Inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge integration into disciplinary curricula of universities and educational organisations in East Africa

The Centre for Rural Development /SLE in frame of HORTINLEA research project, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the GlobE overall initiative, seeks to improve the livelihood and nutritional situation of the rural and urban poor in East Africa by generating and exchanging knowledge to improve and increase horticultural production especially of African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs). The Master thesis will contribute to the research unit promoting knowledge exchange and transfer of research results into policies and practice. Under the supervision of academics from East African universities and from the Centre for Rural Development /SLE - at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin applicants are expected to develop, define and implement their own Master thesis project.

The ongoing research activities focus on assessing determinants for successful knowledge exchange, particularly on how to integrate inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge and research results into the disciplinary curricula of universities and research organisations.

Interdisciplinary research projects such as HORTINLEA in Kenya or Trans-Sec in Tanzania focus on generating new inclusive solutions and upscaling existing grassroots innovations to address food and nutrition security problems in East African. At the same time it is argued that solutions to food and nutrition security problems must proceed from understanding of local capacities such as the role of traditional knowledge in promoting sustainable horticultural development.

Write a one page synopsis on Inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge integration into the disciplinary curricula of universities and research organisations in East Africa and apply here, if you are interested to conduct research within ongoing SLE activities in 2016.
Applicants should have a background in at least one of the following fields: educational sciences, 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)

**Candidates Qualifications**

A newly published SLE-Study identifies embedding AIVs into the curricula of universities, agricultural training colleges and schools as the most sustainable way to promote them. This has been initiated in some Kenyan universities but has not been up-scaled by the national government and other relevant actors.

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 African Indigenous Vegetables (AIVs). Therefore several approaches for knowledge integration into the disciplinary curricula’s of Kenyan and Tanzanian universities and educational organisations should be developed and tested.

**Embedding AIVs into the curricula in Kenya**

The Master thesis is expected to provide subject examples of curriculum integration that can be used as a guide for professionals in the universities and educational organisations. Finally, the thesis results will be used for the creation of a frame for knowledge transfer from above mentioned ongoing projects to curricula of East African education system actors.