



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN
IN PUBLICA COMMODO
SEIT 1737



Universidad Autónoma
del Estado de México



Universidad Veracruzana



COMECyT
CONSEJO MEXIQUENSE
DE CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGÍA

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR APPLICATION

On behalf of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

**Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in co-operation with
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (UAEMex),
Universidad Veracruzana (UV)**

&

Consejo Mexiquense de Ciencia y Tecnología (COMECyT), Mexico

organize a

DAAD Alumni Project on

***Agroforestry as public policy for biodiversity conservation and
food sovereignty***

Date of the **seminar 1**: August 23rd – 30th, 2024 in Mexico

Arrival date: 22nd August, 2024, Departure date: 31st August, 2024

Date of the **seminar 2**: March 2025 in Mexico



Seminar aims

To address the challenges of recurring global food and health crises and create a better world, strategic alliances between agroecology, food sovereignty, and biodiversity conservation are crucial.

The alumni project aims to foster interdisciplinary knowledge exchange among local and regional Germany-Alumni, scientists, and stakeholders on local and national programs and solutions that promote sustainable land use and development. The project specifically focuses on exploring the role of agroforestry in enhancing food sovereignty and biodiversity conservation in Mexico and Central America. By documenting a participatory view of the "Sembrando Vida" program and biodiversity conservation in Mesoamerica, the project aims at sharing valuable insights with all stakeholders involved.

The project also seeks to strengthen scientific networks among participating alumni and the University of Göttingen through collaborative proposal writing and publishing. This joint effort will contribute to international networking and motivate action towards conservation and sustainable management.

Tentative Program

The initiative includes two alumni seminars to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration. The **first alumni seminar**, scheduled for August 2024 and hosted by Dr. Víctor Ávila Akerberg (UAEMex, COMECyT), will bring together alumni from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, along with federal government staff and NGOs. Through plenary talks, oral contributions, thematic excursions, and workshops, participants will discuss experiences and evidence regarding the application of agroforestry as a public policy for promoting biodiversity conservation and food sovereignty. The seminar will include a thematic excursion to observe projects under the "Sembrando Vida" agroforestry program in Puebla and Veracruz, allowing participants to assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and share knowledge with countries in Central America and the Caribbean, where the program is also being implemented. Expert panels and workshops led by DAAD-Alumni specializing in relevant disciplines will enrich the discussions and facilitate long-term networking.

The **second alumni seminar**, hosted by Dr. Thorsten Krömer, Dra. Rosaura Citlalli López Binnquist and Dr. Jorge Antonio Gómez Díaz from the Universidad Veracruzana (UV) in March 2025. It will have a specific focus on biodiversity conservation and social-environmental studies in Mesoamerica. The seminar will feature plenary talks, thematic excursions, and a joint writing workshop aimed at strengthening collaboration and networking among alumni and partner institutions. Early career researchers (alumni from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean) will be invited to participate in proposal and policy brief writing related to biodiversity conservation, agroecology, agroforestry, and food sovereignty. Expert panels comprising leaders and renowned speakers from relevant disciplines will provide a platform for in-depth discussions and further enhance the proposal and policy brief writing process.

Both alumni seminars will be complemented by a series of virtual exchanges, including online talks and short workshops organized by the partner institutions between June 2024 and October 2025. These virtual sessions will offer a regular meeting point to introduce the participants to the project, and involve them actively with their topics and interests in international collaboration. Participants will receive guidance on proposal and policy brief writing, funding opportunities, FAIR data management planning, and publishing. This virtual exchange will also facilitate the agenda planning and administrative preparation of the seminars in 2024 and 2025.

It is necessary to participate in the entire 10-day programme of at least one seminar and related virtual meetings if you are selected as participant. **You can indicate your preference for seminar 1 or 2 or both in the online form (see link below).**

Eligibility criteria for participation

This seminar targets alumni of German universities

- from countries listed on the [DAC list](#),
- who carried out research or studied in Germany for at least three months or
- who received a scholarship with In-Country/In-Region, Exceed and SDG Graduate School Programmes for at least three months and
- who are currently living and working in their home countries.

You should have

- (1) a **proven background in academic fields relevant to the topics** of agroecology, agroforestry, forestry, biodiversity, ecology, political ecology, ethnobiology, conservation and socioecological studies

- (2) **professional experience and personal interest in one of the following areas:** above all practical experience with respect to the topics mentioned in (1), in the context of project development, industry, government agencies, NGOs, local communities, applied research in academia and industry
- (3) the **requirements to act as a potential multiplier** to transmit the seminar results, disseminate the acquired knowledge and to develop innovative ideas and projects for implementation in the home countries
- (4) **adequate language proficiency** which is essential to actively participate in the workshops and discussions as the seminar will be held in **English and Spanish**
- (5) **for Seminar 2 priority given to early career researchers**

Cost coverage

- International return ticket from and to airport in Mexico (lowest possible economy class airfare)
- Local airport transit
- Visa costs
- Accommodation and meals during the stay in Mexico during the seminar
- Transport on excursions
- Entrance fees during excursions, where necessary

Please note: You have to cover by yourself any other costs, such as transport costs between your place of residence and “your” airport, and travel costs for visa application in your country of residence and an international health insurance.

Extensions of stays before or after the seminar 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 below) and your actual date of travel before / after your extension. You must also cover by yourself any additional travel costs, subsistence costs and other additional costs of your extension. For any extension, you need to organize your accommodation by yourself, and, very importantly, you have to make sure to have a valid health insurance for the extension days.

Travel dates Seminar 1: 22nd Aug 2024: Arrival in Mexico City, 31st Aug 2024: Departure from Mexico City
It is essential that you participate all days of the seminar 1 or 2.

Application procedure

Your application (in English language) should emphasize your motivation and personal/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.

Your application (in English language) must include the following documents in one single pdf file:

- A filled out application form*: The form is available on <https://uni-goettingen.de/en/684872.html>
- A short CV with photograph, relevant documentation of alumni status, publications/non-scientific outcomes, networks and international partners (max. 1,5 pages)
- A short abstract on your own current work (max. 250 words)
- A short description of your present duties/ position and your personal professional goals, indicating your envisaged field of activities and duty level.
- An overview on seminars, workshops or conferences visited in Germany after finishing your studies in Germany.

The PDF-document should be named ‘Last name_First name_country’ (e.g. Name_First name_Country).

Please send your application, as one single pdf file, latest by 5 April 2024 via email to: spfeiff@gwdg.de.

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

After the review by the local organizing committee, the invited participants will be notified mid to end April
For further questions, please contact Dr. Simone Pfeiffer (spfeiff@gwdg.de).

Göttingen, 28th March, 2024

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