



ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the SEPT Competence Center at Leipzig University is organising the

International Germany Alumni Training Seminar

Alumni 4 Regional Development through Agroecology (Alumni4RD)

01 - 07 September 2025 in Leipzig, Germany

followed by the participation in the

Tropentag 2025

International conference for managing natural resources and a better life for all

08 - 13 September 2025 in Bonn, Germany

Background

The proposed seminar and the visit to the conference Tropentag 2025 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 “Alumni 4 Regional Development through Agroecology (Alumni4RD)” is organised and hosted by the SEPT Competence Center at Leipzig University in close cooperation with a group of Alumni.

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 agriculture, agroprocessing, sustainability, biodiversity, renewable energy, nutrition, regional economic development and/or working for academic, educational or development organisations, NGO's, donor agencies, private enterprises or as entrepreneurs. 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 **overall objective** of the training seminar can be summarized in three points:

1. The Skills of the participants for solving development related issues will be expanded since regional economic development touches a vast range of SDGs, therefore jointly

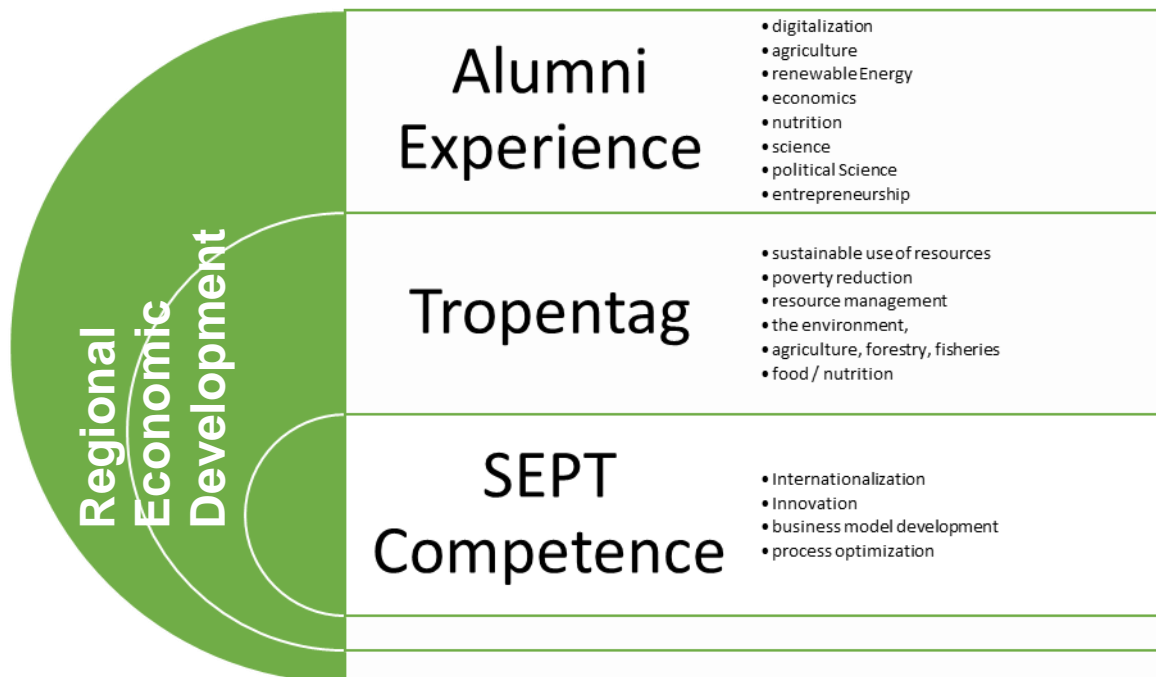


interdisciplinary) working on regional economic development is directly improving development related skills.

2. The integration of the participants in professional networks is improved through the networking opportunity as well as through digital activities. Those digital activities include a monthly research colloquium as well as communities of practice on renewable energy as well as agriculture-based entrepreneurship.
3. The participants are encouraged to act as multipliers. All participants are encouraged to develop future Alumni projects and to engage in existing or new communities of practice – digitally as well as in person.

With the focus on regional economic development the seminar addresses key issues in food sovereignty, rural development and entrepreneurship, technological innovations, policy such as feminist policy and sustainability. Discussions will focus on enhancing community-led food systems to strengthen local agroecological value chains and promote rural entrepreneurship, particularly empowering women and youth.

The concept of the seminar builds on bringing together the vast experience of the Alumni community, the specialized knowledge from the Tropentag and the SME related competences of the SEPT Competence Center. All those components contribute to the topic of regional economic development. The relations are visualized in the following figure.



The seminar will combine input from expert presentations with group work and various discussion formats. The expertise of the Alumni is an important resource for the successful implementation of the seminar. The interdisciplinary exchange will be further facilitated by social interaction formats.

In order to make the seminar a pleasant and fruitful experience for all, participants as well as organisers are required to commit to a code of conduct defining a respectful interaction and respect for good scientific practice.



Travel dates

01 September 2025	Arrival in Leipzig
02 - 07 September 2025	Seminar in Leipzig
08 September 2025	Travel to Bonn
09 - 12 September 2025	Tropentag 2025 in Bonn
13 September 2025	Departure from Bonn

It is essential that you participate from the first day of the training seminar in Leipzig to the last day after the conference Tropentag. Any exceptions must be communicated to the DAAD before your travel to Germany.

