

Edition 2/2013, June 11, 2013



Dialogue with
parliamentarians,
Photograph: fotolia

Science – policy dialogue on speculation with agricultural commodity

IAMO director Thomas Glauben, researcher Sören Prehn and the economic ethicists Ingo Pies and Matthias Georg Will at Halle-Wittenberg University presented their research results on financial speculation with agricultural commodities to 20 parliamentarians from the ruling coalition parties CDU/CSU and FDP as well as members of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) on 17 May 2013 in Berlin. In a study, the researchers had found out that 'long-only' index funds are not responsible for the increasing prices on the agricultural commodity markets but may by trend even be able to contribute to price stabilization. In their discussion with members of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection the agricultural economists pointed out that strict regulation would not improve but deteriorate the functionality of futures markets. 'In reference to these talks with parliamentarians specializing in agricultural issues we are very pleased about their great interest and our constructive discussions. We are confident that political decisions will take scientific findings into account', says Thomas Glauben. On 10 July 2013, the researcher will participate in a hearing on 'Trade and Food Security' held by the Committee for International Trade at the European Parliament in Brussels.

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Overview

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School class in China,
Photograph: S. Brosig

How vision influences learning

In June 2013, a project of the Rural Education Action Program (REAP) with the title 'Seeing is Learning: Vision Care Services for Migrant Youth' has been started. This currently one year cooperation project is conducted by IAMO, the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University (USA), the Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China) and the Northwest Socioeconomic Development Research Center (China). Its starting point is the high number of Chinese schoolchildren with poor vision who lack

adequate visual aids. By working with teachers, the project aims to measure the vision problems of schoolchildren in rural China, will analyse the impact of those problems on student performance and take this as a basis for improving ophthalmologic care. Besides for advising the relevant national authorities the scientific results shall also be presented on conferences and in medical training centers. Stiftung der Deutschen Ophthalmologischen Gesellschaft/Gesellschaft für Augenheilkunde (AUGE) sponsors this international project with US\$ 13,000.

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Information stand at the Parliamentary Evening,
Photograph: D. Schimming

Research for a healthy diet

At the Parliamentary Evening 'Health in demographic change' held by the Leibniz Association on 4 June 2013 in Berlin, visitors were able to inform themselves about current IAMO research projects on health issues. One of the projects we presented looks at the demand for dietary quality within the Russian population. The empirical analysis of this project provides valuable information on Russians' dietary quality choices as well as factors influencing these choices. Such information is an important requirement for identifying promising approaches targeting the prevention of diet-related chronic diseases. Within the scope of a joint project by the ScienceCampus Halle (WCH), IAMO researchers explore the potential of grains rich in anthocyanins for a healthier diet. Anthocyanins are chemical compounds that occur naturally in many plants and can, as part of one's diet, reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases. This project involves consumer behaviour analyses in Germany and Russia in order to test the potential consumers' willingness to pay for grain products with increased anthocyanin contents. The research is supervised and conducted by Thomas Glauben, Stephan Brosig, Ramona Teuber, Viola Bruschi, Christine Burggraf and Irina Dolgoplova.

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FORUM 2013
JUNE 19-21
Rural Areas in Transition

IAMO Forum 2013



IAMO Forum, Photograph:
T. Jung

From 19 to 21 June 2013, IAMO and the Thünen Institute (TI) jointly hold the IAMO Forum 2013 'Rural Areas in Transition: Services of General Interest, Entrepreneurship and Quality of Life' in Halle (Saale). The conference will examine the role of public and private agents in shaping the living conditions in rural areas, focusing on Eastern Europe, the Former Soviet Union and Asia. In altogether 3 plenary and 19 parallel sessions, high ranking scientists will discuss current research results. The conference concludes with a panel discussion between policymakers, scientists and representatives of rural networks. The IAMO Forum 2013 is supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Rentenbank, the Marga and Kurt Möllgaard Foundation, the Ministry of Sciences and Economic Affairs of Saxony-Anhalt as well as the city of Halle. [Click here to see the program.](#)

IAMO Forum 2013

Rural Areas in Transition: Services of General Interest, Entrepreneurship and

Quality of Life
19 -21 June 2013, Halle (Saale)
www.iamo.de/forum/2013

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Grain silo in Russia,
Photograph: M. Petrick

Large Farm Management 2013

The IV. International conference 'Large Farm Management: Organization and Strategy' is held on 19 September 2013 in Kiev, Ukraine. The conference is organized by the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club Association, supported by IAMO and the working group of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA). In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Europe, the conference is regarded as the top event in the field of large farm management. It will focus on such topics as global agricultural development, efficient organization in agriculture, prerequisites for attracting investments and introduction of modern technologies. The conference will be attended by speakers from agricultural companies from Brazil, Canada, USA, Russia, Kazakhstan, EU countries and Ukraine. [Click here for more detailed information and online-registration.](#)

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German Bundestag,
Reichstag building in Berlin,
Photograph: D. Schimming

IAMO researchers at the German Bundestag

Within the scope of 'Leibniz at the Bundestag', organized by the Leibniz Association, Daniel Müller and Florian Schierhorn met Josef Rief, MP and member of the Committee on Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, on 15 May 2013 in Berlin. They discussed new research results concerning the potentials of agricultural production in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The IAMO researchers referred to the region's considerable potentials to increase both cultivated areas and cereal yields. Yet, these potentials are still insufficiently utilized due to economic and structural obstacles. Talks focused on problems in agricultural management and the unequal market power of players. They also centered on the future prospects of agriculture in the RUK countries including tradeoffs in relation to the recultivation of abandoned land in view of greenhouse gas emissions, opportunities for raising agricultural efficiency and intelligent strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

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Managing directors,
Photograph: T. Jung

Amendment of the management responsibility

In November 2012 the IAMO Foundation Council has passed an amendment of the institute's executive board. Consequently all directors of the institute, currently Professor Alfons Balmann, Professor Thomas Glauben, Professor Thomas Herzfeld and Hannelore Zerjeski, are executive directors with equal rights and joint responsibility. An executive board of the executive director and administrative director, as in the past, does not exist anymore. The amended IAMO Statutes have become effective with its publication in Bulletin LSA No. 3 of 28 January 2013.

