## Announcement

HORTINLEA (Horticultural Innovation and Learning for Improved Nutrition and Livelihood in East Africa) is an interdisciplinary research project addressing food security in East Africa, particularly in Kenya. 19 East African and German universities and research institutes work collaboratively to generate and distribute knowledge in order to increase horticultural production and consumption, especially of African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs). The overall goal is to improve the livelihood and nutritional situation of the rural and urban poor.

Scale-N (Scaling-Up Nutrition: Implementing Potentials of nutrition-sensitive and diversified agriculture to increase food security). The main goal is to safeguard food and nutrition security for the local population in Tanzania by supporting the development of diversified and sustainable agriculture. Scale-N is designed to empower women and build the capacity of vulnerable rural communities to shape a sustainable future.

HORTINLEA and Scale-N are looking for Master students who are interested to complete their Masters' thesis within the frame of these projects and who have already demonstrated excellent performance in their field of study in East Africa or Germany. The Master's Thesis Programme will give students the great opportunity to get insight into multi-stakeholder international research projects. Moreover, students will research at the interface between interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches and analyse how innovative knowledge exchange can promote food and nutrition security in East Africa. In this regard, students will be linked with the policy arena, private sector, NGOs, value chain and other national and international actors. The initiative offer challenging case studies, financial support for the thesis writing phase, insight into projects survey data as well as experienced researchers and practitioners, who are ready to supervise and guide students through the thesis process. Furthermore, the students will be encouraged to present the results of their Master's thesis at international conferences and publish at least one peer-reviewed article.

The Centre for Rural Development ([/SLE](#)), the Sokoine University of Agriculture ([SUA](#)) and the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research ([ZALF](#)) in frame of [HORTINLEA](#) and Scale-N research projects have identified 2 **theses topics** from different research areas related to knowledge management and knowledge exchange. Descriptions of the theses projects can be found [here](#).

### Selection criteria:

- Very good Bachelor degree in agricultural, nutrition, communication or related field
- Excellent performance in their current study
- Profound knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Fluency in English with very good writing skills as well as knowledge of local languages in the partner countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia).

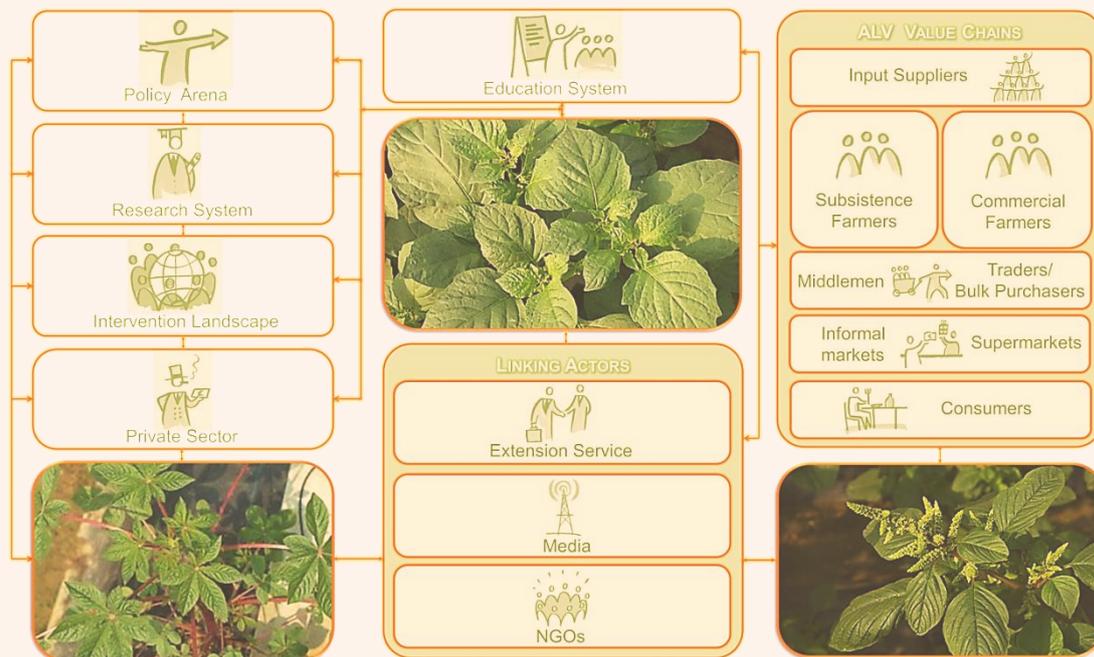
Candidates should be registered at Kenyan, Tanzanian, Ethiopian or German universities and be about to start their Master's thesis. Students are invited to apply by writing a one page synopsis on the suggested specific topic and are free to decide what their synopsis should look like, based on the information provided in the theses project description.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents via e-mail:

