



Office: KMU nachhaltig, Däntschgass 3, 4803 Vordemwald, Switzerland – office@agrocity.org

ACA AgroCity Association

ACA AgroCity Association implements, manages, coaches and finances (as far as possible) AgroCities in Sub Saharan Africa. The constitution of the local partner shall be regulated by ACA. Within the constitution it shall be clearly defined that ACA is superordinated to the local partner and that the local partner shall follow the AgroCity Model of Al Imfeld. Local partners shall sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with ACA clearly defining their benefits and duties.

Al Imfeld, a well-known Africa specialist, published the marvellous book "AgroCity - Die Stadt für Afrika - Skizzen zu einer neuen Urbanität" (= The City for Africa, Outlines for a New Urbanity), shortly before his death in February 2017. Friends of Imfeld publish translations in English, French, Arab and Swahili, supplemented by comments of experts of Africa.

Imfeld analyses different exploding (mega-) cities in several Sub-Saharan countries. Cities mainly have an administrative and commercial centre, which is surrounded by – often many – slums. Their inhabitants have left their farmland, hoping for a better life in city. For handling this situation, Imfeld proposes new forms of cities – guaranteeing a better life for their inhabitants, characterised by a mix of farming and city advantages as employment opportunities, land ownership as cooperative member, schools, neighbourhood, health care, market, theatre, sports and public traffic. AgroCities grow as cooperatives, surmounting traditional ways of separation as tribes and religions. No fossil powered vehicles are permitted in the AgroCity. To achieve and maintain self-sufficiency in the AgroCity and the surrounding 25 km belt around it, two thirds of the produce derived from horizontal and vertical farming will be used to feed the inhabitants while the remaining one third will be traded against crafts, services and natural resources.

The politically independent and religiously neutral Association follows no commercial purpose and does not aspire to profit. The organs work voluntarily.



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TEACHING / LEARNING – RESEARCH

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES

The central aim / specification of ACA TEACHING / LEARNING – RESEARCH is the **holistic view as well as the on-going interplay of Theory and Praxis embedded into planning and implementation of AgroCities.**

ACA offers **an intensive collaboration of co-responsibility with the local partners** and a large palette of TEACHING / LEARNING possibilities: Short time instructions, seminars of several days, vocational school and finally an MSc in Community Development and Environment on university level tailored to each country's different requirements and specifications.

This interplay of Theory and Praxis means that every offer / activity is praxis-oriented e.g.:

- For persons following a forestry or afforestation or reforestation seminar, discussions will include the advantages of having forestation and methods of tree planting and cultivate them on-long term as well as practically to seed, plant and cultivate trees.
- For persons following a seminar concerning house construction, discussions on the integration of cultural blueprints, architecture methods and constructional materials to construct them as well as exercise different steps of house building (e.g. preparing the ground, constructing, putting roofs, electrical and sanitation installations, use of alternative energy).
- Students of Vocational School learn theoretical backgrounds of their subjects as well as the practical technologies and the implementing their knowledge in an AgroCity.
- Students of Vocational School and MSC are involved in the daily life of an AgroCity and integrated in production of their own nourishment through eco-farming.
- Master-Students gain large theoretical inputs concerning Community Development and Environment. The praxis-oriented studies put heavy emphasis on the practical sessions of the seminars for example community development, afforestation, recycling sewage water for consumption, organic and urban gardening, constructing of solar heating modules, seminars with populations; seminar concerning management according to ISO 9001 for quality / 14001 for environment and practical implementation in a company.
- The master-thesis is an autonomous one-year project that discusses the challenges of an AgroCity and that of its partners in any country of Sub-Saharan Africa; the Master Project is intensively accompanied by seminars with other students as well as by one or two expert supervisors.
- Beside the research of Master-Students, ACA concentrates on praxis-orientated – fieldwork – research, basing on own and international projects. As far as possible, results are internationally discussed in an AgroCity or in Conferences.



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- An outstanding research is the Trace Research concerning implementation and development of an AgroCity. Trace Research is directly related to a specific coach of the ACA BOARD.

DETAILS

a. Teaching / Learning

i. Contents

- AgroCity life – community / co-operative development
- Climate Change – worldwide, Africa, individual countries and regions
- Environmental Ethics – integrating UN declarations, philosophy, religious declarations, eco-feminism and others
- Business Ethics – integrating UN declarations, philosophy, religious declarations
- Environmental research and management
- Management e.g. according to ISO standards (ISO 9001 for quality, ISO 14001 for environment, ISO 45001 for OHS, ISO 26000 for social responsibility, ISO 31001 for risks, ISO 50001 for energy management) as well as to reporting models as GRI Global Reporting Initiative 4
- Eco-agriculture, eco-tourism
- Community life and transformation – integrated education and health care
- Small Business – worldwide, Africa, specific countries
- Women rights in relation to their key role in conservation as main actors.

ii. Methods

- Appropriate use of human rights conventions approach in all actions
- Seminars, conferences, workshops – practical implementation of AgroCities
- Vocational School – practical implementation of an AgroCity
- Field work for students
- MSc in Community Development and Environment – holistic and multidisciplinary approach, mix of theory and praxis, seminary stile, field work with issues of possible ways of change, thesis with practical issues

b. Research

- AgroCity life – community / co-operative development – participation in seminars, conferences
- Climate Change – worldwide, Africa, individual countries and regions – participation in seminars, conferences
- Cultural and Environmental Ethics – worldwide, Africa, individual countries and regions – participation in seminars, conferences
- Business Ethics – worldwide, Africa, individual countries and regions – participation in seminars, conferences
- Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation by SMEs (especially in the field of Environmental Management)



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- Management – e.g. according to ISO standards
 - Review of existing activities in Africa, individual countries and regions
 - Participation in seminars, conferences
 - Surveys, field work, action research in individual countries and regions
- Eco-agriculture, eco-tourism – worldwide, Africa, individual countries and regions – analysis of projects
- Community life and transformation – integrated education and health care
- Small Entrepreneurial Business – worldwide, Africa, individual countries and regions
 - Review of existing activities in Africa, individual countries and regions
 - Participation in seminars, conferences
 - Surveys, field work, action research in individual countries and regions – analysis of projects
- Women rights in relation to their key role in conservation as main actors.
- Trace-research concerning implementation and development of AgroCities

MSC IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

BA in Community Development and Environment (or similar qualifications in alternative energy use, agriculture, environmental ethics, geography, tourism, sociology or anthropology) may apply for the post-graduate degree of MSC IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT.

The fulltime study last two years, part-time three to four. The first-year concentrates on general theoretical inputs ongoing combined with practical activities (see above Teaching / Learning – i. Contents). The second year concentrates on the MSC Thesis as an autonomous one-year project within the challenges of an AgroCity or of partners in any Sub-Saharan country. The Master Project is an intense combination of seminars with other students closely supervised by appointed experts.

Teaching Staff / Supervisors appointed to facilitate learning will be subject area experts. ACA members have priority in selection. They get an employee contract with ACA.

7 January 2019

For the ACA Board: Jörg Bürgi PhD, President