

Edition 4/2014, 18 December 2014



IAMO celebrated its 20th anniversary. Photo: Markus Scholz

IAMO successfully hosts its 20th anniversary celebration

IAMO celebrated its 20th anniversary on November 20th, with many high-ranking guests conveying their congratulations at the ceremony. Alongside staff and alumni, representatives from the scientific, political and business spheres were invited. After the opening speech of IAMO Director Thomas Glauben, several well-wishers praised the outstanding work of the Institute as well as the fruitful cooperation with its research partners. The Prime Minister of Saxony-Anhalt, Reiner Haseloff, spoke of IAMO's contribution to the internationalization of Saxony-Anhalt. Leibniz President Matthias Kleiner commended IAMO for being an almost ideal Leibniz Institute, one which explores interdisciplinary topics of high social relevance. Furthermore, Robert Kloos, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Udo Sträter, Rector of the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg and Bernd Wiegand, Lord Major of the city of Halle, offered congratulations in their greeting speeches at IAMO's 20th anniversary. IAMO Director Alfons Balmann referred to the special position of IAMO, as one of its kind worldwide unique Institute whose topics are of nationwide relevance. After the ceremonial addresses, Johan Swinnen, Professor of Development Economics at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Xiaohua Yu, Professor for Agricultural Economics in Developing and Transition Countries at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, and IAMO Director Thomas Herzfeld opened a panel discussion with the subject "Challenges for a sustainable development of transition countries' agriculture and food sector", which included strong participation by the audience. The panel discussion was moderated by the agricultural economist Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel from Göttingen.

*Please visit our website for further information.
Photos of the event can be viewed here.*

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Overview

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GLOBAL FORUM FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

GFFA Expert Panel Discussion 2015



International guests at the GFFA-Panel Discussion 2014. Photo: Frank Nürnberger

During the International Green Week 2015 in Berlin, IAMO will present an expert panel discussion about "Value chain driven development of rural areas in Eastern Europe – perspectives for food, fuel and fibre", which is jointly organized by the German Agribusiness Alliance and the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations. The speakers included in the expert panel on Thursday, 15 January will focus on the potential of agricultural production in Eastern Europe. Even though Russia's southern regions, as well as central Ukrainian regions, are already successfully realizing the opportunities provided by modern production technologies, they are still losing ground due to demographic change and the breakdown of rural infrastructure. The speakers will discuss the opportunities and obstacles for the development of rural areas in Eastern Europe and their participation in the growing global demand for food, energy and raw materials from a value chain perspective as it relates to food, fuel and fibre.

Furthermore, IAMO researchers will be available to answer your questions at the cooperation market on Saturday 17 January from 9am-3pm.

*Expert Panel Discussion
at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) 2015*
**Value chain driven development of rural areas in Eastern Europe –
perspectives for food, fuel and fibre**
15 January 2015 | 3.30-5.30 pm
CityCube Berlin, Germany | Level 3 | RoomM2/M3
www.gffa-berlin.de

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FORUM 2015

JUNE 17-19
Agriculture and Climate Change

IAMO Forum 2015



IAMO Forum. Photo: Johannes Findeis

"Agriculture and climate Change in Transition Economies" is the title of the IAMO Forum 2015, which will be held from 17-19 June in Halle (Saale), Germany. The three-day conference will explore questions on how climate change influences global agricultural production. The international conference will feature three plenary sessions, six parallel sessions and a moderated panel discussion. Pete Smith (University of Aberdeen) and Maximilian Auffhammer (UC Berkeley) will open the first plenary session with the topic "Regional assessments of impacts and options for mitigation and adaptation". The aim of the first day is to better understand mitigation opportunities and anticipated possible effects, and to assess the resilience of agricultural production systems under climate change in transition countries. Day two focuses on "Farm-level and case study insights". The two panel speakers, Vladmimir Romanenko and Jikun Huang will discuss the impact of climate scenarios on crop yields and the costs of mitigation and adaptation on farm and agribusiness levels. The last day of the Forum is dedicated to "Opportunities and challenges of climate-smart agriculture", during which Leslie Lipper from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Hermann Lotze-Campen of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) will debate the opportunities of putting climate-smart agriculture into practice in a moderated plenary discussion. The IAMO Forum 2015 is jointly organized by IAMO, PIK and the [Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations](#). Please visit the [conference website](#) for further information.

