My objective in studying for the MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security is to gain further knowledge in the field of academic research, and then subsequently to apply that knowledge to sustainable development projects, with a focus on the supply of agricultural products for the international food industry in sub-Saharan Africa.

I have gained experience in the diverse practices of agricultural production through my experiences in our family-run agricultural trade business and related internships in the agricultural sector. These experiences led me to pursue an undergraduate degree in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Hohenheim and to spend a semester abroad at Wageningen University & Research. My academic work and research there focused on sustainability. I explored this topic through coursework, including a seminar paper about the discrepancies between consumer knowledge and behaviour as an obstacle to the use of sustainable textiles in Germany. My bachelor’s thesis used the GRI sustainability guidelines to critically analyse the use of hemp for textiles. To gain more expertise on the requirements for growing textile fibres such as cotton and hemp, I studied a second bachelor’s degree in Fashion & Textiles at the University of West London, taught and assessed in English.

In parallel to my studies, I have gained first-hand experience of sustainable development projects by joining the NGO Hilfe für Togo e.V. as a volunteer worker in 2018. I have since travelled to Togo and Benin several times as the person responsible for their agricultural projects. There, I regularly meet with regional and supra-regional governments in Togo and have spoken to the Minister of Development Planning and Cooperation about the high import duties on aid. As a volunteer in Africa, I have become aware of the historical importance of sustainable agricultural production, which marks the starting point for human development in today’s societies.

To make a real impact on sub-African agricultural development, it is important to acknowledge that continent’s diversity of agro-ecological conditions and farming systems. Images and ideas of sustainable agricultural development and their legitimacy may vary significantly across contexts and cultures. Therefore, my academic ideal is a master’s programme that focuses on more than one subject and considers different agricultural systems and challenges in food and agriculture. The Managing Global Soils in a Changing Climate module is of particular interest to me, to help enhance my scientific and economic understanding of the world’s most valuable resource: land.

My studies at the University of West London and my exchange semester made me realise the benefits and importance of an international community. Living and studying in England would be a dream come true, as I only want to live in a country where I speak the language, and I enjoy reading 19th-century English literature in my spare time. My vision is to contribute positively to society and to make a lasting difference in the lives of millions of African citizens. A degree in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security from the Royal Agricultural University would provide me with this opportunity.