



Dear Readers,

4th of  
june  
2008

IAMO Forum 2008, which will take place at the end of June, aims to contribute to the ongoing public debate about the globalisation of the food economy and the future of renewable primary products. As such, well-known keynote speakers have agreed to attend this year's Forum. More information on the Forum's topic and speakers is available below. Additionally, IAMO has acquired several new research projects, the details of which you will find in this edition of the IAMO Newsletter.

The IAMO Directorate  
Alfons Balmann (Executive Director), Gertrud Buchenrieder (Director),  
Thomas Glauben (Director), Hannelore Zerjeski (Director/Head of  
Administration and Service)

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### **Bioenergy, quality management and world markets: IAMO Forum 2008, Halle, 25-27 June**

Registration has begun for the IAMO Forum 2008, titled "Agri-Food Business: Global Challenges - Innovative Solutions", with 130 participants from nearly 30 countries already registered. Topics to be addressed at the Forum include emerging markets for renewable primary products, quality management in the food chain, globalisation and the re-orientation of agricultural policy. New research results on all these topics will be presented. In the plenary sessions, well-known experts will offer insights on current global trends for businesspeople, politicians and scholars. The following keynote speakers will present various perspectives on important global processes in the agri-food business: Prabhu Pingali from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (USA); Cees P. Veerman, former Agricultural Minister of The Netherlands and former head of the EU Council of Agricultural Ministers; Spencer Henson from the University of Guelph (Canada); and Alois Heißenhuber from the Technical University Munich. It is possible to register for the IAMO Forum 2008 online, as well as at the conference. Further information about the program can be found on our [Conference Website](#).

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### **New DFG project on financial deepening and efficiency in transition countries approved**

Transition countries' financial systems are experiencing ongoing reforms.

Particularly in rural financial markets, new organisations and banking strategies emerge to combat the high transaction costs related to the financial services supplied to the rural population and enterprises. Credit cooperatives and microfinance organisations often serve this market segment. The new project titled "Financial Deepening and Efficiency of Rural Financial Intermediation" aims to explore how different institutional forms of financial intermediation affect the deepening and efficiency of rural finance. The project is financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and has been jointly acquired with the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology Zürich (ETH Zurich). The regional focus of the project is on Bulgaria. More information (in German) can be found [here](#).

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### **DFG project on the growth of Saxony's agriculture 1750-1880 to start in October 2008**

The current structural crisis in the new German Federal States may conceal the fact that over the centuries, Central Germany was a highly dynamic economic region in the heart of Europe. To rediscover this region as one of the most important European economic regions is the aim of the project titled "The growth of Saxony's agriculture 1750-1880", financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Despite only medium-quality soils, Saxony's agriculture was the most productive and advanced in Germany during the 18th and 19th centuries. In fact, even if temporary food crises hit Saxony from time to time before 1850, in the long run Saxonian farmers were able to feed the fastest growing population of any German territory, which shows a very early reduction of the share of agricultural population. The reasons for the outstanding performance of Saxony's agriculture during the time under investigation are still not clear. Regionally differentiated production functions will be estimated to analyse agricultural growth 1750-1880. Additionally, econometric studies will be carried out to investigate the relations between market integration and agricultural development. Project participants include Michael Kopsidis (IAMO), and Ulrich Pfister and Georg Fertig from the University of Münster. For further information (in German) please visit the [IAMO homepage](#).

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### **New EU-funded project on Agripolicy analysis begun**

The multilateral project "Enlargement Network for Agripolicy Analysis" became operational on 1 June 2008 and will run for two years. It is one of the first projects approved under the EU's 7th Framework Contract. The lead agency is Euroquality, headquartered in Paris. In addition to IAMO, two research institutes from Western Europe, as well as institutes or individual experts representing the twelve New Member States and seven candidate and pre-candidate countries are participating in this project. The strategic objectives of the project are

1. to stimulate networking between organisations involved in agro-economic analysis,
2. to provide scientific reports for policy-making,
3. to prepare future analysis by collecting quantitative and qualitative information, and
4. to strengthen the analytical capacities of the research organisations involved in the project.

