

Vacancy Announcement



The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) and Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), both in Halle (Saale), Germany, in conjunction with Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIIAME) in Uzbekistan as well as the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) in Almaty, Kazakhstan, announce the establishment of an innovative

Structured Doctoral Programme on “Sustainable Agricultural Development in Central Asia” ([SUSADICA](#))

that is financially supported by the Volkswagen Foundation in Germany and the Ministry of Innovative Development as well as the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The academic consortium invites applications for

10 PhD positions in the areas of agricultural economics, development studies and geography

for 36 months periods. Extension by another 12 months is optional and conditional on performance. Expected starting date is by 1 October 2018 or as soon as positions are filled.

Given the fundamental importance of agriculture for sustainable development in Central Asia, the SUSADICA Doctoral Programme pursues cutting edge research on the three dimensions of **economic, social and ecological sustainability** and creates a challenging, collaborative research environment for doctoral researchers based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Programme intends to act as a model for higher standards of doctoral education, international networking and academic output for other disciplines and universities throughout Central Asia. Current [research areas](#) include (1) farm restructuring & labour relations, (2) agricultural innovation & technology, (3) agricultural policy, (4) environmental change & agriculture, and (5) water governance.

Students will spend approximately half of each year in Germany and the other half in Central Asia. During their time in Germany, students work with their German supervisors on their research concept and receive intensive training in relevant theories and methods. During their time in Central Asia, they will conduct field research in

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan, participate in selected training modules or outreach events and contribute to academic life at TIIAME in Tashkent.

MLU is the principal alma mater for the PhD students in Germany, and TIIAME for the PhD students in Uzbekistan. All students are expected to achieve a level of sophistication that allows them to successfully pass a doctoral defence in Germany. All students will report to a supervisor based at one of the German partner institutions. The most suitable formal supervision arrangement will be determined on an individual basis. All training and research will be conducted in English language.

We expect:

1. Master's degree or equivalent in agricultural economics, development studies, environmental sciences, geography, or related fields;
2. Knowledge of the agricultural sector and rural development in Central Asia;
3. Proven experience in planning, designing and implementing field research and data analysis;
4. Flexibility and interest in primary data collection, e.g. via farm and household surveys or qualitative work in the study regions;
5. Strong commitment to research;
6. Fluency in English reading, writing and presentation;
7. Communication skills in Russian and Central Asian languages are desirable;
8. Openness to integrate into international and multidisciplinary team work;
9. Research experience in Central Asia and in the proposed research topic is of advantage.

Our [research areas:](#)

1 Farm restructuring & labour relations (Supervisors: Martin Petrick, Ibragim Ganiev)

This area engages in a comprehensive analysis of the interplay of land, labour and output markets that are hypothesised to enable or inhibit the structural transformation of agriculture and its long-term economic, social and environmental impact. Based on farm survey data, it identifies the past and present drivers of labour arrangements, including political imperatives, market requirements, and determinants rooting in the natural and technical environment. Expertise of applicants in microeconomic theory and microeconomic methods is desirable.

2 Agricultural innovations & technology (Supervisors: Nodir Djanibekov, Golib Sanaev)

Working with the project team the PhD students in this area investigate the determinants of farmers' innovation adoption decisions and technology diffusion under different macro-institutional conditions in irrigated areas of Central Asia. The menu of innovations ranges from (but is not limited to) high-yielding varieties of crops, soil and water conservation technologies up to adoption of cotton harvesters. The research integrates quantitative and qualitative methods and the collection of primary and secondary data for a cross-country comparison of innovation adoption decisions. Expertise of applicants in microeconomic theory and econometric methods as well as a few years of experience of empirical research in Central Asia is desirable.

3 *Agricultural policy (Supervisors: Thomas Herzfeld, Shavkat Hasanov)*

The agricultural sector's development within the five Central Asian countries depends on natural conditions, factor endowments as well as national agricultural as well as other economic policies. These policies range from rather liberal in some countries and areas to rather restrictive in others. Applicants in the research area agricultural policy will work on political economic aspects of policy instrument choice and analyse the role of policies for agricultural development. The candidates are expected to have a sound understanding of economic theories as well as knowledge of econometric methods and relevant software.

