

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT) & Kasetsart University (KU) are organising the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Smart Solutions for Sustainable Farming and Rural Development

08 - 14 March 2027 in Bangkok, Thailand

followed by the participation in the

AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027

15 - 20 March 2027 in Ho-Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Background

The proposed seminar and the visit to the conference AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027 (AGRI) are offered by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in the framework of the programme **SDG Alumni Projects: Knowledge and Practice for Development for Germany Alumni from the Global South** (www.daad.de/sdg-alumni-projects). The international DAAD Alumni Seminar “Smart Solutions for Sustainable Farming and Rural Development” is organised and hosted by the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences (HSWT), Germany and Kasetsart University (KU), Bangkok, Thailand.

The training seminar targets **Germany alumni** from developing countries (DAC country nationals) who studied, carried out research or worked in Germany for at least 3 months and are presently living and working in their home countries.

The prospective participants should be professionally involved in various areas of agricultural sciences, food technology, agricultural and environmental engineering and/or working for academic, educational or development organisations, NGO's, donor agencies, private enterprises. They should also be potential multipliers in a position to spread the acquired knowledge and experience and/or take decisions on implementation of new technologies and innovations.

The costs will be mainly covered by funds from the DAAD provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Objectives and Tentative Training Seminar Programme

The SDG Alumni Seminar 2026 brings together participants from different countries in Asia to address pressing global challenges: climate adaptation, sustainable land management and the transition to renewable energy in developing countries.

Organized by the University of Applied Sciences WeiHenstephan-Triesdorf (HSWT) and Kasetsart University (KU), the seminar combines academic expertise, practical training, and international exchange.

The seminar aims to:

- Strengthen participants' capacity to assess and apply mechanisation and smart-farming solutions, including the economic evaluation of farm machinery and logistics systems.
- Equip participants with practical tools for sensor-based irrigation, environmental monitoring, pest and disease management, climate control in protected cultivation, and digital post-harvest solutions.
- Showcase affordable digital technologies, including sensor networks, IoT platforms, smart-home-based systems, and open-source software adaptable to agricultural and rural contexts.
- Demonstrate how smart technologies can improve rural services such as water and energy management, communication, security, and local value addition.
- Promote exchange on policy frameworks, innovation ecosystems, and implementation challenges in DAC countries.
- Promote active learning through interactive lectures, group work, workshops, case studies, and participant presentations.
- Empower alumni to act as multipliers by transferring knowledge, fostering innovation, and supporting sustainable development in their institutions and regions.

The programme combines expert inputs, hands-on workshops, panel discussions with stakeholders, alumni project pitches (Innovation Café), field visits to farms and research institutions applying digital solutions for Climate-Smart Agriculture, and participation in the AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027 trade fair. Through interdisciplinary learning, practical exposure, and peer-to-peer networking, the seminar enables participants to develop innovative, context-specific solutions that advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Social events: In addition to the content-related sessions of the training seminar and the visits to the trade fair, the project programme also includes social and informal events, such as a group dinner and a welcome reception. This aims to further promote intercultural exchange and social networking among the seminar participants.

It is necessary to participate in the whole programme: training seminar, trade fair and social programme.

Travel dates

08 March 2027	Arrival in Bangkok
09 - 14 March 2027	Seminar in Bangkok
15 March 2026	Travel to Ho-Chi Minh City
16 – 19 March 2027	AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027
20 March 2027	Departure from Ho-Chi Minh City

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the training seminar in Bangkok to the last day after the trade fair. Any exceptions must be communicated to the DAAD before your travel to the project.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

This project (training seminar and trade fair participation) targets alumni of German universities / research institutions

- who are German university alumni of countries listed on the [OECD DAC list](#),
 - who are currently living and working in their home country / in a DAC-listed country, and
 - who carried out research or studied in Germany for **at least 3 months**
- OR**
- who were funded within the framework of
 - the DAAD In-Country/In-Region Scholarship Programme
 - the SDG Graduate Schools
 - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed
 - the Global Centres for Climate and Environment as well as for Health and Pandemic Prevention
 - Applicants are **eligible to apply** for this programme if they are currently residing in one of the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Thailand, or Vietnam.

Participant's Profile

You should have

- 1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of agricultural sciences, food technology, agricultural and environmental engineering with interest in mechanization and digital technologies.
- 2) **professional experience and personal interest** in one of the following areas: research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,
- 3) the requirements to **act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in your home country and thus disseminate the acquired knowledge as well as develop ideas and projects for regional implementation,
- 4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held in **English**.

