

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

## 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Interdisciplinary Study Tour – India 2025

Rural-Urban Transitions in Indian Agriculture and Forestry

08. - 31.03.2025 (tentative period, slight changes possible)



India, subcontinent and the world's second most populous country, experiences very rapid rural-urban transformation of its society. This directly impacts the agriculture and forestry sectors. Scientists from the Universities of Kassel and Göttingen are studying these transition processes since nearly ten years. The excursion will thus benefit of long-standing as well as new partnerships with Indian universities, international research centers and NGOs to learn from our hosts and discuss with them how transition processes affect natural and human resources use and what opportunities and threats arise from the ongoing changes.

Our journey starts in Kerala and ends in Assam; we'll travel by plane, train, bus, rickshaw, and may even take a camel and elephant ride. We will visit coconut agroforestry, urban dairy farms, tea plantations, railway gardens, national and international research institutes, and talk to farmers, herders, students, NGO activists, and *mahouts*. Before leaving for this fascinating country, we will meet several times in Witzenhausen and Göttingen to familiarize ourselves with India's rich geography, history and culture, as well as its current political and economic situation.

### Terms of participation:

- 26 student places available – 13 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 letter, and English language proficiency
- Participants must take part in a preparatory seminar (2 contact hours/week) during WS 2024/25
- Partial funding is 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 1,150 €** each to the total costs of the excursion

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:

[buerkert@uni-kassel.de](mailto:buerkert@uni-kassel.de) or [schlecht@uni-kassel.de](mailto:schlecht@uni-kassel.de) or [hulse@uni-kassel.de](mailto:hulse@uni-kassel.de) – **Until: Sunday 18 Aug 2024**

**Note: This excursion is part of Module M.SIA.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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