



## **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Management**

### **Master of Philosophy opportunity on Farmer led research, marketing and nutrition.**

Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUAST) seeks a suitably qualified scholar to join a dynamic team of researchers in the Research for Agroecology Network for Southern Africa (RAENS) project, to explore agroecological transitions in the region. Within the broad framework of the RAENS project (*funded by the European Union, coordinated by CCARDESA, led by University of Cape Town (UCT) and implemented by a consortium of 8 local, regional and international organisations*), agroecology markets (AE) are recognised as a central component to agroecological transitions in the region. Yet, there is little understanding of where and how these markets are currently structured function, and perform since this is an emerging sector. There is, thus, need for a situational analysis of AE markets as part of a key piece to the development of AE. Farmers, (especially women), can play a crucial role through farmer led research, in the co-generation of knowledge related to AE markets.

MUAST, in liaison with the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), is inviting a highly motivated student to conduct a study on the use of farmer led research to undertake a governance analysis of AE markets in Zimbabwe within the RAENS project framework. The research may also assess farmers' practices and consumer preferences to nutrition-sensitive agroecology practices in the target Wards in Zimbabwe for the RAENS project. The student will also play an important role in piloting of innovations in dissemination of findings and lessons from the study.

The position is funded under the **RAENS** project. The goal of the RAENS project is to establish a robust, innovative and sustainable multi-sector transdisciplinary agroecology research and knowledge network in Southern Africa.

### **Qualification and desired attributes of the prospective student**

- i. BSc in Marketing, Nutrition, Natural Resources, Development Studies, Sociology or other relevant sciences,
- ii. Willingness to work with farmers in rural areas and stakeholders in urban and peri-urban settings,
- iii. Highly motivated, self-starter,
- iv. The candidate is expected to participate in RAENS activities, including attending national and regional workshops as may be needed,
- v. Have an interest in inter- and transdisciplinarity,
- vi. Strong presentation and communication skills,
- vii. Computer literacy, and ability to use common analytical packages,
- viii. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply,
- ix. Applicant must be ready to start by the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2025.

**Scholarship details:**

- i) The scholarship will cover a subsistence allowance and research expenses for 30 months.
- ii) The student is expected to undertake field work in the RAENS districts of Marondera, Mudzi, Chimanimani and Nyanga.

Applications, including a cover (motivation) letter, CV, Academic transcript as well as the names and particulars of two traceable referees should be submitted to Dr W. Kozanayi (wkozanayi@muast.ac.zw), cc Dr. E.N. Masvaya ([enmasvaya@muast.ac.zw](mailto:enmasvaya@muast.ac.zw)) by 23 September 2025. The successful applicant will need to apply separately for MPhil study to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Management, MUASt. The scholarship is subject to acceptance of the candidate for MPhil study at MUASt.

*\*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted\**