

**UNIVERSITÄT HOHENHEIM**

**INSTITUT FÜR SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN DES AGARBEREICHES (430)**

**Fg. Ländliche Soziologie (430a)**

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**INSTITUT FÜR BODENKUNDE UND STANDORTLEHRE (310)**

**Allgemeine Bodenkunde mit Gesteinskunde (310a)**

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**Saatgut mit Starthilfe: Eine explorative Untersuchung zur  
Anwendung von „Seed Balls“ im Senegal**

**Bachelor- Arbeit**

**Agrarwissenschaften B.Sc.**

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## ABSTRACT

Climate variability continues to be the principal cause of fluctuations in global food production of the Sahel region. Pearl millet, the major staple crop suffers from various abiotic stresses, N and P limitations mainly in the early growth stages. To address these restrictions seeds coated in clay and nutritious low-cost materials such as charcoal, wood ash and compost have been designed, so-called *seed balls*. This study examines the application of seed balls in a practical agricultural setting in Senegal. It aimed to identify potential constraints for adoption and to guide the process of setting priorities regarding the optimal use of technology through key informant interviews, presentations, a workshop and participatory on-farm surveys. The study illustrates that generally neither material nor social aspects seem to hamper adoption of the seed ball technique. However, the chemical and physical composition of the seed balls as well as seeding methods in Senegal necessitate deeper investigation.