



The Chair of Critical Development Studies, Prof Martina Padmanabhan invites MA DVS students to apply for the ATSAF Junior Scientist Programme <https://hub.cifor-icraf.org/> in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute for a

6 months research stay at International Livestock Research Institute in Uganda or Kenya

We offer:

- Involvement in the research project [CIRNA - CIRcularity of Nutrients in Agroecosystems and co-benefits for animal and human health](#)
- Unique opportunity for empirical fieldwork in Uganda or Kenya
- Close interaction with international scientists and existing data sets
- Supervision of **MA thesis** writing
- Support for application to ATSAF by August 15th/ November 15th 2026

ATSAF supports you with:

- A scholarship of 6000 € for students of any nationality
- Hosting at International Agricultural Research Centre for six months
- Opportunity to experience international research environment
- Administrative support from [ATSAF e.V.](#)
- A Networking & Training Platform with inception trainings, webinars, and forums

Requirements:

- Enrollment in MA Development Studies, at least 3rd term
- Write your research proposal in collaboration with the Chair and ILRI
- Attending MA DVS research seminar in Jan 27 and write MA proposal in Feb 27

We seek enthusiastic students from **MA Development Studies** and especially **encourage women to apply!** Interested? Do not hesitate to contact us and to hand in following documents by **June 30th 2026** to Susanne.brandl@uni-passau.de:

- CV
- Transcript of records
- Letter of motivation
- Short idea of research proposal referring to one of the research topics embedded within the project CIRNA

CIRNA - CIRcularity of Nutrients in Agroecosystems and co-benefits for animal and human health

1. The **impact of gender norms** on the adoption and benefits of **improved manure** management practices in Kenya / Uganda (separate thesis topics) - we collaborate with the [WoFaAk – The Women Farmers Association of Kenya](#)
2. The **impact of gender norms** on the uptake and benefits of **digital agricultural extension** in Kenya / Uganda
3. A **serious game** to explore **intra-household dynamics** in livestock manure management in Kenya / Uganda.
For methods see: [Land use decisions: By whom and to whose benefit? A serious game to uncover dynamics in farm land allocation at household level in Northern Ghana - ScienceDirect](#) and <https://youtu.be/LCxYcpuYWyA?si=zsBX9opZfl3ogFWs>
4. The **role of women** in **scaling processes** of agricultural innovations in Kenya / Uganda
5. The **role of youth** in **scaling processes** of agricultural innovations in Kenya / Uganda
6. The influence of **youth migration** on the **agroecological status** of smallholder farm systems in Kenya / Uganda
7. The **inclusiveness of policies** and interventions on manure management in Kenya / Uganda (**desk study** with possibility to complement with own survey work).
Example for analytical framework: [An evaluative framework for inclusive agricultural value chain policies and interventions – Case: Mali - ScienceDirect](#)