Write a one page synopsis on Improving schoolchildren’s nutrition and education through inclusive innovations in Kenya and apply here, if you are interested to conduct research within ongoing SLE activities in 2016.

The ongoing research activities focus on analysing and upscaling existing knowledge, good practices and innovations in order to promote school food and nutrition programmes. Thus HORTINLEA seeks to promote approaches aiming to identify especially local or regional horticultural product availability (such as underutilised varieties, e.g. AIVs) and aims to take steps required to integrate produce from school gardens, into school meals. Moreover, it focuses on designing or improving school nutrition curriculum for better health and education of schoolchildren in Kenya and East Africa.

Rotary Club of Nairobi East and HORTINLEA interdisciplinary project focus currently on generating new inclusive solutions and upscaling existing grassroots innovations to tackle food
and nutrition security challenges in Kenyan schools. On the one hand this joint initiative seeks to implement unique, ground-breaking nutrition project which will establish a model for rural schools in western Kenyan Vihiga County. On the other hand it aims to develop educational experiences on school farms and gardens that can reflect classroom curriculum and meet national and county educational standards. The overall objective of this initiative is to increase the availability of locally sourced foods for schoolchildren and provide nutritionally based educational opportunities.

The Master thesis is expected to identify and analyse innovative approaches to integrate local and regional nutritious products and innovations into schoolchildren diet. As a pilot study, it will provide evidence and knowledge for planning interventions to introduce/promote the project at Kivagala Secondary School in Vihiga County and similar innovative practices to other rural schools in Kenya, aiming to improve the health and education of schoolchildren. Therefore the Master thesis will ideally focus on sustainability and transfer ability aspects. It should include culturally relevant transfer mechanisms and a clear plan for its implementation.

The Master thesis is expected to contribute to the ongoing debate on sustainable inclusion of traditional as well new generated knowledge into the formal education system to address some of the knowledge deficiencies especially about underutilised horticultural crops such as AIVs. Therefore the thesis should provide recommendations on how to design and improve education curriculum of school as well as subject examples of curriculum integration that can be used as a guide for professionals in the classroom.

**SCHOOL NUTRITION CURRICULUM FOR BETTER HEALTH AND EDUCATION**

Schools can provide an important opportunity for addressing food and nutrition challenges sustainably, by providing an effective way to reach large numbers of people, including schoolchildren, youth, school staff, families and community members (WHO, 2006).

**CANDIDATES QUALIFICATIONS**

Applicants should have a background in at least one of the following fields: economics/finance, agriculture/horticulture or related fields. Applicants must hold a Bachelor’s degree with excellent results. Very good written and oral English and excellent MS Office skills are essential for this position. Of advantage are as well relevant publications and very good writing skills, methods/experience for/in empirical social research, excellent organisation and communication skills. Applicants should be registered as Master students and be about to start their Master’s thesis.

The deadline for applying for this thesis topic is May 31st 2016. Please send your application to: Marlen Bachmann (marlen.bachmann@agrar.hu-berlin.de)