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Sustainability studies tackles global threats

Practical measures are needed in order to support a growing population in a changing world. Since the year 2000, Lund University has been carrying out successful research on sustainability and sustainable development with the aim of understanding, tackling and overcoming global threats such as climate change, water shortages, soil exhaustion and loss of biodiversity.

RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

LUCSUS, the Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies, is a well-known and internationally recognized interdisciplinary centre in the new research and educational field of sustainability science. The centre is home to extensive research and a highly regarded Master's programme. Sustainability science spans global, regional and local issues, events and relationships. Focus is on the interface between natural science and social science and between research and the use of this knowledge in society to promote sustainable development. A range of different disciplines are combined in projects that aim for real social change. A goal is to straddle the boundaries between research and practice, which often means problem-oriented and solutions-oriented projects, often based in countries in Africa or Latin America.

FEEDING THE GLOBAL POPULATION

In order to feed a growing population in a way that promotes sustainability, new methods of cultivation are required. To develop productive agriculture entirely grounded on organic principles, based on the use of perennials grown in polycultures rather than annual crops grown in monocultures, is a daring vision that could help us overcome almost all the problems associated with modern farming. Our research aims to study the social and economic aspects of such a transition, as well as barriers to the dissemination of new methods and techniques.

IMPROVED CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Climate change implies major and multiple strains on society, and the poorest will be the hardest hit. A number of projects are working to strengthen the ability of local communities to lift themselves out of poverty and deal with crises linked to disasters such as storms, floods, drought and food shortages. This involves understanding the underlying social and political causes of poverty and vulnerability in order to help build a better world.

FUNDING NEEDS

Doctoral studentships and postdoctoral fellowships are needed to promote the exchange of knowledge. Master's scholarships for students from African countries in particular will promote knowledge and technology transfer. We also have extensive collaboration with colleagues in Africa, America and Europe. To be able to exchange senior lecturers through a visiting chair is an important step in promoting knowledge transfer and practical applications.

- Four-year doctoral studentship: SEK 3 million
- Two-year postdoctoral fellowship: SEK 2 million
- Two-year Master's scholarship: SEK 500 000
- Three-year Visiting chair: SEK 4 million

All donations are welcome, whether large or small. Together we can work for a better world.

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