

Edition 1/2015, 10 March 2015



Working on a water canal in Uzbekistan. Photo: Nodir Djanibekov

New IAMO research project on Central Asia

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) founded a new IAMO research project titled "Agricultural Restructuring, Water Scarcity and the Adaption to Climate Change in Central Asia: A Five-Country Study" (AGRIWANET). Together with the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and international partners, IAMO researchers examine the connections between water availability and agriculture in Central Asia. The progression of climate change in Central Asia potentiates the challenges of water management in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Agriculture is a main water user in all these countries, and this sector continues to be important as a source of export revenue, domestic food security and income for rural inhabitants. The research project AGRIWANET unites scientists from all five Central Asian states and creates a transnational database for water management and agriculture under the direction of an international consortium guided from Germany. In addition, AGRIWANET will enable, for the first time, the construction of a chronicle for agricultural and water-related policies for all five Central Asian countries in the post-Soviet period. The project was initiated by IAMO in October 2014 and will continue until 2016. Further Information on AGRIWANET can be found [here](#) or on the [website](#).

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Overview

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Mapping migration decisions in rural Kazakhstan

A new project called "New Institutionalism and Bayesian Networks: Establishing an analytical framework to model migration decision making in rural Kazakhstan", has been funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and will start in April 2015. As an economic engine in Central Asia, Kazakhstan displays fascinating migration patterns, that have been partially politically motivated (i.e. immigration, emigration, return-migration and internal migration). IAMO Director Thomas

Herzfeld and Gertrud Buchenrieder from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg wish to investigate these migratory movements with the use of a new analytical research framework and a new method. The theory of sociological New Institutionalism, in conjunction with a Bayesian Network, allows the researchers to model the systematic complexity of migration decisions and to uncover the interweaving of various factors of migration. Herzfeld and Buchenrieder hope to not only advance migration research in the areas of theoretical and methodological development, but also to realize new empirical results. [Please click here for further Information.](#)

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Photo: ©FAO/Giulio Napolitano

IAMO strengthens FAO-initiated expert network

On 15 and 16 December IAMO researchers Linde Götz, Ihtiyor Bobojonov and Ivan Djuric took part at the inaugural meeting of a CIS Agricultural and Trade Policy Expert Network, on which IAMO Director Thomas Glauben also counts as a member. The network was formed with assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and aims to fill the knowledge gap on procedures governing international trade. IAMO participated in this inaugural meeting in Rome as the only Western European Institute, and together with international economists and legal experts helped develop a collective work plan for 2015-2016. As part of this collaboration Linde Götz and Ihtiyor Bobojonov will present a lecture at the first conference of the expert network on March 27th. The Lecture is entitled "Export restrictions for wheat in Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine". The conference will take place in Kaliningrad and focuses on integration processes in the CIS region and their implications for agricultural trade. Additional Information about the expert-network is available on [the website of the FAO](#). Photos from the inaugural meeting can be found [here](#).

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IAMO Forum 2014. Photo: Michael Deutsch

IAMO Forum 2015: Last chance for abstract submission

The IAMO Forum 2015 entitled "Agriculture and Climate Change in Transition Economies" will take place from 17-19 June 2015 in Halle (Saale). The Conference, jointly organized by IAMO and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), will focus on transition countries in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and East Asia. [Until 13 March researchers have the opportunity to submit abstracts.](#) The third day of the Forum, called "Opportunities and challenges of climate-smart agriculture" will take place in collaboration with the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA) and is funded by the Edmund Rehwinkel-Stiftung. During a plenary session Leslie Lipper from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Hermann Lotze-Campen from PIK will take a closer look at the approach of "Climate-Smart Agriculture". Subsequently, Volodymyr Lapa, Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food will debate, together with Georg Vierling, Südzucker International GmbH and Wolfgang Vogel, President of the Landesbauernverband e.V. in Saxonia, on the challenges and opportunities

for an efficient and adaptable agricultural production with reduced climate-effecting emissions. Franz-Georg von Busse from the German Agribusiness Alliance of OA will moderate the panel discussion. The third day of the IAMO Forum 2015 is free of charge and open for all interested participants. Simultaneous interpretation (English-German, German-English) will be provided.