IAMO Forum 2015
Agriculture and Climate Change in Transition Economies
17-19 June 2015 | Halle (Saale)
www.iamo.de/forum/2015

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VolkswagenStiftung

The steppes of Kazakhstan: Conservation or Agriculture?



Kazakh steppe. Photo:
Martin Petrick

The steppes of Kazakhstan have a large, currently untapped agricultural potential, which can make an important contribution to global food security. At the same time, the expansion of agriculture competes with the renaturation of the unique steppe ecosystem of Kazakhstan. The aim of the three-year project funded by the VolkswagenStiftung called BALTRAK (Balancing trade-offs between agriculture and biodiversity in the steppes of Kazakhstan) will be to find strategies that combine agriculture and biodiversity preservation. Daniel Müller and Florian Schierhorn from IAMO will cooperate with researchers from the Universität Münster, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan and the Karaganda State University from Kazakhstan to understand the links between land use, fire, and biodiversity, and to explore potentials for increasing agricultural production. The final goal of the BALTRAK project will be to develop strategies to reconcile agriculture and biodiversity, and to contribute to the development of protected areas in Central Asia. [Further information is available on the project website.](#)

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Photo: Fotolia

New DFG project on price competition in land lease markets

In November 2014, the German research Foundation (DFG) approved the financing of the project "A spatial-dynamic approach to land lease markets". In the three-year project Marten Graubner and Alfons Balmann want to make the specific properties of lease markets more tangible with the help of a computer-aided simulation model. The basis for this is found in theory-oriented research on the factors of pricing on land lease markets and their impact on the competitive behavior of tenants. In addition to the development of a suitable simulation model, the expansion of the theoretical framework is intended to contribute to a better understanding of these complex markets.

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Improving product information access for people with visual impairment

IAMO Director Thomas Glauben and the researchers Viola Bruschi, Ramona Teuber and Nadine Wettstein aim to understand how information and communication technologies (ICT) can be used to improve product information access, specifically for food products, for people with visual impairment (VI). The new project "Barrierefrei

Photo: Fotolia

informieren – informiert konsumieren" began on 1 September 2014. The study will last six months and is funded by the Gemeinschaft Deutscher Blindenfreunde von 1860 Moon'scher Blindenhilfsverein e.V., together with IAMO. Attitudes toward ICT, its adoption for purchasing and selecting food products are investigated. The study provides insights on VI consumers' food shopping habits, as well as factors affecting their food choices and their current ability to access food product information. On the one hand, the findings suggest that at this stage, technological solutions (i.e. mobile phone apps, computer) do not provide effective support for VI consumers regarding recognition and access to foodstuff information. On the other hand, they indicate a high willingness to use ICT and they provide empirically-grounded recommendations that can lead to the future improvement of such tools.

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Interim results of the COMPETE project meeting

The COMPETE project meeting and 2nd COMPETE workshop took place on 26 and 27 November 2014 at the Department of Economics of the Czech University of Life and Science, Prague. In a lively discussion, roundtable speakers indicated the missed income opportunities of Czech agriculture, which are caused by the cheap export of unprocessed primary products. After the interim results of COMPETE project were presented to a broad audience in the open COMPETE workshop sessions, a roundtable with representatives from policy and industry completed the first day of the meeting. Invited speakers were Jiří Kopáček of the Dairy Union of Bohemian and Moravian, Josef Kameník, of the University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Jindrich Fialka of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic. The guests provided their views on the perspective on the competitiveness of the European food chain. Much to the regret of the representatives, mostly bulk products are exported from the Czech Republic, processed in neighbouring countries, and the reimported. Thus, the Czech agri-food industry loses out on a large share of value added. One solution is to help farmers and processors from programs to promote PDO/PGI for traditionally and locally produced foods, and educating consumer about their benefits via advertising campaigns.

