



## **THE AFRICAN CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES STUDIES (ACS)**

### **Call for applications for PhD positions**

#### **Thematic Area 3: Socio-economic development**

#### **PhD 1: Spatio-temporal analysis of food (in) security in rapidly expanding urban systems**

Brief description of the PhD position:

The PhD-research will focus on the spatio-temporal evolution of the controlling factors of food security in rapidly expanding urban systems. Traditionally food insecurity is considered as a poverty-related problem in households lacking financial means to buy food. However, recent studies showed that in the context of SSA-cities there are several other factors that control food insecurity such as the physical accessibility to food vending places, the (in)possibility to grow own food and the social networks (friends and relatives, ethnic community, faith-based organisations) that can act as safety nets. All of these factors are under pressure in rapidly expanding cities and are often overlooked by urban planners. The research wants to contribute to a better urban food security by mapping in detail the relative importance of the different controlling factors, the way they evolved over time and how they could further evolve under different urban expansion scenario's. For this research the PhD-researchers would collect original data through targeted field-campaigns in contrasting urban neighborhoods and complement this with a spatial modelling approach in which urban food security for different socio-economic groups is evaluated over time.



ARU promotor: Dr. Makarius Mdemu, Ardhi University, Institute of Human Settlements Studies

Flemish promotor: Prof. Anton Van Rompaey, Catholic University Leuven, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (Unit Geography and Tourism)

Eligibility:

We are looking for a PhD-candidate with a background in geo-sciences, social sciences or spatial planning with a strong interest in sustainable development. The candidate should be fluent in spoken and written English, and have the necessary skills (1) to set-up field-campaigns for socio-economic data-collection, (2) to analyse spatio-temporal datasets, (3) to design own maps (basic cartography is essential, more advanced GIS-skills are a plus), and (4) integrate spatial analytical tools with social-economic and environmental factors.

Number of PhD positions: 1

### **PhD 3: Assessing ‘food democracy’ in African metropolises: the case of Dar Es Salam**

**(will start in September 2023!)**

Brief description of the PhD position:

This PhD research aims at contributing to an enabling governance environment, that can enhance the level of food democracy in (selected areas in) Dar Es Salaam. Food democracy refers to the equal and effective participation of all members of an agro-food system in shaping that system, as well as to knowledge about the relevant alternative ways of designing and operating the system.

The proposed research shall be anchored on a system thinking, and consideration of critical aspects such as stakeholder involvement, equity



and inclusiveness. A first task will map and describe the different food policy mechanisms in Dar Es Salaam and connect these with the existing literature on urban food policies in rapidly urbanizing cities in developing countries' contexts. In a next step, the researcher will focus on two or three selected areas, and explore in depth the existing food governance, with particular attention for networks, decision making and power relations. A third part will explore future policy scenario's and their impact on food democracy in the selected areas.

ARU promotor: Dr. Luitfred Kissoly, Department of Economics and Social Studies

Flemish promotor: Prof. Joost Dessen, Ghent University, Department of Agricultural Economics

#### Eligibility:

The PhD candidate should have a master in sociology, political sciences, governance, development studies, economics, public administration (or equivalent) with a strong interest in food and policy making. She/he should have expertise in qualitative research methods. Expertise in quantitative methods is an asset. One of the following criteria should be met: **(i) master degree abroad (e.g. Europe)**; and/or (ii) publication in Web of Science journal and/or (iii) a good English language test (e.g. IELTS score of 6.5 or higher)

Number of PhD positions: 1 (only from September 2023 onwards)