

Call for Submission

Agriculture and society: A multi-stakeholder dialogue for stable and sustainable development (UaAgriDialog)

22-24 May 2019 | Zhytomyr | Ukraine



Background

Tensions between agriculture and society are not new to Germany, the EU, and many other industrialised countries. These tensions arise in various segments of the public domain: Between agricultural producers and climate and environmental activists, farms and public authorities, landowners and land users, farmers and rural communities, etc. Inner-agricultural conflicts, e.g. between large and small farms or between conventional and organic farming, are also increasingly entering the public sphere.

In Ukraine, too, public discourse on agriculture is intensifying. In recent years, the agricultural sector has become the primary driver of the Ukrainian economy. Agricultural and food goods account for almost 40 percent of Ukrainian exports. The agricultural sector is therefore an important source for the inflow of foreign currency and a major employer of the rural population. This development goes hand in hand with the expansion of large corporate export-oriented farms, also known as agroholdings, which are often associated with detrimental societal effects such as dispossession and distributional injustice in rural areas. As a result, agriculture is increasingly falling under public scrutiny. In addition, there is an ongoing debate about agricultural land market, the exploitation of rural resources and infrastructure, and the negative environmental impact of intensive soil cultivation without any adequate compensation from agricultural enterprises for rural development.

In this context, a number of important questions that could contribute to an in-depth understanding of the tensions between society and agriculture in Ukraine arise: What are the main tensions and what are the primary reasons for these tensions in Ukrainian agriculture? Can the interests of all stakeholders be balanced in order to resolve existing tensions? Which instruments or strategies of public and private policies can be used to resolve the existing tensions and achieve a sustainable win-win situation for all the involved actors?

The aim of the three-day workshop is to bring together researchers and representatives from practice, politics and civil society to participate in a multi-level dialogue on these highly relevant issues. A space for discussion and mutual learning will be provided in order to develop concepts for problem solving and prevention. The workshop aims to contribute to more robust knowledge on the sustainable development of agriculture in Ukraine. Moreover, the workshop will offer the opportunity for young researchers and experts from Germany and Ukraine to present and discuss their research results in a small group.

Topics to be discussed during the workshop include:

- Social aspects of the land market in Ukraine
- Modern agriculture and environmental protection
- Social responsibility of agribusinesses
- Role of civil society in the interaction between agriculture and local communities
- Public policies for sustainable agriculture and rural development
- Decentralization reforms and rural development

These topics will be discussed during the invited sessions, the panel discussion, an excursion, and joint group work.

Workshop language

The official language of the workshop is English.

Call for extended abstracts

We request the contribution of extended abstracts with up to 1,000 words (excluding bibliography) to uaagridialog.workshop@iamo.de. The extended abstracts need to include a concise summary of the major research questions, data and methods, and findings. Abstracts must be submitted electronically via e-mail until **Wednesday, 18 April 2019**. The formatting guidelines are available on www.iamo.de/en/UaAgriDialog. All contributed extended abstracts will go through peer review. Notification of selected abstracts for an oral presentation will be sent by **Tuesday, 30 April 2019**.

Registration, workshop fee and funding opportunities

Participation is limited. There is no registration fee.

IAMO offers a limited number of travel and accommodation grants to participants from Germany and Ukraine with accepted extended abstracts. Grant distribution is based on the quality of the submission and the financial need of the applicant. Priority will be given to young scholars. To apply for a grant, please send a motivation letter (max. 400 words) and a CV as a single pdf-file (the file should not exceed 2 MB) to uaagridialog.workshop@iamo.de by **18 April 2019**.

Important deadlines

18 April 2019	Submission of extended abstracts
30 April 2019	Notification of accepted abstracts
13 May 2019	Registration deadline
22-24 May 2019	Workshop

Conference location

The workshop will take place at the Zhytomyr National Agroecological University, Staryi Blvd 7, 10008 Zhytomyr, Ukraine

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The logo for DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) is displayed in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font.