



# Seeking opportunities











## Megatrends, radical and dynamic

Climate change, environmental degradation, and urbanisation are comprehensive and intertwined transformation processes that change lives and livelihoods everywhere. Coupled with new economic, social and

ecological dynamics, they drastically worsen the hardship of vulnerable and poor resource users. This can accelerate the global divide, leading to unknown tensions affecting us all. The challenge ahead is to sustainably manage our common resources, ensure food for all, secure incomes and guarantee adequate living conditions. A comprehensive sustainability shift is needed, based on integrative thinking and responsible acting.











Some of our pilot projects are small. But all are driven by real demand. Through interaction we help formulate development scenarios with leverage. Using trans-disciplinary methods, we identify natural resource management and livelihood strategies that work for people.

We integrate local and scientific insights into rural development processes, and we seek mechanisms to reach scales. With time small pilots grow big. This allows theories to bear fruits in practice. And we are one step closer to achieving development goals.



#### Seeking insights

Through research we seek a better understanding of development processes, with a focus on the sustainable management of natural resources. Projects target key issues related to soils, water, crops, forests, livestock, and fisheries, taking into account the social processes that underlie their use.

#### Mastering skills

Our university education is research-led. We constantly enrich theoretical training with practical insights from projects. This helps students to turn theories into action.

#### Mentoring change

We mentor development through the provision of technical services and process coaching. This is when practical theories become operational.

#### ■ Mobilising knowledge

Finally, we coordinate a public think tank. Our dialogue events catalyse experiences and challenge established ways of thinking. This is critical for shaping and fine-tuning our development research and training agenda.



# It's science.





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### A development hub

The centre works with a diverse group of university experts, comprising natural, technical and social scientists, as well as university managers. Together we support development programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. There we collaborate with research and development partners at local and regional level.