

Organising Committee

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Important dates

15 May 2004: start of registration

15 August 2004: end of registration and receipt of conference fee

15 September 2004: end of late registration (increased conference fee)

4 – 6 November 2004: conference

Location

Halle, the city on the Saale, is the largest in the regional state of Saxony-Anhalt and an important centre of science and technology. Furthermore, Halle is the cultural capital of Saxony-Anhalt. In Georg Friedrich Händel's birthplace there is much to see (the State Gallery in the Moritzburg, the old city cemetery, the buildings housing Francke's foundations, the Dom church, the library of the Marienkirche), as well as performances to enjoy (the Handel concert hall, the Opera House, four theatres and a variety theatre). One can also spend free time delightfully in the zoo, the botanical garden, at the race course, on the Peissnitz island in the Saale, along the banks of the river or in one of the five cinemas.

Registration and Conference fee

Registration starts on 15 May 2004. The conference fee is 75 €, which covers admission to all sessions and the excursion day of the conference, a CD with all presented papers, a volume of proceedings, refreshments during breaks, lunches on all conference days and an official conference dinner. It does not cover accommodation and travel costs. The level of the fee is based on the understanding that it is paid by bank transfer *before 15 August 2004*. In case of late registration after 15 August the fee is 125 € to be paid by bank transfer. The deadline for registration is 15 September 2004, which is also the last day for receipt of the participation fee.

Please use the registration form available on the conference website after 15 May 2004. For further information contact:

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Relevant conference information is available at the conference website:

www.iamo.de/forum2004/index.htm

Participants have to organise accommodation in Halle on their own. A list of recommended hotels will be made available upon registration.

Presenting participants residing in CEE countries may qualify for a travel or accommodation grant and a reduction of the conference fee. Please use the application form that will be available on the conference website after 15 May 2004.



IAMO Forum 2004

The role of agriculture in Central and Eastern European rural development: Engine of change or social buffer?

Conference on the occasion of
10 years of IAMO

**4 – 6 November 2004
Halle (Saale), Germany**

Organiser:

Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe (IAMO)
Theodor-Lieser-Strasse 2
06120 Halle (Saale)
Germany
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Background

The role of agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) deserves the attention of researchers and policy makers for several reasons. First, agricultural income and employment opportunities are, on average, still much more important in rural areas of CEE than, for example, in the EU-15. In countries such as Poland, Bulgaria or Romania the share of employment in agriculture is (partly far) above 20 per cent. Second, farming has often taken the form of a social buffer in times of economic crisis and therefore has served important societal functions. Finally, the agricultural sector has played a central role in the restructuring of rural economies towards a decentralised, market-oriented system. There are still countries in which these processes are far from being settled (for example Belarus or Moldova). At the same time, particularly the new Member States of the EU are facing new demands on agriculture from the side of the consumer, for example concerning sustainability or multifunctionality, but are also offered new opportunities for rural development policies. Even so, rural areas often cannot keep pace with economic growth occurring in urban agglomerations, and therefore tend to become economically marginalised and disadvantaged.

On the one hand, traditional employment and income functions of agriculture will remain an important issue in many rural areas, on the other hand new societal demands on agriculture are increasingly articulated. This suggests that a new definition of the role of agriculture in rural areas of CEE is in the making, which requires careful analysis to guide public policy formation.

Objectives

The aim of the conference is to enhance discussion and exchange on the role of agriculture in Central and Eastern European rural development. At the time of the conference, the Common Agricultural Policy as well as all elements of EU structural policies will be in force in 25 EU Member States. New insights about opportunities and challenges for cohesion within the enlarged EU will be available. Development tendencies in the agricultural sectors of the CIS have to be analysed. IAMO invites researchers and decision makers from all over Europe and beyond to present their views and results and to participate in the discussion.

Topics

- Economic significance of agriculture in various regional contexts. Processes of marginalisation in rural areas of CEE. Access to land and capital. Determinants and results of structural change in agriculture.
- Social functions of agriculture in CEE. Employment effects. Subsistence production. Relevance of part-time farming, income diversification and pluriactivity. Rural unemployment. Human and social capital.
- Role of agriculture in transition to a market economy. State and consequences of restructuring of agriculture in CEE.
- Society's demands on agriculture. Effects of farming on ecosystems. Multifunctionality and sustainability. New services offered in rural areas.
- Objectives and conceptual foundation of rural development policies. Methods for evaluating policy measures. Experience with 'bottom-up' approaches in CEE. Results of evaluation studies. Future perspectives for agricultural and structural policies.

Programme and language

Keynote speakers:

Prof. Heinz Ahrens, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Prof. Csaba Csaki, Budapest University of Economics, Hungary, and World Bank, Washington D.C., USA

Prof. Konrad Hagedorn, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany

Dr. Gerhard K. Heilig, IIASA, Laxenburg, Austria

Academician Prof. Alexander Vassil'evich Petrikov, Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, All-Russian Institute of Agrarian Problems and Informatics, Moscow, Russia

Prof. Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Wageningen Agricultural University, The Netherlands

Prof. Johan F.M. Swinnen, World Bank, Washington D.C., USA, and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Jerzy Wilkin, Warsaw University, Poland

Approximately 30 contributed papers and several posters have been selected for plenary and panel presentation.

The conference will start on Thursday morning and finish on Saturday evening. It will be held at IAMO's conference facilities. A full day excursion to a rural development project in Saxony-Anhalt is offered on Saturday. On Thursday evening, a conference dinner will be held. Conference languages will be English, German, Russian (simultaneous translation).