



The Center for Development Research is an international, English-speaking research institute of the University of Bonn, Germany, which hosts the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program. For more information, please see www.zef.de.

The Center for Development Research offers a

Doctoral scholarship

“Identification and evaluation of locally-evolved land management innovations in rural West Africa”

Background

Climate change forces West African landholders to adapt to changing conditions. Exposed to severe weather variability landholders in West Africa have shown exceptional innovation potential in the past. Locally evolved innovations have developed under prevailing constraints and are locally adapted. Therefore, their dissemination potential is often higher than that of other externally developed innovations promoted by the often failed transfer-of-technology model.

The objective of this proposed research is to identify and evaluate locally-evolved land management innovations which support adaptation to climate change in the West African Sudanian Savannah region.

The scholarship is part of the newly created West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL). For more information see <http://www.wascal.org/>.

Duration and conditions

Three years starting from October 2011 under conditional acceptance of the confirmation by the funding agency. The awarded scholarship will cover living, research as well as travel costs.

Time plan

The candidate will be expected to participate in the interdisciplinary and disciplinary courses of the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program from October 2011 - February 2012 in Bonn. He/she will develop an individual research proposal until April 2012. For data collection, 10-12 months of field work in West Africa will be required. During the writing-up period of the dissertation, the candidate will be based at ZEF in Bonn.

Requirements

- Very good degree (Diploma or Master) in agriculture, agricultural economics, or related field.
- Very good knowledge of English and French.
- Knowledge in the following fields is of advantage: cost-benefit analysis, multivariate statistics, GIS, systems analysis and modeling, multicriteria analysis, primary data collection methods (interviews, focus groups).
- Work experience in West Africa is of advantage.

African and female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

Application

The eligible candidates are invited to send their application including

- A letter of motivation
- Curriculum vitae
- Copies of academic certificates
- Copies of the master/diploma thesis and scientific publications if available
- Contact details of two referees

Please send the application to:

Dr. Tobias Wünscher, Center for Development Research, Email: tobias.wuenscher@uni-bonn.de

Closing date for the application is August 31, 2011