

Master Thesis Opportunity:

Social Innovation Pathways for Sustainable Rural Transformation in Indonesia

Project and research focus

The *Sustainable Village Project* (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/679293.html>) is a real-world laboratory (RWL) situated within an oil palm-dominated landscape in the province of Jambi in Indonesia. There, researchers collaborate with a local community to co-develop sustainable, locally adapted land use practices. Your thesis will explore **social innovation (SI)** and **leverage points (LP)** as frameworks for understanding and strengthening community-driven sustainable transformation. The research will address the following questions: How does social innovation emerge within a rural community context, and through which motivational, institutional, and systemic mechanisms can its development and scaling be effectively supported? **Social Innovation (SI)** refers to the development, adaptation, or renewal of social practices, norms, and relationships that help communities address shared challenges. **Leverage points (LP)** help to identify where targeted interventions can trigger significant systemic change, ranging from shallow (e.g. material infrastructure or daily routines) to deep (e.g., institutional rules, shared goals, or underlying cultural values).



Master thesis and project activities

We are seeking a highly motivated MSc student (all genders) who can work independently within an international, interdisciplinary team.

The Master thesis includes fieldwork in Indonesia: approx. 2 months in Jambi Province (tentatively April–May 2026). A pre-visit is envisaged for March 2026

The project provides local support from our doctoral student, colleagues of the University of Jambi and a local assistant. The master student will be involved in ongoing project activities, particularly an intercultural learning exchange between Bachelor students from Göttingen and Jambi.

Responsibilities include:

- Developing a sound research design with a focus is on qualitative methods.
- Organising and conducting fieldwork in Indonesia.
- Supporting and mentoring a group of Bachelor students on a research-oriented teaching and learning project.



Please send a **motivation letter**, **CV**, and **academic transcript**, all compiled into **one PDF (deadline 19.12.25)**, to:

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