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Workshop

Sustainable agriculture and rural transformation: meeting smallholders' needs in socio-ecological systems

Call for Applications

*The RLC Campus at ZEF, University of Bonn, Germany, offers scholarships for PhD students from Africa, Asia and Latin America to participate in the transdisciplinary workshop on “**Sustainable agriculture and rural transformation: meeting smallholders' needs in socio-ecological systems**”, November 20-25, 2021.*

Background

The Right Livelihood College (RLC) is a global education and research initiative of universities and the [Right Livelihood Foundation](#), widely known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize'. The [RLC Campus in Bonn](#) is hosted by the Center for Development Research ([ZEF](#)), University of Bonn, and supported by the German Academic Exchange Service ([DAAD](#)).

Covid-19 security

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions only fully Covid-19 vaccinated (according to EMA) or recovered people can participate in the workshop. Participants have to check and to comply to all Covid-19 regulations before travelling to Bonn and during the workshop.

The workshop

The workshop will take place in Bonn from November 20 (arrival date) to 25 (departure date), 2021. PhD students, distinguished scientists and practitioners and will be participating together with Laureates of the “Alternative Nobel Prize”. Workshop language will be English.

Sustainable agriculture has become a ubiquitous notion in development sciences and practice. Beyond aiming to contribute to the conservation of ecosystems, to changing food demands, and to long term economic rentabilities, sustainable agriculture has a high potential as an agent for rural transformation and pro-poor growth in the Global South. However, the prevalent paradigm of rural economic development, often coupled with agricultural industrialization, leads to massive repercussions on the sustainability of agricultural systems and on smallholder farmers' livelihoods. Hence questions have to be addressed on the current and future role of sustainable agriculture in the context of rural transformation and its potential for pro-poor growth and the conservation of ecosystems.

Upon this backdrop, the workshop will thematically focus on local level empirical research and practical development work in rural areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America. PhD students will have the opportunity to present and discuss their research work in a cohesive transdisciplinary way by building on each participant's expertise and experiences.

The workshop targets the following objectives:

- to strengthen knowledge and understanding of concepts and methodological approaches related to sustainable agriculture and rural transformation,

- to critically assess different pathways of sustainable agriculture and its actual and potential contributions with particular focus on smallholder farmers' livelihoods and conservation of ecosystems in rural developing contexts,
- to present own case studies, and to showcase projects considered successful,
- to promote transmission of expertise and experience as well as networking between PhD students, "Alternative Nobel Prize" Laureates and other experts working on sustainable agriculture and rural transformation around the world.

How to apply?

Your application should consist of:

1. Completed online application form: <https://rlcbonn.limequery.com/722373?lang=en>
2. English abstract of your PhD project (not more than 300 words)
3. CV
4. Certificate of full Covid-19 vaccination (authorized by EMA) or recovery

The **deadline is October 9, 2021**. Selected participants will be informed by October 15, 2021.

For questions regarding the workshop, please contact Arthur Guischet: aguische@uni-bonn.de