For more information please see www.compete-project.eu

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IAMO Policy Brief No. 20.
Photo: Ralf Kircheis

IAMO Policy Brief No. 20 offers insights into options trading in agricultural futures markets

IAMO Policy Brief No. 20 is titled "Options trading in agricultural futures markets: A reasonable instrument of risk hedging, or a driver of agricultural price volatility?" Option trading in volatile agricultural markets is becoming increasingly important. The possibilities for farmers and grain dealers are significant for hedging their costs and risks. However, there are fears that this option trading causes increasing volatility for the prices of raw agricultural material, which has not yet been confirmed by empirical analysis. Beyond this, the business with the "puts" and "calls" offers a specific embodiment of futures trading by saving parts of the price risks. Option trading becomes an reasonable and important risk-management instrument for both farmers and grain dealers.

The publication can be downloaded from the IAMO website free of charge. IAMO Policy Brief No. 20 is available in [English](#) and [German](#).

If you are interested in receiving the IAMO Policy Briefs in future directly, please send an e-mail with your contact details to presse@iamo.de, indicating if you prefer the print or digital version.

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IAMO PhD students with hosts from Georgia. Photo: IAMO

IAMO PhD students on scientific field trip to Georgia

As part of a scientific field trip a group of PhD students traveled from 22-26 September to Georgia to discuss agricultural development in the transformation environment with local experts. During the visit the students organized with the help of the [State University of Tbilisi \(ISET\)](#) a series of informative panel discussions that included participation by representatives of the [German Society for International Cooperation \(GIZ\)](#), the [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#), the EU delegation in Georgia and the farmers Association of Georgia. In addition to trends in the Georgian agriculture the scientists discussed the Association Agreement with the EU, foreign direct investments and tourism in rural areas.

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Chinese delegation visits IAMO. Photo: Lena Kuhn

Visitors from the Far East

On 29 October, Stephan Brosig, Lena Kuhn, Florian Schierhorn and Zhanli Sun welcomed a group of Chinese agricultural researchers at IAMO. The nine-member team from [Shihezi University](#) located in the northwest Chinese province of Xinjiang showed a lively interest in the work of IAMO, especially for the research approaches that estimate food production potentials, as well as how research is organized in Germany. In addition, members of the China International Research Group were invited for a return visit. The Shihezi University is a young institution and belongs to the group of "National Key Universities" of China. About 40,000 students from over 30 provinces and regions study agricultural science, medicine, or law at Shihezi.

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Visit to Sichuan. Photo: IAMO

IAMO researchers appointed as visiting professors of Sichuan Agricultural University

Invited by [Sichuan Agricultural University \(SAU\)](#), IAMO Director Alfons Balmann, as well as Daniel Müller and Zhanli Sun visited Sichuan, China, from 10-16 November 2014. During the visit, IAMO researchers gave four lectures in the Sino-Germany Academic Report Series and visited livestock farms, cooperatives and meat processing factories. The researchers also discussed future collaboration in research and teaching with Shuguang Wang, the vice president of the SAU, Wenkuan Chen, Yuansheng Jiang, the dean and deputy dean, respectively, of the School of Economics and Management, and other scientists of SAU. Professor Balmann was appointed as visiting professor of SAU; Daniel Müller and Zhanli Sun were appointed as visiting professors of the School of Economics and

Management. This was the first official visit of IAMO researchers to SAU after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two institutes earlier this year.

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Photo: Fotolia

Personalia

Quiran Zhao successfully defended his dissertation on "Essays on education and pension policies in rural China" on 3 November. After his PhD at IAMO Zhao is now working at the College of Economics & Management of China Agricultural University in Beijing. +++ In addition to his research work at IAMO **Vladislav Valentinov** is now Adjunct Professor at the ESSCA School of Management in Angers, France. +++ On 1 November **Ralf Kircheis** joined the Public Relations team at IAMO.

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Season's Greetings

This is the last edition of the IAMO Newsletter in 2014. We would like to thank you for your interest and wish you and your family a happy holiday season, with good health and lots of success in 2015.

