

The Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences (University of Kassel in Witzenhausen), the Faculty of Agricultural Science (University of Göttingen), and DITSL Witzenhausen invite applications for the

## 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Interdisciplinary Study Tour – Ghana & Benin 2021

“Agriculture, Ecology, Globalisation and Postcolonial Structures:  
The Cases of Ghana and Benin (West Africa)”

07. - 22.03.2021



Being nearly neighbours, Ghana and Benin share similar climate and topographic conditions and thus are ideal for comparing their agriculture and forestry sectors against their different (colonial) history as well as post-colonial development. While Ghana is an economically and politically strong and stable country, Benin is affected by a massive loss of educated productive people.

Focusing on the SDGs and the postcolonial debate, our excursion will address aspects of diversity and similarity between Ghana's and Benin's land use sectors. Starting from Ghana's coastal humid zone with its rapidly growing urban hubs of Accra and Cape Coast, we will move through export-oriented oil palm and cocoa plantations in the Guinean zone. In the drier Sudanian zone, we will encounter subsistence plantations of yam and cassava. In Tamale, the northernmost destination in Ghana, we will meet students and staff at the University of Development Studies. After transit through Togo, we will learn about the challenges of traditional pastoralism and empowerment of marginalized groups from partners at the Université de Parakou. On our southwards trip to Cotonou, we will pay visit to the political centre of the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century Ashanti Empire to set a counterpoint to our visit of Elmina Castle near Cape Coast, a major hub of 18<sup>th</sup> century slave trade.

### Terms of participation:

- 20 (MSc) student places available – 10 each for the Universities of Kassel in Witzenhausen and Göttingen
- Personal **study focus on tropical/development aspects of agriculture, forestry, geography, or related subject**
- **Competitive selection** by **study performance, motivation**, and English language proficiency (French is an asset)
- Participants must take part in a **preparatory seminar** (2 contact hours/week) during WS 2020/21
- Funding is partly provided by the participating faculties/universities and DITSL Witzenhausen
- The organizers and participants will need to secure further third party funding from external donors
- **Participants must contribute approx. € 950 each** to the total costs – further funding or sponsorship acquired by participants from sources other than the universities or the DAAD may reduce participants' own contribution
- Due to **Covid-19** pandemic, **we cannot grant that the excursion will take place** as planned, but we try to go for it ...

Interested? - Submit your expression of interest incl. CV (1 page), motivation statement (1 page), transcript of records, proof or evidence of English language proficiency to:

[schlecht@uni-kassel.de](mailto:schlecht@uni-kassel.de) or [hulse@uni-kassel.de](mailto:hulse@uni-kassel.de) – **deadline: October 04, 2020**

**Note: This excursion is part of the SIA Module I07 “International land use systems research” (6 ECTS credits)**

Responsible:  
Prof. Dr. Eva Schlecht, Prof. Dr. Andreas Bürkert  
Universities Kassel & Göttingen

In cooperation with:  
Dr. Christian Hülsebusch  
DITSL Witzenhausen

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