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Call for Applications: Deadline 15 May 2025

2nd Samarkand Summer School Innovations for sustainable land use and nature conservation

16 – 21 June 2025

Samarkand State University, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Background

Innovative technologies in nature conservation, sustainable land use and food security are becoming increasingly important, but are not yet widely used in Central Asia. However, there is a wide range of possible applications. For example, Geographical Information System (GIS) helps users to monitor, visualize, analyze and understand, among others, species populations and distributions, land use and change, agricultural production or progress of natural resources conservation activities.

Against this background, the 2nd international, interdisciplinary Samarkand Summer School 2025 shall promote the application of GIS and other innovative technologies in nature conservation and sustainable land use in Central Asia.

The Summer School is jointly organized by the Institute of Agrobiotechnologies and Food Security of the Samarkand State University (Uzbekistan), Rostock University (Germany), and the Michael Succow Foundation (Germany) in the framework of the [Regional Programme “Integrative and Climate-sensitive Land Use in Central Asia”](#) (ILUCA), implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

It is hosted by the Institute of Agrobiotechnologies and Food Security of the Samarkand State University (SamSU) and takes place from **16 – 21 June 2025**.

Program

The Summer School will train master's students and young professionals in the functions, structure and basic principles of GIS techniques. Emphasis will be placed on the use of open-source GIS in nature conservation and sustainable land use. The participants gain also knowledge on other innovative technologies, such as the Google Earth Engine providing access to remote sensing data and GNSS-based field data acquisition for nature conservation and sustainable land use.



Furthermore, various meetings with practitioners working in the field are planned to promote further debate and give insights into possible fields of GIS application. The technical program is supplemented by a cultural part with excursions to Samarkand and its historic town – the UNESCO World Heritage Site „Crossroads of Cultures“.

The participants will receive a certificate of attendance based on their successful completion of the Summer School.

Key instructors

Dr.-Ing. Görres Grenzdörffer, Senior Researcher at the Chair for Geodesy and Geoinformatics, Rostock University, Germany

Dr. Toshpulot Rajabov, Director of Institute of Agrobiotechnologies and Food Security of Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan

Alexander Steiger, MSc., Research Associate at the Chair for Geodesy and Geoinformatics, Rostock University, Germany

Dr. Rahmatulla Igamberdiev, North Business Academy, Germany

Target group and requirements

The Summer School is open to participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The Summer School wishes to attract young professionals studying or working in the areas of ecology, agriculture, social sciences, development studies or geography who are interested in nature conservation. The minimum qualification required for the participation is a graduated Bachelor degree. Applications from Bachelor students won't be considered.



The maximum number of participants for the Summer School is 25.

The knowledge of English or Russian language and basic computer skills are a prerequisite to participation. Participants are recommended to bring their own laptop to the Summer School.

Fees

No fees are charged for participation in the Summer School. The costs for the participants will be covered by the organizers and include travel costs, accommodation and meals. The travel costs will be reimbursed during the Summer School. The participants will be accommodated on the campus of the Institute of Agrobiotechnologies and Food Security of Samarkand State University. The accepted participants should organize health insurance on their own.

Application

The application should include the following documents:

- A letter of motivation (1-2 pages) in English or Russian stating field of study or work and its relation to the topic of the Summer School, explaining the reasons of interest in participating in the Summer School;
- Curriculum vitae in English or Russian;

Applications should be submitted until **15 May 2025** by E-Mail to rustam.murzakhanov@succow-stiftung.de, attached as one PDF file with the subject line "Samarkand Summer School 2025".

Accepted applicants will be informed by **20 May 2025**.

Further information and contact

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Further information on ILUCA project: <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/130501.htm>