

# Baku Conference | Call for Submissions

## Agriculture Trade and Foreign Investments for Sustainable Regional Integration in Caucasus and Central Asia

6-7 September 2018 | Baku | Azerbaijan



### Background

The recent years witnessed profound socioeconomic changes in Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Several reforms such as economic diversification and bilateral trade agreements were implemented in order to achieve economic diversification and make the economies robust to external shocks and fluctuations in oil prices. Especially Caucasus and Central Asian countries are considering to increase bilateral trade between each other as one of the best possible strategy to overcome the negative effects of Russian economic slowdown and low gas and oil prices. Organized delegation visits between the countries and agreements in rail cargo transits are considered to be one of the important instruments to boost bilateral trade between the countries.

Agricultural export is considered as one of the fields which can be potentially increased in short time horizons. Although considerable achievements have been made in the agricultural sectors of these countries, supply chains and trade infrastructure needs to be further developed in order to allow for a boost of agricultural exports. Therefore, these countries nowadays are inviting international investors to support in the development of export infrastructure, including processing, packaging, storage and certification. So far, there is a lack of scientific literature towards the developments on these markets, general investment climate as well as possible opportunities for agricultural trade. Therefore, this conference will facilitate the discussion of these reforms in agricultural trade and emerging investment opportunities and serves as a platform for information exchange between regional and international experts.

### Conference structure and topics

The conference provides opportunity for knowledge exchange to junior and senior researchers as well as policy makers from Caucasus and Central Asia. Furthermore, also researchers from Europe and other countries are invited to present the results of their studies and participate in the discussions. The conference is organized in close cooperation with the Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER) under the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan.

The research results and project finding related to following topics will be discussed:

- Options for facilitating intra-regional and international trade of agricultural commodities
- Food security and availability under conditions of regional disputes
- Policy regulation and trade distortions
- Transformation of supply chains under global and regional integration policies
- Productivity and efficiency of agricultural production
- Effect of climate change on rural livelihoods
- Risk management and agricultural insurance
- Impact of production technologies on agricultural production
- Foreign direct investments, especially in agricultural sector

**Conference language**            The official conference language is English.

### **Call for extended abstract and essays**

We request the submission of extended abstracts with up to 1,000 words to [baku.conference@iamo.de](mailto:baku.conference@iamo.de) until 11 May 2018. The document should include an abstract of up to 150 words plus a concise summary of the major research questions, data and methods, findings and key literature.

All contributed paper proposals will go through a peer review. Notification of selected proposals for an oral presentation will be sent by 12 June 2018.

### **Important dates and deadlines**

11 May 2018	Deadline for paper submission (extended abstracts)
12 June 2018	Notification of accepted papers
23 July 2018	Deadline for registration
6-7 September 2018	Conference

### **Registration and funding opportunities**

The fee for participation in the conference is 60 euros, which mainly covers the conference catering and field trips. IAMO provides conference grants for selected participants. This grant includes travel and accommodations as well as a conference waiver.

Applications for the travel/accommodation grants should be sent to [baku.conference@iamo.de](mailto:baku.conference@iamo.de) with short CV and a cover letter explaining your motivation to apply for funding.

### **Visa for Azerbaijan**

The participants of the conference will receive an official visa support letter from Institute for Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER), which is one of the main organizers in Azerbaijan.

### **Conference location and field trip**

The conference will be held in ancient city of Baku in Azerbaijan in the conference facilities of the Scientific Research on Economic Reforms (ISRER). Guided tour to the historical city of Baku, especially with the detailed focus on the role of Great Silk Road in trade and regional cooperation will be provided.

### **Contact**

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### **Funding**

The conference is financially supported by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The logo for DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) consists of the letters 'DAAD' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.