



Several researcher positions in transdisciplinary project on agroecological transitions for climate resilience

Are you interested in co-producing new societally relevant knowledge to support climate adaptation and mitigation through agroecological transitions? Are you excited to collaborate with global farming communities, social movements and policy makers to promote diversified perennial systems like agroforestry? Would you like to be part of a research project that uses innovative methodologies to improve resilience in farmer livelihoods and food security while enhancing carbon sequestration in agroforestry systems in 4 corners of the world?

Then come join the team of our newly funded project **Agroecological Transitions for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation (Agroecology4Climate)**.

The Agroecology4Climate project is co-funded by the Canadian New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF), the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Brazilian FAPESP and will use a novel methodology to test the relationships between **personal, political, and practical leverage points** driving the (agroecological) transition towards **diversified perennial systems (e.g. agroforestry)** to support climate adaptation (improving resilience in livelihoods and food security) and mitigation (increasing carbon sequestration). We understand agroecological transitions as the intentional diversification of farming in collaboration with social networks to create landscapes that foster honored work, conservation of biodiversity, and climate resilience.

The Agroecology4Climate project builds on transdisciplinary research on agroecological transitions with climate-vulnerable farming communities in **Canada** (British Columbia Lower Mainland), **Germany** (Brandenburg), **India** (Kerala), and **Brazil** (São Paulo). The project works directly with farming communities, social movements, and policy makers to improve evidence-based decision-making to assess the potential of agroecological transitions for climate adaptation and mitigation. The project consortium includes as academic partners the University of British Columbia (UBC), University of Hohenheim (UHOH), State University of São Paulo (UNESP), Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), as well as farming associations and/or cooperatives in all four case study regions.

The project has 3 main objectives: 1) **evidence synthesis** to test the relationships between personal, political, and practical leverage points driving the adoption of agroforestry and other diversified perennial systems, 2) **field studies** to test climate mitigation and adaptation outcomes across a diversification gradient, from low-diversity farming systems to perennial and agroforestry-based



management systems, 3) **scaling transformations** through co-production of knowledge both locally within case studies and globally across case studies.

We are currently seeking to fill positions for **2 PhD students** (1 based at ZALF, 1 based at UHOH). For more details about these positions, see below.

- [PhD Researcher \(TV-L 13, 65%, 3 years\) based at ZALF on Agroecological Transitions for Climate Resilience in Brandenburg, Germany.....3](#)
- [PhD Researcher \(TV-L 13, 65%, 3 years\) based at UHOH on Agroecological Transitions for Climate Resilience in Kerala, India.....6](#)



PhD Researcher (TV-L 13, 65%, 3 years) based at ZALF on Agroecological Transitions for Climate Resilience in Brandenburg, Germany

The mission of the *Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)* as a nationally and internationally active research institute is to deliver solutions for an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable agriculture – together with society. ZALF is a member of the Leibniz Association and is located in Müncheberg (approx. 35 minutes by regional train from Berlin-Lichtenberg). The institute also maintains locations in Dedelow and Paulinenaue.

The Research Group for *Land Use Decisions in the Spatial and System Context* at ZALF is looking to fill a position for a PhD researcher (m/f/x) to contribute to the project Agroecological Transitions for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation (Agroecology4Climate). The **PhD position will be for 3 years, starting August 1, 2024 (or earlier, if possible) based in Müncheberg, Germany**. The PhD will be co-supervised by project partners at UHOH and will be expected to spend some time at UHOH in Stuttgart, Germany.

The role of the PhD position will be to carry out **participatory research with farmer organizations in Brandenburg** and sample farms and organizations across a diversification gradient from low-diversity farming systems to highly networked, perennial management systems. The PhD will then use qualitative and quantitative methods to assess climate resilience outcomes and estimate the potential of scaling adoption of perennial practices.