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Bente Castro Campos and
Martin Petrick, Photograph:
N. Baisakova

Doctorate degree

In April 2013, Bente Castro Campos successfully completed her doctorate degree with a thesis on 'Human Capital Differences or Labor Market Discrimination? The Occupational Outcomes of Ethnic Minorities in Rural Guizhou (China)'. The results of her thesis indicate that employers are not directly prejudiced against ethnic minorities as such but that prejudices are rather linked to other factors such as poorer education, insufficient proficiency in Mandarin, or cultural differences. During her five years of research, Bente Castro Campos has been supervised by IAMO researcher Martin Petrick and Ildikó Bellér-Hann from the University of Copenhagen.

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Photograph: fotolia

Vacancy

IAMO has a job vacancy to fill. The department of Structural Development of Farms and Rural Areas seeks for its working group 'Entrepreneurial Strategies and Organization' with an outstanding senior researcher or post-doctoral.

IAMO awards the status of IAMO Research Fellows to excellent scientists. Application deadline is on 1 July 2013. [For detailed descriptions please see here.](#)

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New publications

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IAMO Studies

Epelstejn, E. (2013): Effizienz russischer Geflügelfleischproduzenten - Entwicklung und Determinanten. Studies on the Agricultural and Food Sector in Central and Eastern Europe, Vol. 70, Halle (Saale). [Download](#)

Meyer, W. (2013): Motives for remitting from Germany to Kosovo. Studies

on the Agricultural and Food Sector in Central and Eastern Europe, Vol. 69, Halle (Saale). [Download](#)

Further selected publications

Balmann, A., Larsen, K., Mußhoff, O. (2013): Investment Reluctance in Supply Chains: An Agent-Based Real Options Approach, *Journal of Mathematical Finance*, No. 3, S.1-10.

Curtiss, J., Jelinek, L., Hruška, M., Medonos, T., Vilhelm, V. (2013): The Effect of Heterogeneous Buyers on Agricultural Land Prices: The Case of the Czech Land Market, *German Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 62, No. 2, pp. 116-133. [Weblink](#)

Freier, M., Petrick, M., Glaben, T. (2013): Aspekte der Agrarpolitik 2012, *German Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 62, No. Supplement, S.1-11.

Garrod, G., Raley, M., Aznar, O., Baqueiro, O., Barreteau, O., Gomez, M., Schaft, F., Turpin, N. (2013): Engaging stakeholders through participatory modelling, *Proceedings of the ICE – Engineering Sustainability*, Vol. 166, No. 2, S.75-84.

Herzfeld, T. (2013): Welternährung: notwendige Produktivitätssteigerungen bei gleichzeitig heterogener Nachfrage, in: Olaf Christen, Georg Erhardt, Heinz Flessa, Uwe Latacz-Lohmann, Karl H. Mühling, Joachim Müller und Rainer Waldhardt (Hrsg.): *Schriftreihe Agrarspectrum des DAF Band 46, (Klimawandel und Extremwetterereignisse: ein Problem für die Landwirtschaft?, Braunschweig, 7.-8.11.2012), S.149-160.*

Hüttel, S., Odening, M., Larsen, K., Balmann, A. (2013): Price Formation on Land Market Auctions in East Germany – An Empirical Analysis, *German Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 62, No. 2, S.99-115.

Müller, D., Leitão, P., Sikor, T. (2013): Comparing the determinants of cropland abandonment in Albania and Romania using boosted regression trees, *Agricultural Systems*, No. 117, S.66-77.

Perekhozhuk, O., Hockmann, H., Fertő, I., Bakucs, Z. (2013): Identification of Market Power in the Hungarian Dairy Industry: A Plant-Level Analysis, *Journal of Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization*, Vol. 11, No. 1, S.1-13. [Weblink](#)

Petrick, M., Freier, M. (2013): Ausländische Arbeitskräfte in der sächsischen Landwirtschaft, in: Christoph Albrecht, Ulrike Bönewitz, Martina Kugler, Sächsisches Landesamt für Umwelt, Landwirtschaft und Geologie (Hrsg.): *Arbeitskräfte in der Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft, Schriftenreihe des LfULG (Heft 4/2013), Dresden, 15.03.2013., S.58-80.*

Petrick, M., Wandel, J., Karsten, K. (2013): Rediscovering the Virgin Lands: Agricultural investment and rural livelihoods in a Eurasian frontier area, *World Development*, Vol. 43, No. 3, S.164-179. [Weblink](#)

Sun, Z., Müller, D. (2013): A framework for modeling payments for ecosystem services with agent-based models, Bayesian belief networks and opinion dynamics models, *Environmental Modelling & Software*, Vol. 45, S.15-28. [Weblink](#)

Valentinov, V. (2012): The economics of the nonprofit sector: insights from the institutionalism of John R. Commons, *Social Science Journal*, Vol. 49, No. 4, S.545-553.

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