

Empowering Young Scientists on Food and Nutrition Security and Right to Food in Sierra Leone

Heinrich Hagel¹, Memuna Kadie Sawi², Tamba Steven Sonda², Friederike Bellin-Sesay¹, Nicole Schönleber¹, Jenny Kopsch-Xhema¹

1 University of Hohenheim, Food Security Center, Germany

2 Njala University, School of Agriculture, Sierra Leone

www.foodsecurity.de

Background

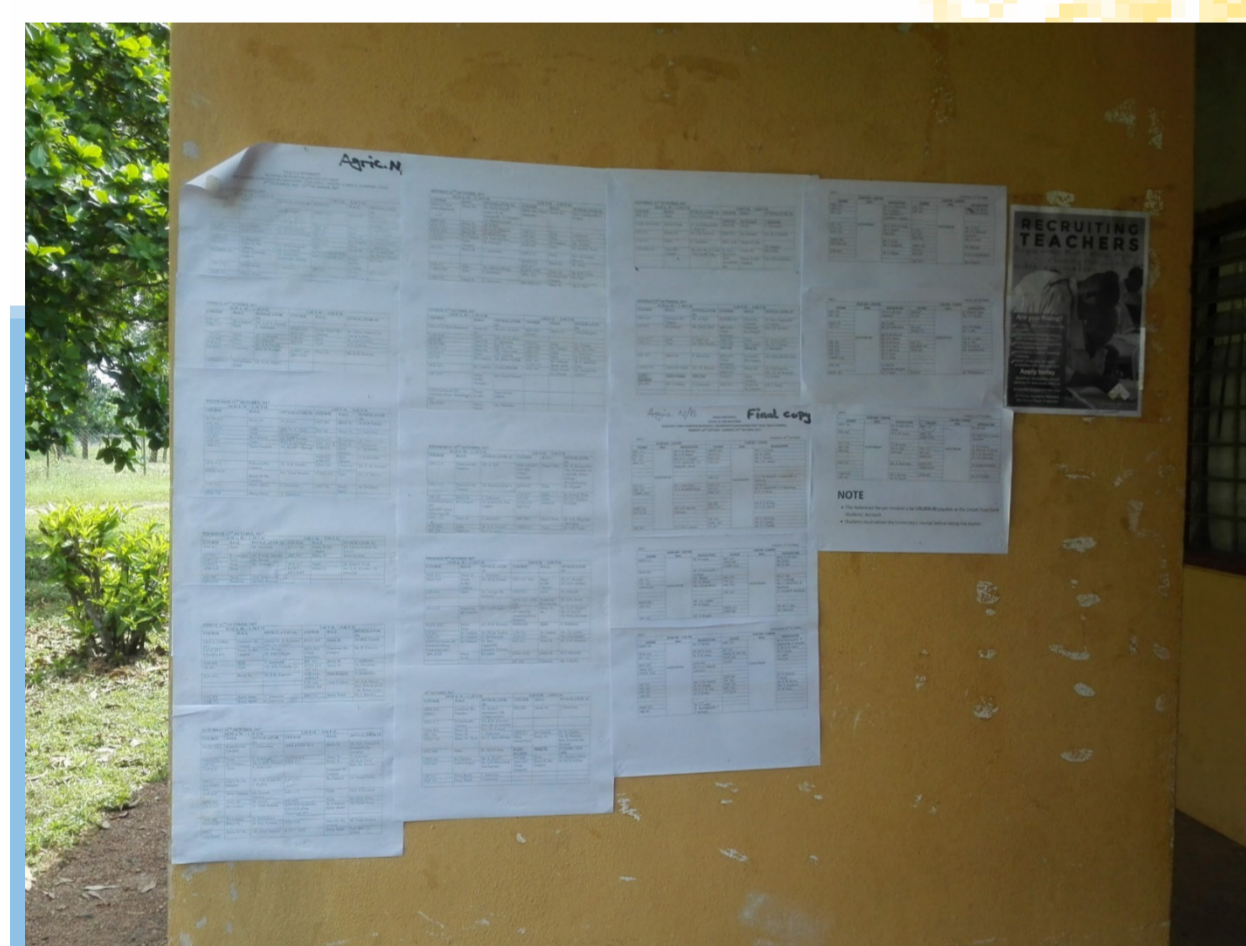
- Decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone led to a serious "brain-drain"
 - Affected human capacity in almost every sector
 - Ebola outbreak in 2013 counteracted recent positive developments.
- Food and nutrition security remains precarious
- Njala University: only university in Sierra Leone offering programs in agriculture, nutrition, food technology and home economics.



Ruins at Njala campus are still present



Institute of Food Technology, Nutrition and consumer studies



Course catalogue, School of Agriculture



Dpt. Agricultural Engineering and Industrial Technology

Problem Statement

Njala University was closed for 10 years at its main campus and was forced to offer classes in a limited way in Freetown. In 2005 the campus in Njala was re-opened, after having been abandoned for a long period of. This long abandonment of the campus has led to serious deterioration of the campus and resulted in brain drain due to unfavorable working conditions. It is evident and urgent to support the Njala University in upgrading their human resources and related infrastructure. In this context, the Food Security Center has been asked to provide relevant expertise in agricultural and nutrition related research topics and in offering assistance during the establishment of a Master course in Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food.

Overall Goal

Develop and implement an **international partnership in training and research** between the Food Security Center, University of Hohenheim, and Njala University, in the field of **"Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food"**

Specific objectives

1. Develop and implement MSc modules with joint teaching programs on Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food
2. Build capacity at Njala University, both in terms of human resources and materials/ equipment
3. Develop and implement joint research for both PhD and MSc students
4. Include another African university partner (South-South cooperation)
5. Short term exchange of lecturers (subject related)

First achievements

1. Kick-off Meeting in Sierra Leone involving different stakeholders (NGOs, ministries, research institutions) to discuss on the MSc. Food and Nutrition Security and the Right to Food curriculum, Internship for students and research opportunities
2. Capacity Building: One staff from Njala university enrolled for PhD program in the University of Hohenheim. She will be the third female lecture holding a PhD at the School of Agriculture. Research topic on 'Improving micronutrient status of young children aged 12-24 months'
3. Staff exchange visit
4. Provision of teaching materials
5. Joint preparation of a project proposal

