

The Germany-CGIAR⁺⁺ Science and Impact Hub



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Deutsche Gesellschaft
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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 international CGIAR⁺⁺ centers the global research partnership for a food secure future (CGIAR), the World Vegetable Center and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe). Hosted at the CIFOR-ICRAF office in Bonn and driven through a strong partnership with the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research (ATSAR 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 & partners 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 a scholarship of EUR 1,800 per month for a period of three years with the possibility for 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:

1. Applications are possible with an MSc degree in Agricultural Sciences or a related field with an above-average final grade. For non-European degrees, a ranking from the issuing university must be included.
2. Letter of motivation (signed by the applicant and max. 1 page)
3. Curriculum vitae (in tabular form, signed and dated, max. 1 page)
4. Research proposal. Please use the **template (Hub_PhD-Research-Proposal_Template)** provided on our webpage: <https://hub.cifor-icraf.org/>
5. MSc certificate and transcript of academic records issued by the examination office
6. TOEFL or IELTS certificate or other English proficiency certificate
7. Letter of recommendation and supervision confirmation from a professor affiliated to a German university (University supervisor). Please use the **template (Hub_PhD-LoR-and-LoS-Uni-Sup_Template)** provided on our webpage: <https://hub.cifor-icraf.org/>
8. Letter of recommendation and supervision commitment from a CGIAR⁺⁺ center scientist (CGIAR⁺⁺ supervisor), stating the attachment to a CGIAR⁺⁺ research program/project. Please use the **template (Hub_PhD-LoR-and-LoS-CG-Sup_Template)** provided on our webpage: <https://hub.cifor-icraf.org/>
9. Hosting Agreement from the respective CGIAR⁺⁺ center. Please use the **template (Hub_PhD-Hosting-Agreement_Template)** provided on our webpage: <https://hub.cifor-icraf.org/>

How to apply:

To apply please use **the Hub** application portal – the portal will be **activated for submissions from mid-November**: <https://hub.cifor-icraf.org/>

Application deadline: **January 15th, 2026**

Scholarships (3+1 years) are to be awarded with a PhD project starting 01.04.2026. The **application deadline** for a scholarship (**with a starting date of PhD project and scholarship 01.04.2026**) is **15.01.2026**. Applications will be evaluated, and scholarships will be awarded from this date on.

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

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