

Master thesis at the Division of Organic Farming Working group Transdisciplinary Systems Research

Topic	Towards a transdisciplinary, participatory, action-oriented approach in sustainable agriculture higher education – a case study in the Beira region, Mozambique
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine in literature different approaches (“hands-on work approaches”) in higher education teaching programs and their applicability in the local context (Beira, Mozambique); • To select one of the existing courses of the agricultural master curriculum at Uni Zambeze and adapt and re-design it using “hands-on-work” approaches • Based on that, to assess the prospects and challenges of the use of these approaches in teaching agriculture for higher education
Description	This Master Thesis topic is offered within the ISAM “ <i>Innovating Sustainable Agriculture in Mozambique – Learning and Teaching Tools</i> ” project framework
Methods	Qualitative methods (interviews, focus groups, participatory workshops)
Region / context	ISAM is implemented with the Zambeze University (ZU). ZU is a young university, established in the central region of Mozambique, a highly dense populated region, with high rates of poverty and food and nutrition insecurity but very rich in natural resources. Small-size subsistence production units characterize the agriculture in the region. The region is at the center of government’s efforts to halt environmental degradation and contribute to the sustainable development of rural areas. ZU face challenges to meet the needs and expectations of students and the local communities to further improve the situation in the region. ISAM aims to contribute to the government and ZU efforts through capacity building, following a trans-disciplinary, bottom-up approach.
Focus	Participatory curriculum development, action-oriented approaches, capacity building, higher education, sustainable agriculture, Mozambique
Time frame	Flexible. Within the project duration (January 2018 - December 2020)
Supervision	Bernhard Freyer (BOKU) / Joao Paulino (Uni Zambeze)
Eligibility	The typical candidate will study at a university in Austria and either have a background: 1) in agriculture, water, soil, or similar and have a strong interest in gender, education and curricula development; 2) a social-science background with a strong interest in sustainable farming. A good understanding of empirical social research methods will be helpful. Proficiency in English (communication and writing) is required. Good knowledge in Portuguese or Spanish will be highly valued.
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Funding of the field work	We sill support with your application for the KÜWI grant, which cover part of the travel and living costs.