

PhD Scholarship-Agribusiness and Energy

Agribusiness and Energy for Development PhD Research Scholarship Programme

This PhD scholarship programme is directed at applicants in Tanzania intending to pursue research on agribusiness and energy in Tanzania. Female researchers are especially encouraged to apply for these scholarships. The program is using the sandwich model and is carried out with collaborating universities in Sweden.

Deadline for applications: December 31st, 2011.

The purpose of the programme

One important task of the University of Dar es Salaam Business School is to conduct research on topical economic and business issues. The research in Agribusiness is one of very pertinent research agenda of the School. The research is carried out by senior researchers in collaboration with Masters and PhD students. This scholarship programme will provide opportunities for its participants to pursue their own research projects leading to a PhD degree.

Programme Justification

Agro: Our focus on agribusiness is motivated by current consensus that agricultural growth is necessary if poverty reduction is to be meaningful. World Development Report (2008) provides that “As an economic activity –agriculture can be a source of growth for the national economy, a provider of investment opportunities for the private sector, a prime driver of agricultural related activities and the rural non-farm economy.” Agricultural development is thus an effective approach to ensure food security, eradicating poverty and improve peoples’ livelihood for many African countries. About 80 percent of Tanzania’s population live in the rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture and agribusiness are thus the backbone of the Tanzanian economy.

Our point of departure in the agribusiness research takes cognizance of the fact that agriculture goes beyond the farm in the sense that even if the farmer does everything right, it is seldom enough. Hence a myopic view of a single actor in a system will not unleash agriculture’s potential, which hinges on a transformation of the whole value chain and the integrated innovation system.

Since agriculture is primarily a private sector activity in Tanzania, it is imperative to search for models that can contribute to sustainable rural development. More specifically it is important for researchers to search for inclusive business strategies that will create value for the rural and urban poor, or innovative models that will help build bridges between businesses and the poor.

Energy: Rural areas are mainly un-electrified as only a mere 2 % are connected to the grid. The role of energy in transforming rural areas is pivotal in order to diffuse proper technologies. Most

farmers depend on firewood for the household's energy needs but charcoaling as a business has in some areas become equally important as cash crops as a cash earner. The productive use of modern energy is still very limited in rural Tanzania. There are however to date very few studies on the relationship between energy and development in rural areas as well limited knowledge on rural energy business. The sustainability of the charcoal value chain has been questioned in Tanzania – deforestation rampant and replanting limited – so there are currently few options. Hence, proposals are welcome to address these issues from a theoretical perspective to build knowledge for e.g. policy making.

Who can apply?

The PhD Scholarship Programme in Agribusiness and Energy is directed at young researchers intending to pursue research in agribusiness and energy in Tanzania. We would especially like to encourage women to apply for these scholarships. Applicants should be Tanzanians and must have a good Masters degree.

Applications are invited from persons preferably with research projects related to the following areas:

1. Agribusiness Value Chain
2. Agricultural Development
3. Agribusiness Resources including finance, management, networks,etc
4. Globalization, Trade and Growth in Agribusiness
5. Energy services and products in Agribusiness: A value chain perspective
6. Rural Dynamics including group dynamics
7. Renewable energy
8. Biofuels

The list is not exhaustive.

The scholarship and facilities

The scholarship duration is 3 years, starting 2011 and it includes a return air-fare (Economy Class) to Swedish Universities each year, accommodation, and subsistence allowance while in Sweden for 3 months each year, a shared office and computer and photocopying facilities while in Sweden, funding for fieldwork in Tanzania.

For UDSM applicants, other terms are as per University of Dar es Salaam Postgraduate Regulations and Requirements.

The maximum duration of the stay in Sweden is 3 months each year.

The application should contain:

- An up-to-date curriculum vitae
- A well elaborated research proposal containing the following section: (should not exceed 20 pages, font 12,):

Introduction/Background (including theoretical gap analysis)

Research problem definition/research questions

Literature Review (Focus on conceptual issues)

Hypotheses (where applicable) or research questions

Methodology (quantitative and/or qualitative approach)

Expected results

Work plan

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

Deadline

Applications must be in by **31st December 2011**.

Applications in hard Copies by hand should be addressed to:

Dr. Wineaster Anderson
Deputy Coordinator- Sida-UDBS Programme
University of Dar es Salaam Business School
Office # 431, UDBS Bldg II

Soft copies should be directed to:

wineaster@udbs.udsm.ac.tz

Please note: On the subject line of your email, write: “APPLICATION Agribusiness and Energy PhD Scholarship.”

Further information

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