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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Thomas Glauben. Photo:
Markus Scholz

„Leibniz Lessons“: Thomas Glauben speaks on financial speculation with agricultural commodities

IAMO Director Thomas Glauben will present a public speech on “Agricultural Speculation: useful or objectionable?” in Berlin on April 30th, 2015. In cooperation with Urania, the Leibniz Association has organized the lecture series titled “Leibniz Lessons”, in which selected scientists of the 89 national institutes can present their current research achievements and debates. The agricultural economist, Thomas Glauben will use his presentation to explain agricultural futures transactions, which came to the public’s attention in the context of the global food crisis. While critics condemn trading options due to a fear of rising food prices, some proponents point to the reward-stabilizing properties and the insurance function of agricultural futures trading. The IAMO Director will discuss the course of the debate and the state of scientific knowledge, and will illuminate the central causes of the world’s food problems.

Agricultural Speculation: useful or objectionable?

Lecture of Thomas Glauben as part of the event series “Leibniz Lessons”
30 April 2015 | 07.30 pm
Urania Berlin, An der Urania 17, 10787 Berlin
Admission free

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**GLOBAL
FORUM FOR FOOD AND
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Agricultural production potential in Eastern Europe

More than 150 guests attended the expert panel discussion titled “Value chain driven development of rural areas in Eastern Europe – perspectives for food, fuel and fibre”, which was held in the context of the “Global Forum for Food and Agriculture” (GFFA) on the occasion of the Green Week in Berlin on 15 January. The event was jointly organized by IAMO and the German Agribusiness Alliance, Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA). In their opening speeches, Thomas Kirchberg from OA and Dietrich Guth from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) categorized the development of value chains as a decisive factor for the development of rural areas. IAMO Director Thomas Herzfeld confirmed this from a scientific point of view. The deepening of value chains, which means greater processing and finishing of agricultural products locally, would lead to the economic diversification of rural areas. The Russian Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Aleksander Petrikov, stressed that agriculture was a strategic sector for Russia and that local production is



GFFA 2015. Photo:

government-funded to increase its market share. The need of specific action to promote seed markets was confirmed by Tatiana Gubina, Managing Director of the Russian Association of Potato and Vegetable Market Participants, founded in 2011. In addition to the strengthening of value chains, foreign direct investor in Russia Josef Tillmann, Tönnies Lebensmittel GmbH & Co. KG, underlined the importance of the employees' qualifications. Vladimir Rakhmanin, the FAO's Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, described the involvement of the FAO in Eastern Europe and Walter Stinner from the German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ) discussed the great potential and challenges of developing biogas plants in Russia. [Please click here for further information.](#)

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Dmytro Serebrennikov at the workshop. Photo: Ralf Kircheis

Workshop on global food security and food crisis

On 29 January 2015 an interdisciplinary workshop was held as part of the projects "MATRACC" and "GERUKA" in which IAMO scientists presented their latest research results in 9 lectures. The aim of the workshop was to promote an exchange between the two projects, which can supplement each other. While the project "GERUKA" analyzes the potential of unused grain surfaces and possibilities to increase productivity through technological progress, "MATRACC" explores the global food crisis and its impact on wheat markets and trade in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The workshop attracted 20 participants.

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Ivan Djuric. Photo: Markus Scholz

Ivan Djuric honored with Luther certificate

For his dissertation titled "Impact of policy measures on wheat-to-bread supply chain during the global commodity price peaks – The case of Serbia", Ivan Djuric obtained the doctorate with distinction of "summa cum laude" from the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg on 23 January 2015. In addition to awarding the degree by the rector of the university, Udo Sträter, the IAMO researcher was also honored with the Luther certificate for outstanding scientific achievements. In his work, Ivan Djuric examines the political interventions of Serbia, with respect to the increasing global prices for agricultural raw products. He analyses the question how governmental market interventions, like wheat export ban, impact price dynamics along the wheat-to-bread supply chain. Selected results of his dissertation have been published in the scientific journal "Agribusiness" (DOI: [10.1002/agr.21398](https://doi.org/10.1002/agr.21398)). Since 2009 Ivan Djuric has been working at IAMO and researches on agricultural trade policy measures and grain supply chains.