Your tasks:

- Independently carry out inter- and transdisciplinary research on agroecological transitions in Brandenburg that will result in a cumulative PhD thesis.
- Leading the field study in Brandenburg by conducting transdisciplinary research with project partners from the AbL and Demeter to carry out on-farm research together with farmers.
- Develop and deepen stakeholder networks with important actors for agroecological transitions in Brandenburg.
- Conduct qualitative interviews, mixed method surveys, and field sampling (e.g. soil carbon, above-ground carbon, creating land cover maps of farms).
- Assess farmers' management practices, farm productivity, and participation in agroecological movements.
- Discussing, integrating, and sharing results with project partners.
- Attending regular project meetings and workshops.
- Lead the writing of scientific publications, as well as contribute to other research outputs, e.g., reports, and communication/engagement materials for local stakeholders.



We expect:

- A MSc in agroecology, geography, interdisciplinary environmental sciences, agricultural sciences or related field.
- Strong interest in sustainability issues as they pertain to the agri-food system.
- Good understanding of agri-food and/or socio-environmental systems. Knowledge about the Brandenburg context would be an asset.
- Experience with inter- or transdisciplinary sustainability research. Experience in conducting participatory, on-farm research and working with stakeholders would be a strong asset.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Existing knowledge of comparative and/or interdisciplinary quantitative and qualitative scientific methods, e.g. experimental design, field (soil, plant, biodiversity) sampling, above-ground carbon measurements, farmer surveys, focus groups, text coding and content analysis, statistics, GIS or land cover mapping.
- Experience working with agroecological data collection methods (e.g. TAPE) would be an asset.
- Knowledge of MAXQDA, Nvivo or similar software as well as experience with the software R is desirable, but not a prerequisite.
- Strong interest in working with a transdisciplinary and international project team.
- Excellent command of the English language (written and oral) and able to fluently communicate in German.
- Commitment to contribute to a positive work environment and group learning processes.
- Organizational skills and ability to work independently.

We offer:

- Opportunity to work in an international inter- and transdisciplinary research project including collaboration with research and community partners from four case study regions from across four continents.
- Opportunity to work in an exciting solutions-oriented research project that aims to contribute new societally relevant knowledge to support sustainability transformations.
- Opportunity to gain insights into current research topics and innovative research methods in the field of sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- An opportunity to engage with diverse producers in the countryside surrounding Berlin.
- Flexible working time in consultation with the team.
- A pleasant, highly collaborative and inclusive working atmosphere.
- Remuneration according to the collective agreement of the federal states (TV-L) 13 (including special annual payment); it is a 65% position due to it being for qualification.

Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications from severely disabled persons with equal qualifications are favored. The filling of the position in part-time is possible in principle.

We look forward to receiving your application!



Application: Please enclose the following documents with your application: short letter of motivation, curriculum vitae (CV), current transcripts and contact information of 2 professional references. Please send your application preferably online (see button online application below). For e-mail applications, create a PDF document (one PDF file, max. 5 MB; packed PDF documents, archive files like zip, rar etc. Word documents cannot be processed and therefore cannot be considered!).

Application deadline: application reviews will start June 7, 2024 and applications close June 21.

Start date: August 1, 2024 (with some flexibility)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: Dr. Maria Lee Kernecker, Tel. +49 (0) 33432/82-448; e-mail: maria.kernecker@zalf.de

More about the institute: www.zalf.de/en/Pages/ZALF.aspx, Working Group for Land Use Decisions in a Spatial and System Context

For cost reasons, application documents or extensive publications can only be returned if an adequately stamped envelope is attached.

If you apply, we collect and process your personal data in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the EU GDPR only for the processing of your application and for purposes that result from possible future employment with the ZALF. Your data will be deleted after six months.



PhD Researcher (TV-L 13, 65%, 3 years) based at UHOH on Agroecological Transitions for Climate Resilience in Kerala, India

The *Department of Sustainable Use of Natural Resources (430c)* at the *University of Hohenheim* is looking to fill a position for a PhD researcher (m/f/x) to contribute to the project *Agroecological Transitions for Climate Adaptation and Mitigation (Agroecology4Climate)*. The **PhD position will be for 3 years, starting August 1, 2024 (or earlier, if possible) based in Stuttgart Germany**. The PhD will be co-supervised by project partners at KAU and will be expected to spend extended periods of time at KAU in Kerala, India.