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IAMO Annual 2015. Photo: Ralf Kircheis

New Publications

[all publications](#)

IAMO Annual 2014 [Download English](#)
IAMO Annual 2015 (So far available for [Download in German only](#))

IAMO Policy Brief

Glauben, T., Prehn, S., Dannemann, T., Brümmer, B., Loy, J.-P. (2014): Options trading in agricultural futures markets: A reasonable instrument of risk hedging, or a driver of agricultural price volatility? *IAMO Policy Brief No. 20*, Halle (Saale). [Download](#)

IAMO Discussion Paper

Hofman, I., Visser, O. (2014): Geographies of transition: The political and geographical factors of agrarian change in Tajikistan, *IAMO Discussion Paper No. 151*, Halle (Saale). [Download](#)

IAMO Studies

Djuric, I. (2014): Impact of policy measures on wheat-to-bread supply chain during the global commodity price peaks: the case of Serbia. *Studies on the Agricultural and Food Sector in Central and Eastern Europe*, Vol. 76, Halle (Saale). [Download](#)

Weitere ausgewählte Publikationen

Bobojonov, I., Götz, L., Perekhozhuk, O., Teuber, R., Glauben, T. (2014): Weizenmärkte in Zentralasien und im Kaukasus - Wie funktionieren sie?, *Forschungsreport (BMEL)*, No. 1, S.32-35.

Golovina, S., Hess, S., Nilsson, J., Wolz, A. (2014): Social Capital in Russian agricultural production co-operatives, *Post-Communist Economies*, Vol. 26, No. 4, pp. 522-536. [Link](#)

Götz, L., Djuric, I., Glaben, T. (2014): Bessere Ernten in Kasachstan, Russland und der Ukraine: Höhere Produktivität und weniger Protektionismus sind Schlüsselaufgaben, *ost-ausschuss-informationen*, No. 1+2, S.15.

Kopsidis, M., Dube, O., Franzmann, G. (2014): Die Entwicklung der sächsischen Pflanzenproduktion 1791-2010, *Zeitschrift für Agrargeschichte und Agrarsoziologie*, Jg. 62, Nr. 2, S. 56-79. [Link](#)

Loy, J.-P., Holm, T., Steinhagen, C., Glaben, T. (2014): Cost pass-through in differentiated product markets: a disaggregated study for milk and butter, *European Review of Agricultural Economics*. [Link](#)

Möllers, J., Meyer, W. (2014): The effects of migration on poverty and inequality in rural Kosovo, *IZA Journal of Labour and Development*, Vol. 3, No. 16, pp. 1-18. [Link](#)

Päll, Z., Perekhozhuk, O., Glaben, T., Prehn, S., Teuber, R. (2014): Residual Demand Measures of Market Power of Russian Wheat Exporters, *Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 45, No. 3, S.381-391.

Perekhozhuk, O. (Hrsg: APK-Inform) (2014): International sanctions and counter-sanctions of the Russian Federation: extent of their influence and economic consequences. [Link](#)

Petrick, M. (2014): Modernizing Russia's Cattle and Dairy Sectors under WTO Conditions: Insights from East Germany, *Mir Rossii (Universe of Russia)*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp. 125-147.

Serebrennikov, D. V., Götz, L., Glaben, T. (Hrsg.) (2014): Spatial integration of Russian domestic wheat markets. Paper prepared for presentation at the EAAE 2014 Congress, August 26-29, 2014, Ljubljana, Slovenia. [Link](#)

Schierhorn, F., Müller, D., Prishchepov, A., Faramarzi, M., Balmann, A. (2014): The potential of Russia to increase its wheat production through cropland expansion and intensification, *Global Food Security*, Vol. 3, No. Oktober. [Link](#)

Valentinov, V. (2014): K. William Kapp's theory of social costs: a Luhmannian interpretation, *Ecological Economics*, Vol. 97, No. 1, S.28-33. [Link](#)

Van Assche, K., Djanibekov, N., Hornidge, A.-K., Shtaltovna, A., Verschraegen, G. (2014): Rural development and the entwining of dependencies: Transition as evolving governance in Khorezm, *Uzbekistan, Futures*, Vol. 63, pp. 75-85. [Link](#)

Zhllima, E., Rama, K. (2014): Albanian Peasant Economy in the Aftermath of Property Rights Reforms - A Review of the 20th Century Tenure History, *Martor*, Vol. 19, pp. 75-88.

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