

Friederike Schilling

Center for Development Research (ZEF), Genscherallee 3, 53113 Bonn, Germany

fschilling@uni-bonn.de

SUMMARY

Agricultural Economist with 3+ years of experience in project management and development consulting across Africa, complemented by a PhD degree and post-doctoral research (< 1 year). Skilled in translating research findings into actionable strategies and communicating them to non-scientific audiences. Passionate about advancing innovative solutions for the sustainable transformation of smallholder farming systems.

EDUCATION

PhD Agricultural Economics

01/2022 - 09/2025

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany

- Interdisciplinary research at the nexus of agricultural and environmental economics on the operationalization of carbon markets for scaling soil health and transforming smallholder farming systems in Africa.
- Dissertation title: "*The economics of carbon sequestration in African agriculture*"

MA Development Economics

04/2016 - 09/2018

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany

- Master thesis on "*Weather risks in rural lending: drawing on empirical evidence from consumer durable loans granted to Tanzanian farmers*" (Grade: 1.3).
- Visiting student for one semester at Université Clermont Auvergne, France.
- Specialization: Agricultural Economics

BSc Economics and Business Economics/ BA European Business (EBP)

09/2012 - 07/2015

University of Hull, United Kingdom and University of Applied Sciences Münster, Germany

- Undergraduate double-degree programme: Germany (2012-14), United Kingdom (2014-15).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Researcher/ PARI Project Coordinator

03/2025 - present

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Bonn, Germany

- Post-doctoral research on (i) climate change adaptation effects of agroforestry in Malawi and (ii) scaling soil health and sustainable agricultural practices through payments for ecosystem services in Africa.
- Management of the BMZ funded Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI), which promotes collaborative research on food systems transformation in Africa, with themes including climate change, land degradation and bioeconomy development (<https://research4agrinnovation.org/>).

PhD Candidate: Junior Researcher

01/2022 - 02/2025

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Bonn, Germany

- Secured a 3-year fully funded scholarship for conducting fulltime doctoral research, including participation in the interdisciplinary Bonn Graduate School for Development Research (BIGS-DR).

PhD Candidate: Research Fellowship

02 - 08/2023, 01 - 03/2024

International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology - icipe

Nairobi and Kakamega, Kenya

- Conducted qualitative research with carbon credit project developers, soil scientists and stakeholders in the agricultural sector to explore the potential and challenges of agricultural carbon markets in Kenya.
- Designed and implemented a survey among 500 farmers in Western Kenya to explore the effect of sustainable agricultural practices on soil fertility, combining household data and soil sample analyses.
- Executed a comparative study on approaches for soil organic carbon measurement, which compares traditional soil laboratory analyses to an in-situ soil scanner using reflectance spectroscopy.

Project Manager/ Consultant Financial Sector Development

08/2018 - 12/2021

*AFC Agriculture and Finance Consultants (part of GOPA Consulting Group)**Bonn, Germany and abroad*

- Project acquisition, project management, and consulting assignments related to financial inclusion across the MENA region and sub-Saharan Africa, with a strong focus on agricultural finance and women's financial inclusion:
- Project acquisition:
 1. Developed technical and financial proposals for international donors (EIB, GIZ, KfW), coordinated teams of project managers, assistants, and consortium partners, and led discussions with experts.
 2. Successfully acquired GIZ projects in Egypt and Ghana with a combined volume of EUR 3.5 million.
- Project management:
 1. Led project management tasks, including coordination meetings, contract negotiations, facilitated workshops and trainings, oversaw the technical implementation of projects, performed quality controls of reports, conducted regular backstopping missions abroad and managed project budgets.
 2. Managed international project teams of up to 15 members remotely, with teams based across Africa.
- Consulting assignments:
 1. Worked on two national financial inclusion surveys in Egypt: designed questionnaires, conducted data analysis, and advised the Central Bank of Egypt on its financial inclusion strategy.
 2. Supported setting up a SME mentoring and coaching program at the Development Bank of Namibia.
 3. Co-developed a digital loan appraisal tool for microfinance institutions working with farmers in Togo.

Research Assistant (part-time student job)

06/2016 - 03/2018

*Chair of Development Economics, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen**Göttingen, Germany***Intern Financial Systems Development**

01/2016 - 04/2016

*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**Eschborn, Germany***Intern Investment Management Southern Africa**

09/2015 - 12/2015

*DEG - KfW Bankengruppe**Johannesburg, South Africa***Intern Public Development Cooperation**

06/2014 - 09/2014

*Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**Bonn, Germany***AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS****Research grant, Foundation fiat panis**

2024

- Awarded 4,500 EUR by the *Dr. Hermann Eiselen PhD Grant* for food security research in Kenya.

Deutschlandstipendium (scholarship)

2017/18

- Granted a monthly scholarship for outstanding academic performance at master's level.

Avenues Prize, University of Hull

2015

- Awarded for outstanding academic performance (top of the class) in Economics.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

1. "Reliability of approaches for measuring soil organic carbon and implications for smallholder carbon farming" with Dennis Beesigamukama and Chrysantus M. Tanga (under review).
2. "Business models for scaling soil health: assessment of carbon farming projects in Kenya" (under review).

LANGUAGES & TECHNICAL SKILLS**Languages:** German (native), English (C2), French (C1)**Technical Skills:** Stata, LaTeX, KoboToolbox/ SurveyCTO, QGIS, Google Earth Engine, Microsoft Office