The role of the PhD position will be to carry out **participatory research with farmer organizations in Kerala, India** and sample farms and organizations across a diversification gradient from low-diversity farming systems to highly networked, perennial management systems. The PhD will then use qualitative and quantitative methods to assess climate resilience outcomes and estimate the potential of scaling adoption of perennial practices.

Your tasks:

- Independently carry out inter- and transdisciplinary research on agroecological transitions in Kerala that will result in a cumulative PhD thesis.
- Leading the field study in Kerala by conducting transdisciplinary research with project partners from Thanal and Kerala Jaiva Karshaka Samithi to carry out on-farm research together with farmers.
- Develop and deepen stakeholder networks with important actors for agroecological transitions in Kerala.
- Conduct qualitative interviews, mixed method surveys, and field sampling (e.g. soil carbon, above-ground carbon, creating land cover maps of farms).
- Assess farmers' management practices, farm productivity, and participation in agroecological movements.
- Discussing, integrating, and sharing results with project partners.
- Attending regular project meetings and workshops.
- Lead the writing of scientific publications, as well as contribute to other research outputs, e.g., reports, and communication/engagement materials for local stakeholders.

We expect:

- A M.Sc. in agroecology, geography, interdisciplinary environmental sciences, agricultural sciences, agricultural extension or related field.
- Strong interest in sustainability issues as they pertain to the agri-food system.
- Good understanding of agri-food and/or socio-environmental systems. Knowledge about the Kerala context would be a strong asset.



- Experience with inter- or transdisciplinary sustainability research. Experience in conducting participatory, on-farm research and working with stakeholders would be a strong asset.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Existing knowledge of comparative and/or interdisciplinary quantitative and qualitative scientific methods, e.g. experimental design, field (soil, plant, biodiversity) sampling, above-ground carbon measurements, farmer surveys, focus groups, text coding and content analysis, statistics, GIS or land cover mapping.
- Experience working with agroecological data collection methods (e.g. TAPE) would be an asset.
- Knowledge of MAXQDA, Nvivo or similar software as well as experience with the software R is desirable, but not a prerequisite.
- Strong interest in working with a transdisciplinary and international project team.
- Excellent command of the English language (written and oral). Ability to communicate in Malayalam would be a strong asset.
- Commitment to contribute to a positive work environment and group learning processes.
- Organizational skills and ability to work independently.

We offer:

- Opportunity to work in an international inter- and transdisciplinary research project including collaboration with research and community partners from four case study regions from across four continents.
- Opportunity to work in an exciting solutions-oriented research project that aims to contribute new societally relevant knowledge to support sustainability transformations.
- Opportunity to gain insights into current research topics and innovative research methods in the field of sustainable agriculture and food systems.
- Flexible working time in consultation with the team.
- A pleasant, highly collaborative and inclusive working atmosphere.
- Remuneration according to the collective agreement of the federal states (TV-L) 13 (including special annual payment); it is a 65% position due to it being for qualification.

More about the project: <https://sustainability.uni-hohenheim.de/en/agroecologicaltransitions>

More about the department: <https://sustainability.uni-hohenheim.de/en>

For international candidates, the University of Hohenheim offers support with the logistics of relocating to Germany (<https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/en/welcome-center>). Disabled persons will be given preference if equally qualified. The University of Hohenheim aims to increase the number of female scientists, thus applications from women are particularly welcome.

We look forward to receiving your application!



Application: Please enclose the following documents with your application: short letter of motivation, curriculum vitae (CV), current transcripts and contact information of 2 professional references. Applications need to be submitted through the University of Hohenheim application portal (see <https://shorturl.at/w260P>).

Application deadline: application reviews will start June 7, 2024 and applications close June 21.

Start date: August 1, 2024 (with some flexibility)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Seufert, verena.seufert@uni-hohenheim.de