- Synopsis on the specific topic (1 page)
- Motivation letter (0,5 page)
- Curriculum Vitae (including academic referees)
- Short summary of bachelor thesis (max. 2 pages)

**The deadline for applying** for the SLE Master's Thesis Programme is **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016** by following the application procedure outlined in the [project description of each individual topic](#). You are welcome to apply for more than one thesis topic - in that case please send one joint application and make sure to prioritise the different topics. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Please send your application as one PDF file to: [marlen.bachmann@agrar.hu-berlin.de](mailto:marlen.bachmann@agrar.hu-berlin.de). Selected candidates will be notified by **July 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY



Master's Thesis Programme 2016

### Improving food and nutrition security through traditional knowledge and food systems in Tanzania

The Centre for Rural Development /SLE, the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) in frame of HORTINLEA and Scale-N research projects, funded by the German Government, seek to improve the livelihood and nutritional situation of the rural and urban poor in East Africa by generating and exchanging knowledge to improve, increase and diversify agricultural production especially of underutilised traditional fruit and vegetables. Two Master theses will contribute to the research activities promoting knowledge exchange and transfer of research results into policies and practice. Under the supervision of academics from East African universities, from the ZALF and from the SLE - at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin applicants are expected to develop, define and implement their Master theses projects.

Write a one page synopsis on *Improving food and nutrition security in Tanzania through traditional food systems and knowledge* and apply [here](#), if you are interested to conduct research within ongoing HORTINLEA and Scale-N activities in 2016.

The ongoing research activities focus on assessing the potential of underutilised traditional fruit and vegetable to address food and nutrition challenges in Tanzania. The potential of traditional food to help to solve the problem of malnutrition has been argued with reference to their high content in micronutrients. In comparison to spinach, for instance, traditional species such as Amaranth (*Amaranthus spp.*), Nightshade (*Solanum villosum*) and Spider Plant (*Cleome gynandra*) contain around twice the amount of protein, 2-4 times the amount of calcium, 1.5-2 times as much vitamin A and more than 4 times as much vitamin C ([Abukutsa, 2006](#)).

 **One of the two Master's theses is expected to analyse the role of local food knowledge regarding fruits and vegetable production/adoption to improve nutrition security.** As a pilot study, it will provide evidence and knowledge about the behaviour and perception of traditional food and processing practices in Tanzania. The thesis is expected to assess the role of local food knowledge for consumption patterns as well as the willingness to adoption of intake patterns for improved nutrition security. In doing so, the thesis should also focus especially on post-harvest handling aspects at household and/or community level. It should highlight methods as well as major challenges of storing, processing and preserving traditional food.

#### **CANDIDATES QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicants should have a background in at least one of the following fields: economics/finance, agriculture/horticulture or related fields. Applicants must hold a Bachelor's degree with excellent results. Very good written and oral English and excellent MS Office skills are essential for this position. Of advantage are as well relevant publications and very good writing skills, methods/experience for/in empirical social research, excellent organisation and communication skills. Applicants should be registered as Master students and be about to start their Master's thesis.

The deadline for applying for this thesis topic is July 4<sup>th</sup> 2016. Please send your application to: [marlen.bachmann@agrar.hu-berlin.de](mailto:marlen.bachmann@agrar.hu-berlin.de)

 **The second Master's thesis is expected to focus on nutrition sensitive agriculture and corresponding innovations in traditional food system in Tanzania.** The study aims at analysing the potential of small-scale fruit and vegetable production through diversified seed systems. It is required that the analysis will be combined with concrete recommendations on traditional/indigenous fruits and vegetables varieties, which could be introduced in the traditional food systems to improve nutrition security in rural Tanzania.