

AFECO Monthly Newsletter

April 2019

New AFECO Website

Check out the revamped AFECO website [here](#) and be sure to check back regularly for program updates, events and important dates.

AFECO Application Deadline for 2019/2020: April 30, 2019

The **deadline for AFECO applications** for the intake term 2019/2020 is **April 30, 2019**. Spread the word amongst friends, former study colleagues and anyone who may be interested in joining the AFECO Master program. More information on the application procedure can be found [here](#).

AFECO Exam Dates for Summer Term 2019

To plan your study and holiday time during summer 2019, please find the examination schedule now [online](#). Please also note that in this document you can see what kind of examination (e.g. term paper, written exam, oral exam, etc.) is scheduled for each summer term course.

AFECO Hike in May

Mark your calendars! We're going hiking in Drachenfels on **11.05.2019 (Saturday)**! We'll meet in the morning at the main train station, go to the hills and spend the day hiking, picnicking & enjoying the spectacular views of Rhine Valley. Further details will follow in the May 2019 newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Organized by your student representatives, Tobias & Estera.

ARTS seminar series on Technology Change

The ARTS seminar series returns this semester with a focus on technological change. Each lecture takes place on its respective Thursday from 5-6pm and will cover a variety of topics. Check out the lecture series schedule [here](#).

Summer Term 2019 International Club Calendar

The international club has a variety of activities available for international and German students alike. Check out the events for this summer term [here](#).

Intercultural Trainings

The interactive intercultural training provides theoretical input which is then put into practice. The trainings are especially recommended for those studying or working abroad as well as those who are studying in Germany. Intercultural competence has become a key skill for every student and professional. The participation in the training is free of charge. Trainings during summer semester 2019 will take place Saturday and Sunday on: 13.-14.04.2019 (English), 25.-26.05.2019 (Deutsch), 15.-16.06.2019 (English) and 29.-30.06.2019 (Deutsch). Visit the website for more information and register [here](#).

Internship and Job Opportunities*

[Zwei Praktikant*innen für die die Abteilung Evaluierung I \(staatliche Entwicklungszusammenarbeit, Governance\)](#), Deutsches Evaluierungsinstitut der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (DEval), Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 10.04.2019

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\)](#) im Programm Nachhaltige Agrar-Lieferketten und Standards, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 09.04.2019

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\)](#) im Kompetenzzentrum Ländliche Entwicklung und Ernährungssicherung/Sektorvorhaben Nachhaltige Agrarlieferketten und Standards, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 09.04.2019

ILR Testimonial: Dr. Stefan Seifert

I sat down with [Stefan Seifert](#) from the chair of [Production Economics](#) to learn more about his journey to his post-doc and his transition to the agricultural sector.

SS: Since December 2017, I've worked at the chair for Production Economics with Professor Hüttel. Before that, I was at DIW Berlin (German Institute for Economic Research) and the Graduate Center of the DIW (DIW GC) where I also obtained my PhD in economics from TU Berlin. My PhD thesis was concerned with the measurement of efficiency and productivity in the electricity sector, so my background is probably a bit exotic at the agricultural faculty.



AT: *Could you please explain the research you're doing regarding agricultural land markets and the objective of the research?*

SS: We are currently working with several research projects on the German land market and cooperate with institutions mostly from Germany and Austria. I (or better we) analyze the impact of various factors on the land market, and in particular on land prices. These factors include, market mechanisms (auctions versus negotiations), bidder behavior in land auctions, information asymmetries, and regulation. My work is mostly applied and we use a variety of

econometric tools. