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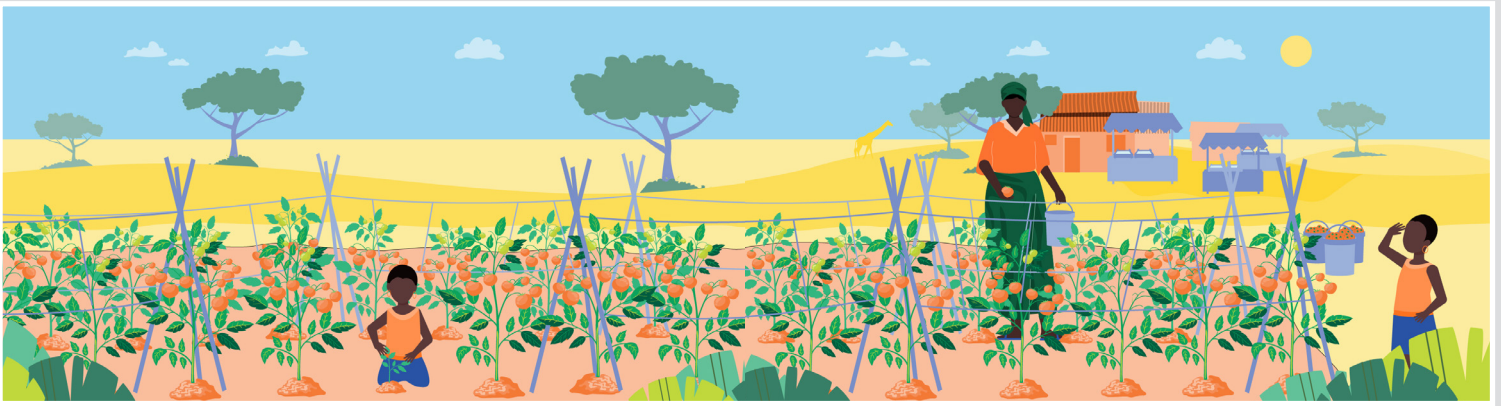


WEIHENSTEPHAN · TRIESDORF
University of Applied Sciences
Hochschulkooperationen



Ayana's Journey

A Postgraduation Success Story



Ayana Tesfaye was born on a farm in Ethiopia. Her parents were subsistence farmers, producing the food they needed and selling the surplus, as everybody in the village did. She enjoyed learning at school and her parents and family encouraged her to continue her education.



They were surprised when she decided to study Agriculture and Natural Resource Management at the Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia. She did so, because she saw a potential to do agriculture as a business and she also recognized the need to transform agriculture in her country.



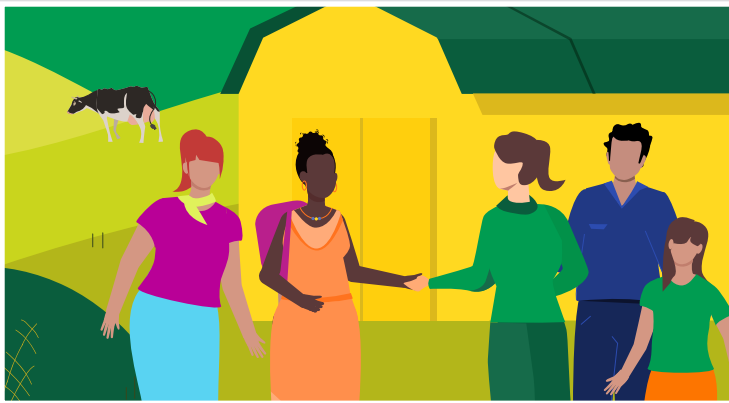
Ayana wanted to know more about modern agriculture in other countries. She had seen on her parents farm, that economic knowledge was badly needed to run the farm as a business. After finishing her Bachelor with excellent grades she applied for a scholarship to participate in the International Master of Agricultural Management at HSWT.



After being accepted, the first thing was to begin learning German. The HSWT had installed an intensive Online course for all students to help them reach Level A German knowledge, necessary to apply for a VISA.



Ayana, now being able to hold a conversation in German, was ready to gain new experience abroad.



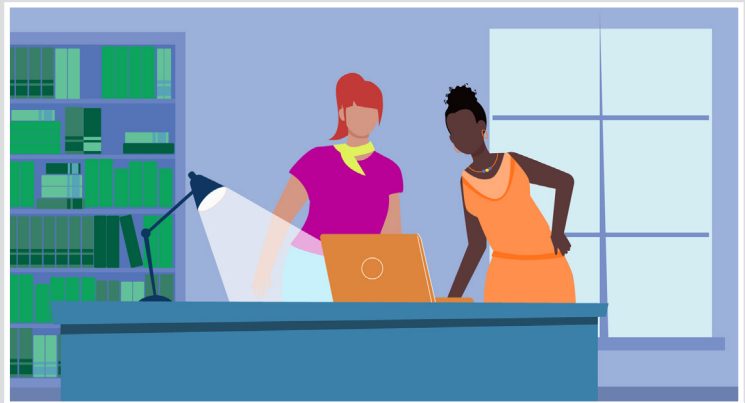
When arriving in Germany together with four fellow students, she was picked up at the airport by Franziska Rupp, responsible for supporting the students of the Master Course during their stay in Germany. Franziska had already arranged her 3-month internship on the dairy farm of the Stubner Family in Frankonia.



In the beginning, communication in German was difficult, but the Stubner family were already used to foreign students and knew how to explain everything without many words so Ayana soon improved her German skills and got a very good knowledge on dairy farming in Germany. But how should she transfer this knowledge to her own country?



Franziska visited Ayana to discuss her progress and to answer her questions concerning the study program at HSWT. After the three month internship, she was eager to join the classes at the University in Triesdorf, but also sad to leave the Stubner family, who had become like a family to her. Students from all over the world met for the study program on Agricultural Management (IMA). Courses on all aspects of agricultural management combined with visits on farms, laboratory exercises, small projects with fellow students.



Now she suddenly understood why some of the theories, she had heard about in her bachelor studies, were relevant in working context. She decided to do her Master's Thesis on Dairy Feeding as a small research project in cooperation with a company producing feed for dairy production. At the end of her studies, she had the opportunity to present her research on a Workshop organized for Dairy farmers.



During her stay in Germany, she had kept contact with her home university. One of her former lecturers had been on a study tour and a training at Triesdorf. She told her that Bahir Dar University planned to implement the Master of Farm Management (MFM) with support from HSWT.



As soon as Ayana had arrived at her parents' farm, she contacted the Bahir Dar University, to learn more about the new Master of Farm Management (MFM). While discussing with the course coordinator, he mentioned that the Bahir Dar University soon will be looking for a Junior Lecturer and that her education matches what he was looking for.



Afterwards Ayana applied successfully. Since then, she is lecturing other farmers and both sides are benefitting from her experiences at the HSWT.

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