Eligibility Criteria for Participation

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

- who are German university Alumna/us of countries listed on the [OECD DAC list](#),
 - who are currently living and working in their home countries / 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 Centres of African Excellence or
 - the SDG Graduate Schools
 - the Excellence Centres for Exchange and Development – exceed

Primarily, alumni who are currently living and working in their home countries / in the Global South can apply. However, Alumni who are currently based abroad for educational reasons are also eligible to apply.

Participant's Profile

Participants should have

- (1) proven **academic background or a practical relation** with at least one of the relevant topics: entrepreneurship, agriculture, energy, smart solutions related to agriculture or energy, regional economic development
- (2) **professional experience and professional/personal interest in one of the following areas:** research, education, NGOs, government agencies, policy-making, project development, local communities, and related stakeholders,
- (3) the **ability to act as a potential change agent (multiplier)** who will present the training seminar results in their home country or in virtual communities of practice (e.g. through the Alumniportal Deutschland or groups on the community app that connects the SEPT summer school



community) 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:

Participation 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 attendances in completely digital SDG Alumni Projects (formerly: Alumni Special Projects).

Cost coverage

Leipzig University will cover the following cost items out of the project funding:

- International return ticket or partial reimbursement of flight costs from and to the airport in Germany (lowest possible economy class airfare)
 - Maximum of 1,000, - Euro for participants from Latin America
 - Maximum of 875, - Euro for participants from Africa
 - Maximum of 800, - Euro for participants from Asia
 - Maximum of 600, - Euro for participants from the Arabic-speaking region
 - Maximum of 500, - Euro for participants from East Europe

You will get the final calculation after the selection of all participants.
- Public Transport: Airport to Leipzig
- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the stay in Leipzig
- Travel health insurance (max. 25 Euro)
- Transport for excursions
- Transport from Leipzig to Bonn
- Transport from Bonn to Cologne/Bonn or Frankfurt Airport

The **DAAD** covers the following costs during your stay in Bonn:

- Accommodation and partial living expenses during the conference stay in Bonn
- Daily transport from the hotel to the conference and back (private bus or public transport)
- Entrance fees for the conference Tropentag 2025
- Transport and entrance fees on excursions

Please note: All other costs, such as 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 Leipzig and Bonn.

To prevent discrimination against alumni in difficult economic conditions due to prefinancing flight costs, Leipzig University will facilitate flight booking through a travel agent.

Regarding the flight costs, the organisers are very committed to enable alumni to participate regardless of their current economic status. Due to the limited amount of funds that are available, flight costs can



only be guaranteed to be taken care of to a maximum of the above-mentioned amounts. If the flights are more expensive, the alumni should prepare to take care of the amount beyond this budget. If some flights can be purchased at cheaper rates, the free funds can be used to reduce the burden on alumni with economically difficult conditions and higher flight costs.

Extensions of stays

Extensions of stays before the training seminar/after the SDG Alumni Project for private reasons/ without stated reasons are only possible up to 5 working days and upon submission of a comparison of flight ticket prices before you start your travel.

You will have to pay any difference between the flight ticket prices for the official arrival/return date (see above) and your actual date of travel before/after your extension yourself. You must also cover any additional travel costs, subsistence costs and other additional costs for your extension.

Extensions beyond 5 days must be of an official nature which you need to justify, e.g. through visits to universities, organisations, institutions, companies etc. and with details about contact persons and a day-to-day programme of activities. These extensions must be approved by the DAAD before you start your travel. Decisions are made individually by the DAAD based upon your justification, your programme etc. For such extensions the same applies to logistics as for the above.

For any extension, you need to organise your accommodation by yourself, and you must make sure to have valid health insurance for the extension days.

Please keep in mind that your host university and the DAAD will book hotel rooms for the entire stay for you. Should you, for any reason, not be able to participate from the first day of the seminar to the last day of the conference, please inform the university and the DAAD as soon as possible, to avoid any cancellation cost.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and relevant experience as well as professional benefit for your participation. Furthermore, you should give the organizers an idea of how you can add value to the training seminar. You should also illustrate how you are planning to apply the gained knowledge and what possible stakeholders for collaboration you may identify for your professional career.

Your application (in English language) consists of the filled application form: The form is available here: <https://umfrage.uni-leipzig.de/index.php/752731?lang=en>

Please schedule enough time to fill in the application form. This requires some preparation on your side as the form contains sections for

- Your motivation statement including your interests in the topic as well as desired benefit from participation
- The description of your relevant experience to the theme of the seminar (basically this requires you to relate your CV to the seminar)
- An idea sketch of your possible contribution to the seminar
- Documentation of your Alumni status will be requested upon the selection for documentation purposes.



The application deadline is 21st February 2025, 23:59 CET.

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

With your application, you agree that your data will be stored by Leipzig University, shared with the DAAD and that you may appear in pictures that may be published in association with the seminar in Leipzig or your participation in the Tropentag 2025.

With your application, you commit to participating in the whole programme (seminar in Leipzig, Tropentag 2025 conference in Bonn and any mandatory social events).

After the review by the local organising committee and the DAAD, the invited participants will be notified in April 2025.

Contact Details

For further questions, please contact

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or the alumni organiser team, daadsdgevent.leipzig2024@gmail.com.

Leipzig, January 2025

This call for application was prepared under the assumption that funding will be available. The implementation of the project is subject to the provision of funds.



Supported by:

