

Gender in the NELGA scholarship programme

BACKGROUND

In most African countries, there is strong competition for the use of land for a variety of reasons. The federal states are faced with the challenge of designing and implementing land policies that can sustainably secure guaranteed land access and usage rights, in particular for **women, smallholders and marginalized groups**. Demand for well-educated university teachers, scientists, professionals and executives is growing rapidly.

NELGA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

To meet this demand, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) provides a comprehensive scholarship programme in the field of Land Governance and Land Management within NELGA.

Special attention is paid to the promotion of **equal opportunities for African women** in Land Governance related careers. To date, the **number of women** in Land Governance related study programmes, in research and at high levels of responsibility in science both in academia and in decision-making structures remains **low**.

Together with its partners NELGA is dedicated to **empowering young female scientists** to realise their full economic potential and to become advocates, change makers and leaders in their communities. This is achieved both through the support of the scholarship programme and by focusing research proposals, trainings and mainstreaming activities **on gender-relevant topics**.

Moreover, it is of great importance to NELGA to **create an enabling environment** for women to combine their studies and research activities with their personal aspirations and family planning.

*“This scholarship programme is a great opportunity for my career advancement and it is my hope that my research will **contribute positively in society**”.*

Ms Celina Awala

The **scholarship programme** wants to contribute to...



...promoting **particularly gifted female students** in the field of Land Governance.



...increasing the **proportion of female students and graduates** in the field of Land Governance.



...supporting women on their way to the top, by increasing the proportion of **women in leadership positions** in science, research, teaching, in the public and in the private sector.



...**creating role models and incentives** for future generations of women to pursue studies and a career in a Land Governance related field.

By providing **professional networks** and awarding **scholarships** to excellent female post-graduate and doctoral students a significant contribution is made to the promotion and funding of **future female experts and decision-makers** in the land policy sector. This is additionally supported by an over-arching **emphasis on gender-related research and mainstreaming** activities.

*“I would advise other female students that they should never consider themselves less competitive. The market needs more experts in this field of study. I advise female students to **grab the opportunity**.”*

Ms Rebecca Milamo