Eligibility for repeated attendances at SDG Alumni Projects:

Participations in SDG Alumni Projects are limited to a maximum of 2 participations within 4 years. The year of participation, not the year of application, is decisive for the calculation. This rule does not apply for attendance on a completely digital SDG Alumni Project (formerly: Alumni Special Project).

Cost coverage

The **university** covers the following costs for the training seminar in Bangkok:

- International round-trip airfare to Bangkok, Thailand, including onward travel to Ho Chi Minh City and return travel from Ho Chi Minh City (lowest available economy-class fare).
- **Flights will be arranged for you by the travel agency in Germany.**
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay of the seminar
- Transport on excursions

The **DAAD** covers the following costs during your stay in Ho-Chi Minh City:

- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the trade fair stay in Ho-Chi Minh City
- Daily transport from the hotel to the trade fair and back (private bus or public transport)
- Entrance fees for the trade fair AGRITECHNICA ASIA 2027
- Transport and entrance fees on excursions

Please note: If you are receiving financial support from the DAAD or any other funding organisation at the time of this SDG Alumni Project stay (training seminar week and conference/trade fair visit), you are obliged to state this in full (in the application form). A funding within the framework of this project may be reduced in order to avoid double funding.

Please note: All other costs, such as insurances transportation costs from your hometown to your airport of departure/arrival, travel costs for visa application and all visa costs including visa fees in your home country, **must be covered by yourself**.

Please keep in mind that **living expenses are only covered partly** during your stays in Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City.

Extensions of stays

Extensions of stays before the training seminar or after the SDG Alumni Project are possible for a maximum of 5 working days. In case you want to extend your stay, you are required to submit a comparison of flight ticket prices before the start of your travel. The cost will be covered by the university as communicated above. Should your actual travel dates differ due to the extension, you will be responsible for paying any price difference compared to the ticket costs on the official arrival and return dates. All additional travel expenses, accommodation, subsistence costs, and other expenses incurred during your extension are to be borne by yourself.

Please note that if your extension exceeds 5 working days, both your outbound and return flight must be fully financed by yourself. The university and the DAAD will cover accommodation and partial living expenses during the seminar week, as well as your participation in the trade fair.

For any period of extension, you must arrange your own accommodation and ensure valid health insurance coverage for the additional days. Please also bear in mind that university and the DAAD will book accommodation for you during the official seminar and trade fair period. If, for any reason, you are unable to participate in the program from the first seminar day to the last day of the trade fair, you must inform both your host university and the DAAD as soon as possible to avoid potential cancellation costs.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and professional benefit for your participation. You should illustrate how you are planning to imply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

All applications should be sent to anis.dzankovic@hswt.de, as described below.

The **ONLINE APPLICATION** consists of the following sections:

- completed **application form***;
- fill in the **online questionnaire**: <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/TQY42fll>
- a short CV*,
- a relevant documentation of alumni status* (e.g. your master's degree certificate),

***Please note: Please send us your application form per E-Mail as a PDF file and name it: "First name Last name_Country_Application".**

Please Note: Only applications containing both Application Form as well as Online Questionnaire will be considered for the selection process.

Please note: Completeness of personal data mentioned in the application form will affect your eligibility as a participant.

All applications must be to be sent to anis.dzankovic@hswt.de, no later than **18 October 2026 (23.59 CET)**,

With your application, you agree that your data will be stored by the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, shared with the DAAD and that you may appear in pictures that may be published in association with the seminar or your participation in the trade fair Intersolar Mexico 2026.

With your application, you commit to participating in the whole programme (seminar, the trade fairs in Bangkok and any mandatory social events).

After review by the local organising committee at HSWT and the DAAD, all applicants will be informed about the results of the selection process in **November 2026**.

Contact Details

For further questions, please contact

Anis Dzankovic (anis.dzankovic@hswt.de)

We are looking forward to your application!

The Coordinators of the Alumni Training Seminar

Dr. Sasithorn Limsuwan(KU);
Prof. Dr. Michael Tröster(HSWT);
Anis Dzankovic(HSWT)

Prof. Dr. Wolfram Spreer(HSWT)
Dr. Bernd Müller(HSWT)

Bangkok and Triesdorf, 18 September 2026



Supported by:

