

The Germany-CGIAR⁺⁺ Science and Impact Hub



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Call for applications: PhD Program

The [Germany-CGIAR⁺⁺ Science and Impact Hub](#) is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It functions as a platform connecting German scientific excellence with the global research partnership for a food secure future (CGIAR), the World Vegetable Center and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) – collectively referred to as CGIAR⁺⁺. Hosted at the [Landscape Alliance](#)'s CIFOR office in Bonn and driven through a strong partnership with the [Council for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research \(ATS4F e.V.\)](#), the Hub leverages decades of collaboration and innovation to foster new pathways for impactful research, training, and policy solutions.

Germany and the CGIAR⁺⁺ share a long tradition of collaborating in development-oriented agricultural research. [The Hub](#) aims to further strengthen this partnership. It is embedded in the [CGIAR Capacity Sharing Accelerator](#), where it creates mechanisms for a stronger engagement of German science – especially early-career researchers – in CGIAR⁺⁺ activities, and amplifies existing collaborations. [The Hub's](#) mission is to strengthen ties between German universities, German research institutions and CGIAR⁺⁺ centers worldwide.

Through a joint [PhD Program](#), [the Hub](#) supports and empowers the next generation of impact-oriented researchers, offering hands-on experience, mentorship and interdisciplinary training directly aligned with global development goals such as the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, and other multilateral commitments.

- [The Hub](#) awards **10 PhD candidates** a scholarship of EUR 1,800 per month for a period of three years with the possibility of a 12-month extension if the progress of the PhD project indicates that the PhD can be completed within these 12 months.
- The PhD candidate will be enrolled in a German University and jointly supervised by a CGIAR⁺⁺ researcher. Field work will happen in the context of a CGIAR⁺⁺ research program or project.
- In addition to the monthly scholarship, a research grant of EUR 25,000 may be requested, which can be used for research related to the PhD project.
- [The Hub](#) offers a scientific support program for its scholarship holders in the form of courses and seminars, which are recognized in the respective universities for the structured PhD programs.

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Requirements for the applications:

Applications are possible with an MSc degree in Agricultural Sciences or a related field with an above-average final grade.

In addition to you will need the following documents:

- Letter of motivation (signed by the applicant and max. 1 page)
- Curriculum vitae (in tabular form, signed and dated, max. 1 page)
- Research proposal
- TOEFL or IELTS certificate or other English proficiency certificate

In addition, the following documents shall be sent directly by the supervisors:

- Letter of recommendation and supervision confirmation from a professor affiliated to a German university (University supervisor).
- Letter of recommendation and supervision commitment from a CGIAR⁺⁺ center scientist (CGIAR⁺⁺ supervisor), stating the attachment to a CGIAR⁺⁺ research program/project.
- Hosting Agreement from the respective CGIAR⁺⁺ center.

Further guidance and all templates are available the [“Application” page under PhD Scholarship](#) and additional information can be found on the [FAQ page](#).

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed by the selection committee **against three weighted groups of criteria**, totalling 5,900 points.

The candidate (2,200 points) captures the applicant's individual profile: This includes the final grade of the MSc degree, quality of the motivation letter, international orientation of their work, demonstrated experience, and career potential. It also weighs the recommendation letters — comprising separate assessments from the prospective university and CGIAR supervisors — and any prior experience in research for development or SDG-related work, evidenced through the focus of the MSc thesis, previous participation as a graduate of the ATSAR Academy / Germany-CGIAR⁺⁺ Hub, earlier exposure to CGIAR or related organizations and to development organizations, and other relevant experience.

The team (1,200 points) evaluates the strength of the joint supervisory arrangement: This group assesses whether the proposal was genuinely co-developed, the familiarity among team members, and the academic standing of both the CGIAR and the university

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supervisors. It further considers the hosting program or project, including the infrastructure available to host the scholar, the scale of the project, and any history of prior collaboration with Germany.

To ensure the candidates receive adequate care and supervision, each supervisor can support **a maximum of TWO candidates**.

The proposal (2,500 points) assesses the scientific and development merit of the planned research: It reviews scientific quality, clarity of its SDG focus and research gap, the strength of the link and value added to the hosting project, quality of the research questions and hypotheses, adequacy of materials, methods and references, appropriateness of the timeframe, impact potential, treatment of gender considerations, the degree to which the budget highlights synergies and is well justified, and potential for publications.

How to apply:

To apply please use **the Hub** application portal:
<https://hub.landscapealliance.org/applications>

Application deadline: **November 30th, 2026**

Applications will be evaluated after the submission deadline of November 30th and scholarships are to be awarded for the PhD project to start from 01.03.2027.

For further information about the application procedure please go to our webpage: <https://hub.landscapealliance.org/>

The Germany-CGIAR⁺⁺ Science and Impact Hub is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and implemented by Landscape Alliance's CIFOR office in Bonn.