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IAMO Policy Briefs. Photo: Ralf Kircheis

IAMO Policy Briefs 21 and 22 published

IAMO Policy Brief 21 "Civil society organizations in rural areas: Not an invisible third party" (in German only) points out that civic engagement contributes to improving the productivity of agricultural holdings and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. As civil society organizations per definition do not belong to the for-profit sector, they cannot be adequately explained by neoclassically inspired approaches framed by the idea of efficiency and maximization. Rather, appreciating these organizations' role in sustainable development calls for heterodox thinking. Amongst others, the following articles on the topic are available in English: 'Toward an economics of the rural third sector' by Constantine Iliopoulos and Vladislav Valentinov, and 'Understanding the rural third sector: insights from Veblen and Bogdanov' by Vladislav Valentinov. For more publications also see [here](#).

IAMO Policy Brief 22 "The ruble crisis and the Russian grain export controls" examines the consequences on recent policy interventions in the agricultural foreign trade of Russia. Since 1 February 2015, Russia has placed additional tax on wheat exports to counteract the increase in domestic wheat prices and to stabilize bread prices. The authors, Thomas Glauben, Linde Götz and Ulrich Koester, refer to recent past experiences, that show that grain export restrictions in various countries such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Russia itself only slightly or not at all dampened the bread prices and show no significant reductions for the consumer. Rather, they discourage investment in the for Russia strategically important grain sector and slow down the production and trade of grain. This counteracts the adequate assurance for the Russian population with food. Direct financial support to the vulnerable groups in adaption to high consumer prices represents a more efficient and cost-effective instrument in long term.

The publications are freely available for downloading on the IAMO webpage. Policy Brief 21 is available in [German](#), while Policy Brief 22 is available in [German](#) and [English](#).

Are you interested in receiving the print or the PDF versions of IAMO Policy Briefs in future? Please send an e-mail with your contact details and your preferred format to press@iamo.de

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Personalia

IAMO Researcher **Daniel Müller** has been appointed as Editorial Member for the Journal "Sustainability". The interdisciplinary Open-Access-Journal is dedicated to the ecological, cultural, economic and social sustainability, and is published monthly [online](#). +++ The renowned "Journal of Economic Issues" has elected **Vladislav Valentinov** to join the Editorial Board. The Journal founded in 1967, represents an important forum for international economic discourse. +++ On 1 February 2015 IAMO Director **Alfons Balmann** was reappointed as member of the scientific Advisory Board on Agricultural policy, Nutrition and Consumer Health Protection (formerly known as The Scientific Advisory Board on Agricultural Policy) by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. +++ Furthermore, **Alfons Balmann** was elected as chairman of the DLG Committee "Development of rural areas", deputy chairman became IAMO Alumni **Arlette Ostermeyer**. +++ **Alexander Prishchepov** became appointed as an Associate Professor at the Geoscience and Natural Resources Management at the University of Copenhagen on 15 December 2014. The Scientist will stay with IAMO as a research fellow. +++ On 2 February 2015 **Zsombor Páll** has successfully defended his dissertation on "Three essays on the Russian wheat export".

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News Publications

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IAMO Policy Brief

Chatalova, L., Valentinov, V. (2015): Zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen auf dem Land: Kein unsichtbarer Dritter, Nr. 21, Halle (Saale).

[Download German](#)

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Studies

Loy, J.-P. (Hrsg: IAMO) (2014): Marktwirtschaftliche Koordination: Möglichkeiten und Grenzen, Symposium anlässlich des 75. Geburtstages von Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ulrich Koester, *Studies on the agricultural and food sector in Central and Eastern Europe*, Bd. 77, Halle (Saale). [Link](#)

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Balgah, R. A., Buchenrieder, G. (2014): The Impacts of Natural Disasters on Smallholder Agriculture in Rural Cameroon, *American Journal of Experimental Agriculture*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 233-243. [Link](#)

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Vol. 5, No. 12, pp. 3257-3273. [Link](#)

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Perekhozhuk, O., Glauben, T., Teuber, R., Grings, M. (2015): Regional-Level Analysis of Oligopsony Power in the Ukrainian Dairy Industry, *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 63, No. 1, pp. 43-76. [Link](#)

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Unay Gailhard, I., Kataria, K. (2014): Economic crisis and labour force transition to inactivity: a comparative study in German rural and urban areas, *Studies in Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 116, No. 1, pp. 25-32. [Link](#)

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