



Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development
in Transition Economies

*Theodor-Lieser-Str. 2
06120 Halle (Saale), Germany*

Daniela Schimming
Public Relations
Tel.: +49 345 2928-330
presse@iamo.de
www.iamo.de/en

PRESS RELEASE 9/2018

New technologies and challenges in the fight against the drought

Expert panel at the International Green Week 2019 in Berlin

Halle (Saale), 13 December 2018 – Drought is no longer an issue that only threatens the livelihoods of the rural population in arid and semi-arid regions. As the last summer has demonstrated, such periods of drought have now reached the temperate climate of Central Europe. Effective countermeasures by governments, business and science require the use of state-of-the-art technology in order to record and analyse exact yield data. Against this background, the expert panel entitled “Going digital against the drought - New technologies and challenges in their implementation” will discuss previous experiences, digital solutions and implementation obstacles in various regions. As part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) the panel discussion will take place at the CityCube Berlin, Germany, on 18 January 2019.

Recent climate changes have caused agricultural producers to face significantly greater risks, both in terms of crop production and livestock breeding. Droughts are increasingly jeopardizing the livelihood of rural populations in arid and semi-arid areas. The dry periods of 2001–2003 and 2007–2008 caused, in Central Asia alone, the most devastating droughts in the history of the region, engendering numerous social and economic problems. In China and Mongolia, too, droughts are increasingly affecting the agricultural use of available land. In 2018, temperate zones, such as Central Europe, also suffered from droughts, although the extent remains unknown. According to IPCC predictions, the growing pattern of extreme weather is expected to worsen in the coming years in many parts of the world.

Worldwide, governments, industry and science are being called upon to reduce climate risks and mitigate the effects of extreme climate shocks. For its part, agriculture can contribute to greater climate resilience through efficient resource management and advancements in breeding. A further form of market-based

risk management is index-based agricultural insurance, which provides businesses with financial security in case of crop failure. However, both market-based climate management and state intervention (e.g. disaster relief) require exact information on yields. The central challenge here is a timely appraisal of the damage, in order to quickly and efficiently take steps towards rectifying the situation. The digital revolution provides possible solutions to these problems, notably through different forms of data collection, processing and communication with end-users. While the range of available technology is large, there remain, in both emerging and developed markets, numerous obstacles to its implementation, particularly in terms of cost-effectiveness, data security and networking.

The planned expert panel presents digital solutions for dealing with harvest losses caused by effects of climatic change. The panel analyzes implementation obstacles and discusses new approaches and previous experiences. One focus in the debate will be on experiences in Ukraine, Southeastern Europe, Central Asia and China. From this perspective, conclusions for other regions of the world should be drawn.

This event as part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) will take place on 18 January 2019 from 10:30 am to 11:45 am in the CityCube Berlin (level 3), Germany. The expert panel is organised by IAMO together with the German Agribusiness Alliance at the German Eastern Business Association. Simultaneous interpretation in German, English and Chinese language will be provided. Further information on the programme can be found here: www.iamo.de/en/events.

Registration is possible until 15 January 2019: www.gffa-berlin.de/en/registrierung.

Text: 3,815 characters (incl. spaces)

About GFFA

The 11th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) entitled “Agriculture Goes Digital – Smart Solutions for Future Farming” will be held in Berlin, Germany, from 17 to 19 January 2019. It is organised by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMEL) in cooperation with GFFA Berlin e.V., the Senate of Berlin and Messe Berlin GmbH. General information on the GFFA 2019 can be found on the conference website: www.gffa-berlin.de/en.

About IAMO

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) analyses economic, social and political processes of change in the agricultural and food sector, and in rural areas. The geographic focus covers the enlarging EU, transition regions of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, as well as Central and Eastern Asia. IAMO works to enhance the understanding of institutional, structural and technological changes. Moreover, IAMO studies the resulting impacts on the agricultural and food sector as well as the living conditions of rural populations. The outcomes of our work are used to derive and analyze

strategies and options for enterprises, agricultural markets and politics. Since its founding in 1994, IAMO has been part of the Leibniz Association, a German community of independent research institutes.

Contact

Daniela Schimming

Public Relations

Tel.: +49 345 2928-330

presse@iamo.de

www.iamo.de/en