

Call for Applications (subject to grant approval!)

Postdoctoral Researcher in GIS, Land-Use Change and Governance

SGSP-AFSLM research project: Southern African Food Systems in the 21st Century

Duration: 01. Nov 2026 – 31. Oct 2029

Position

The SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme (SGSP) of Agriculture, Food Security, and Sustainable Land Management (SGSP-AFSLM) Graduate School at **UJES (Angola)** invites applications for a postdoctoral researcher position focusing on **Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Land-Use Change, and Governance**.

The successful candidate will contribute to an interdisciplinary research programme examining the **spatio-temporal dynamics of land use change effects on food systems and their intensification and transformation**. The position will investigate how changes in land use, resource governance, and socioeconomic processes shape food systems and rural landscapes, with particular attention to local communities, land-use conflicts, and indigenous and local knowledge on local practices and species.

Research focus

The postdoctoral researcher will examine how food systems and land use change over time and space and how these transformations are influenced by governance arrangements, competing land-use interests, and local knowledge systems.

Potential research themes include:

- GIS and spatial analysis of food systems and agricultural land use and land cover changes;
- Spatio-temporal dynamics of food-system transformation and intensification;
- Land-use conflicts and competing claims over natural resources;
- Governance of land and natural resources;
- Community-based natural-resource management;
- Indigenous and local knowledge systems;
- Interactions between formal institutions and customary governance;
- Rural transformation and changing livelihood systems;
- Spatial dimensions of food security and resource access;
- Participatory approaches to mapping and land-use planning.

The researcher will be encouraged to combine **GIS and spatial analysis with qualitative and participatory research methods** in order to understand not only where and how food systems and land use are changing, but also **why these changes occur and how they are experienced and governed by different stakeholders**.

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will:

- Develop and implement an independent postdoctoral research project within the overall framework of the SGSP-AFSLM Graduate School;
- Conduct qualitative and spatially oriented research on food systems and land-use transformation;
- Develop and apply GIS-based approaches to analyse spatial and temporal patterns;
- Conduct fieldwork, interviews, focus groups, participatory mapping, and other appropriate qualitative research;
- Investigate the role of indigenous and local knowledge in land and natural-resource management;
- Integrate spatial and qualitative evidence to develop a comprehensive understanding of food-system transformation;
- Publish research findings in peer-reviewed international journals;
- Present findings at scientific conferences, workshops, and stakeholder events;
- Support the development and supervision of graduate-student research where appropriate;
- Support graduate-student research and capacity building where appropriate;
- Contribute to seminars, workshops, teaching, and other academic activities of the graduate school;
- Develop partnerships with national institutions, local communities, and international research organisations.

Required qualifications and experience

Applicants should have:

- A PhD in a relevant field, such as geography, environmental sciences, development studies, rural sociology, anthropology, natural-resource management, agricultural sciences, land-use planning, or a closely related discipline;
- Demonstrated expertise in field-based **qualitative research methods**;
- Strong expertise in **GIS and spatial analysis**;
- Experience with land use / land cover change analysis and/or spatial analysis of environmental or agricultural systems;
- A demonstrated publication record appropriate to career stage;
- Strong scientific English writing and communication skills. Knowledge of Portuguese or Spanish Language is an advantage;
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively in an interdisciplinary research environment;
- Willingness to conduct field research in Angola and neighbouring SASSCAL countries and engage with local communities and stakeholders.

What we offer

The successful candidate will join an interdisciplinary and internationally oriented research environment within the **SGSP-AFSLM Graduate School at UJES**, with the following benefits:

- Regular salary of 1500 € per month
- A Laptop to perform all duties;
- Office space at the Faculty of Agriculture Science;
- Flexi hour during the field research activities
- Support with accommodation in the first month of stay in Huambo province, Angola;
- Opportunity to travel to University of Kassel (Germany) for collaborative research

Application

Applicants should submit in a single pdf-file (Arial, 11 font size, 1.5 line distance)::

1. A curriculum vitae, including a complete list of publications (**max. 4 pages**);
2. A motivation letter outlining their suitability for the position (**max. 1 page**);
3. A brief research proposal (approximately **3 pages**) describing a potential postdoctoral research project related to GIS, land use change, food-system transformation, and governance;
4. English proficiency proof
5. Copies of relevant academic qualifications (M.Sc. to Ph.D. level);
6. Contact details of **two academic referees**.

Applications should demonstrate clearly how the applicant's expertise and research interests complement the objectives of the **SGSP AFSLM Graduate School at UJES**.

Deadline: 08 Oct 2026, 23:59 CET (GMT+1)

Please submit your personal information and application package (PDF) at <https://umfrage.uni-kassel.de/index.php?r=survey/index&sid=947325&lang=en>

For further questions, please write an email at afslm@uni-kassel.de or give a call +49 5542 981372

<https://www.fcaujes.ao/curso>

<https://www.uni-kassel.de/forschung/sasscal/startseite-1.html>