

Friederike Schilling

Center for Development Research (ZEF), Genscherallee 3, 53113 Bonn, Germany

fschilling@uni-bonn.de

SUMMARY

Agricultural economist with 3.5 years of experience in project management and development consulting across Africa, complemented by 3 years of experience in academic research as a PhD candidate. Skilled in translating research findings into actionable strategies and communicating them to non-scientific audiences. Passionate about advancing innovative solutions for the sustainable transformation of smallholder farming systems.

EDUCATION

- PhD Agricultural Economics** 01/2022 - present
Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany
- Secured a 3-year fully funded PhD scholarship to participate in an interdisciplinary PhD programme with six months of coursework by the Bonn International Graduate School for Development Research.
- MA Development Economics** 04/2016 - 09/2018
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany
- Master thesis on "*Weather risks in rural lending: drawing on empirical evidence from consumer durable loans granted to Tanzanian farmers*" (Grade 1.3).
 - Visiting student spending one semester at Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International (CERDI), Université Clermont Auvergne, France.
 - Overall grade: 1.2 (very good), Specialization: Agricultural Economics
- BSc Economics and Business Economics/ BA European Business (EBP)** 09/2012 - 07/2015
University of Hull, United Kingdom and University of Applied Sciences Münster, Germany
- Undergraduate double-degree programme: Germany (2012-14), United Kingdom (2014-15).
 - Overall grade: first class

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Junior Researcher/ PhD Candidate** 01/2022 - present
Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn Bonn, Germany
- Conducting research at the intersection of agriculture, climate change and economics on the risks and opportunities of agricultural carbon markets in transforming smallholder farming systems in Africa.
 - Published findings from the literature review in a working paper titled "*Carbon Farming in Africa*".
 - Presented a research article titled "*Effective governance structures for integrated carbon farming projects: evidence from Kenya*" at the *World Bank Land Conference 2024* in Washington, D.C..
 - In progress: two articles on the carbon sequestration potential of smallholder farmers in Western Kenya.
- Research Fellow** 02 - 08/2023, 01 - 03/2024
International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology - icipe Kenya
- Conducted qualitative research with carbon credit project developers, soil scientists and stakeholders in the agricultural sector to explore the potential and challenges of agricultural carbon markets in Kenya.
 - Designed and implemented a survey among 500 farmers in Western Kenya to explore the effect of sustainable agricultural practices on soil fertility, combining household data and soil sample analyses.
 - Executed a comparative study on approaches for soil organic carbon measurement, which compares traditional soil laboratory analyses to an in-situ soil scanner using reflectance spectroscopy.

- Project Manager/ Consultant Financial Sector Development** 08/2018 - 12/2021
AFC Agriculture and Finance Consultants (part of GOPA Consulting Group) Bonn, Germany
- Project acquisition, project management, and consulting assignments in agricultural and value-chain finance, MSME development and financial inclusion across the MENA region and sub-Saharan Africa:
 - Project acquisition:
 1. Developed technical and financial proposals for international donors (EIB, GIZ, KfW), coordinated teams of project managers, assistants, and consortium partners, and led discussions with experts.
 2. Successfully acquired GIZ projects in Egypt and Ghana with a combined volume of EUR 3.5 million.
 - Project management:
 1. Led project management tasks, including coordination meetings, contract negotiations, facilitated workshops and trainings, oversaw the technical implementation of projects, performed quality controls of reports, conducted regular backstopping missions abroad and managed project budgets.
 2. Managed international project teams of up to 15 members remotely, with teams based across Africa.
 - Consulting assignments:
 1. Co-developed a digital loan appraisal tool for microfinance institutions working with farmers in Togo.
 2. Worked on two national financial inclusion surveys in Egypt: designed questionnaires, conducted data analysis, and advised the Central Bank of Egypt on its financial inclusion strategy.
 3. Supported setting up a SME mentoring and coaching program at the Development Bank of Namibia.

Research Assistant (part-time) 06/2016 - 03/2018
Chair of Development Economics, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Göttingen, Germany
 Supported research and teaching activities of the Chair under Prof. Dr. Stephan Klasen.

Intern Financial Systems Development 01/2016 - 04/2016
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Eschborn, Germany

Intern Investment Management Southern Africa 09/2015 - 12/2015
DEG - KfW Bankengruppe Johannesburg, South Africa

Intern Public Development Cooperation 06/2014 - 09/2014
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Bonn, Germany

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS

- Research grant, Foundation fiat panis** 2024
- Awarded 4,500 EUR by the *Dr. Hermann Eiselen PhD Grant* for food security research in Kenya.
- Deutschlandstipendium (scholarship)** 2017/18
- Granted a monthly scholarship of EUR 300 for outstanding academic performance at master's level.
- Avenues Prize, University of Hull** 2015
- Awarded for outstanding academic performance (top of the class) in Economics.

COURSES

Courses: *Certified Expert in Agricultural Finance* (Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, 2021), 4-week course *"Digitizing Agriculture: The Last Mile in Smallholder Agriculture"* (Digital Frontiers Institute, 2020), *ValueLinks 2.0 - Sustainable Value Chain Development* (International ValueLinks Association e. V., 2019)

LANGUAGES & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (C2), French (C1)

Technical Skills: Stata, LaTeX, KoboToolbox/ SurveyCTO, QGIS, Microsoft Office