



Campus Bonn



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Center for
Development Research
University of Bonn

SEKEM

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, offers a DAAD-funded PhD research scholarship on:

Sustainable agriculture and innovation in Egypt

Background

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) is a global transdisciplinary research and education initiative of universities and the "Alternative Nobel Prize", known as the Right Livelihood Award (RLA). Supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Center for Development (ZEF) at the University of Bonn hosts one of nine RLC Campuses at universities worldwide (www.rlc-bonn.de).

In collaboration with SEKEM in Egypt, which was awarded the "Alternative Nobel Prize" in 2003, we offer a 3-year PhD scholarship for candidates from Egypt or other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, to carry out an empirical PhD research project related to the topic: "Sustainable agriculture and innovation in Egypt" (www.sekem.com).

Research background

The agricultural sector in Egypt is challenged by high population and land use pressure, resource degradation as well as socioeconomic changes. Crop farming is mainly focussed along the Nile River Valley with fertile soils and water availability. Innovations for sustainable agriculture must develop and strengthen production systems and value chains that create economic and social value without compromising ecology and natural resources. Possible innovative strategies for achieving this goal include the diversification of production systems with high value crops, the upgrading of product quality, and improved market access for producers. Holistic approaches are required to make agriculture sustainable and provide attractive livelihoods, especially to rural youths. Which strategies are most promising in which social-ecological environment, what are the implications for resource use and conservation, and what are the perspectives for the future?

The PhD research project is aimed at addressing some of these concerns and scientific knowledge gaps by empirically assessing the role and potential of innovation in the agricultural sector in Egypt. Applicants have to develop an individual

PhD research proposal narrowing the research scope and outlining a feasible methodology. The proposal has to be submitted together with the application.

The PhD scholarship call

Qualified applicants should be citizens of Egypt or other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, and currently reside there. They should hold an excellent master's or equivalent degree in social sciences, development studies, sociology, geography, anthropology, or related disciplines, and have outstanding proficiency in empirical socioeconomic research methods. Experience in action research and interdisciplinary is an asset. Fluency in English is mandatory.

The scholarship is funded by the DAAD for 3 years starting from August 1, 2019. It covers a Junior Researcher position at ZEF and respective costs for travel and research. In the first year, the candidate will participate in the ZEF Doctoral Studies Program in Bonn.

Your application should consist of:

- Motivation letter (1 page)
- A CV in EUROPASS format – see template under:
<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>
- Two letters of recommendation from professors or supervisors
- Certified academic degree documents (as PDF)
- Short PhD research proposal narrowing the research scope (max. 5 pages)

All documents are to be submitted in English. Closing date for applications is April 27, 2019. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please send your applications via e-mail to:

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