IAMO will be mainly responsible for coordinating the scientific report on rural development and for organising three expert workshops spread over the duration of the project.

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### **IAMO/GTZ project on Croatia successfully concluded**

On 18 April 2008 a project entitled "*Croatia's EU Accession: Socio-Economic Assessment of Farm Households and Policy Recommendations*" was concluded during a workshop in Zagreb. The IAMO team presented the project report, which highlighted the current situation in Croatia's rural areas, as well as policy recommendations. All policy-relevant results were discussed with the Agricultural Chapter's negotiation team leader. Franz Fischler, who serves as advisor for the Croatian side and who took part in the final project workshop, pointed out that the project's results section titled *lessons learnt*, which deals with neighbouring Slovenia, is of particular interest for Croatia. Based on expert interviews, conclusions for the ongoing negotiation process were drawn. The project report is forthcoming as a book in the the *IAMO Studies* Series and will also be available for download on the IAMO homepage.

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### **"2nd Halle Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis - HAWEPA"**

The 2nd Halle Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis took place at IAMO 26-27 May 2008. IAMO and the Halle Institute of Economic Research (IWH) organised the workshop, the objective of which was to address new developments in theoretical and empirical research in productivity and efficiency measurement from economics, agricultural economics, management science, operations research and related fields. HAWEPA was established as an important international and national platform for researchers working on these topics. Keynote lecturers were Antonio Alvarez from the University of Oviedo (Spain), Subal Kumbhakar from the State University of New York (USA) and Supawat Rungsuriyawiboon from the Chiang Mai University (Thailand). In total, 39 participants from 15 countries participated in HAWEPA. Further information can be found on our [Homepage](#).

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### **Recent Publications**

[all IAMO publications](#)

### **IAMO Discussion Papers**

FRITZSCH, J.(2008): Applying fuzzy theory concepts to the analysis of employment diversification of farm households: Methodological considerations, *IAMO Discussion Paper No. 116*, Halle(Saale).  
[download](#)

## External Discussion Papers

PETRICK, M. (2008): The disciplinary influence of physics, biology, and chemistry on economic modelling - Overview and implications for understanding agricultural change, *SiAg-Working Paper, No. 01*, Berlin.  
[download](#)

THEESFELD, I., SCHLEYER, C., CALLOIS, J.-M., AZNAR, O. (2008): Ex-ante policy assessment from an institutional perspective: The procedure for institutional compatibility assessment (PICA), *ICAR Discussion Paper, No. 21*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Chair of Resource Economics, Berlin.  
[download](#)

### Further selected publications:

FISCHER, C., HARTMANN, M., BAVOROVA, M., HOCKMANN, H., SUVANTO, H., VIITAHARJUC, L., LEAT, P., REVOREDO-GIHAD, C., HENCHION, M., MCGEE, C., DYBOWSKI, G., KOBUSZYNSKAF, M. (2008): Business relationships and B2B communication in selected European agri-food chains - First empirical evidence, *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review, Vol. 11, No. 2*, 73-100.

SCHEUMANN, W., HERRFAHRDT-PÄHLE, E., THEESFELD, I. (2008): Recommendations for German Development Cooperation, in: SCHEUMANN, W., HERRFAHRDT-PÄHLE, E. (Hrsg.): *Conceptualizing Cooperation for Africa's Transboundary Aquifer System, Studies 32*, German Development Institute, Bonn, 63-82.

THEESFELD, I. (2008): Institutional aspects of groundwater governance, in: SCHEUMANN, W., HERRFAHRDT-PÄHLE, E. (Hrsg.): *Conceptualizing Cooperation for Africa's Transboundary Aquifer System, Studies 32*, German Development Institute, Bonn, 305-338.

VALENTINOV, V. (2008): The economics of the nondistribution constraint: A critical reappraisal, *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics, Vol. 79, No. 1*, 35-52.

VALENTINOV, V. (2008): The exchange paradigm of constitutional economics: implications for understanding the third sector, *Constitutional Political Economy, Vol. 19, No. 1*, 19-33.

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