4 *Environmental change & agriculture (Supervisors: Daniel Müller, Farhad Ahrorov)*

This research area focuses on interdisciplinary research at the intersection of geography, resource economics, and sustainability science. In particular, we welcome applications that deal with identifying pathways to sustainable land use or effects of environmental changes on agricultural production using tools such as spatial statistics, spatial simulations, or regression analysis. The candidates are expected to be able to work with spatial data, have strong quantitative skills, and a proven interest and pre-existing knowledge in issues surrounding natural resource management.

5 *Water governance (Supervisors: Insa Theesfeld, Iskandar Abdullaev)*

This research area focuses on the use and governance of water resources in Central Asia, with particular attention to institutional arrangements on various—international (transboundary), national, sub-national (province) and local (water user associations, farms)—levels of water governance. Sustainability in water governance and linkages with other resource systems such as land will be analysed by examining established formal rules and informal norms, including property rights analysis following Elinor Ostrom, and the role of information, knowledge and capacity for effective multi-level governance and decentralization procedures in the agricultural water sector. Diplomacy and tactful communication skills with a range of actors from ministry to local farm levels, readiness for social field research, and interest in operationalizing property rights theory and institutional change perspectives will be an asset. Educational background in institutional economics and governance of natural resources is desirable for this research area, background in law, economics, sociology, international relations or closely related fields will also be considered.

We offer:

1. A unique research and qualification opportunity within a team of young scientists;
2. Participation in the German Doctoral Certificate Programme in Agricultural Economics (www.agraroekonomik.de) with teaching in English language;
3. Organisational and financial support to the collection of relevant data in the region;
4. Support to model development, data analysis, simulations and thesis write-up;
5. Financial support to participation in international and regional academic conferences;
6. Support to the preparation of publications for topical peer-reviewed journals.
7. Preferential access to accommodation in Halle and Tashkent.

The Doctoral Programme is open to applicants of any nationality. Successful applicants obtain a scholarship equivalent to 1400,- EUR/month (tax exempt, excluding health

insurance) to cover living costs during their stay in Germany, for up to 18 months. For the time spent in Central Asia, a scholarship to cover local living costs will be provided. Financial support to travel and data collection is available on top of the scholarship. IAMO is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from female candidates. Disabled persons with equal qualifications will be given preference.

Application

Interested candidates should send a set of application documents in English language that include:

1. Letter of motivation (maximum 2 pages), please explain your specific research interests and indicate your preference concerning one of the five [SUSADICA research areas](#) described before;
2. Curriculum vitae;
3. Copies of all relevant transcripts and certificates of bachelor, master or equivalent courses as well as English language certificates, if the Master thesis was not written in English;
4. Electronic copies of your master/diploma thesis and (co-) authored scientific publications, if available;
5. Names and contact information of two academic referees.

This set of application documents should be sent by e-mail as a single pdf-file to Prof. Dr. Martin Petrick (susadica@iamo.de). The total size of the single pdf-file should not exceed 5 MB.

IAMO (<http://www.iamo.de>) is a public research institute that pursues basic and applied research in the field of agricultural economics. It is a member of the Leibniz Association, a German network of non-university research institutes.

As the oldest and largest university in Saxony-Anhalt, **MLU** (<http://uni-halle.de>) offers a wide range of academic subjects in the areas of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and medicine. Today the university has around 20,000 students and 340 professors.

Founded in 1923, **TIAME** is one of the oldest research institutions in Uzbekistan (<http://www.tiame.uz>). Currently, it is also one of the most innovative in the area of agricultural development, as it just recently opened an Innovations and Research Cluster on campus.

CAREC (<https://www.carececo.org>) is a unique platform bringing together and uniting efforts of various regional actors including environmental community, governments, regional and international organisations, financial institutions, business sector and academia to jointly address environmental issues.

Closing date for the application is **31 July 2018**. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview via email.

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