

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). It also maintains a research station with further locations in Dedelow and Paulinenaue.

Intensifying production of smallholder farming systems as a means of improving livelihoods and reducing poverty is pursued throughout large parts of West Africa. However, investments in improved agricultural technologies are very risky due to the high degree of climate variability and poverty in the region. Identifying options and opportunities to minimize risk to support long-term development outcomes could be supported by modelling tools that captured interactions between weather variability, crop management and farm income and assets.

We are offering a 65% position in the project “Integrated modeling of climate risk to smallholder farms in SSA” temporarily limited for two years at our location in Müncheberg. The position may possibly be extended for a third year based on successful acquisition of funding and the candidate would have the option to pursue a PhD.

Research Assistant (f/m/d) Modelling of smallholder farming systems

Your tasks:

- support the on-going development an integrated bio-economic farm model considering particularly interactions between farmer decision making, with climate, soil and crop management and farm incomes and assets;
- analyze existing household surveys and assist with additional multi-stakeholder (primarily farmer) workshops and interviews in rural area of West Africa;
- perform scenario analysis to improve understanding of implications of different risk management options;
- write high-quality peer-reviewed journal publications and contribute to relevant policy and practice processes.

Your qualifications:

- Master’s Degree in agricultural economics, development economics, natural resource management, or related fields or in physical sciences (e.g physics or mathematics) with strong interest and understanding of agricultural development issues;
- excellent quantitative skills and some previous experience with systems modelling;
- strong organizational skills;
- interest and aptitude to work in a developing country setting, including conducting farmer interviews and workshops;
- ability to work in an inter- and transdisciplinary research project and liaise with a variety of stakeholders; and
- fluency in spoken and written English is required, French skills are desirable.

We offer:

- An interdisciplinary working environment that encourages independence and self-reliance
- Opportunity to gain international research experience; and
- Well established national and international research networks
- The classification of the 65 % job is based on the collective agreement of the federal states (TV-L) E13 (including the annual special payment)
- A collegial and open-minded working atmosphere in a dynamic research institution
- Support in personal career development

Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications from severely disabled persons with equal qualifications are favored. Please send your application preferably by e-mail (one PDF file, max. 5 MB) with the usual documents, in particular CV, letter of motivation, proof of qualification and certificates, contact details of two potential referees, stating the reference number **14-2020** until **15.03.2020** to: Bewerbungen@zalf.de.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: Dr. Heidi Webber (webber@zalf.de) or Dr. Peter Zander (zander@zalf.de)

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.

You can find further information at: www.zalf.de/en/ueber_uns/Pages/Datenschutzerklaerung.aspx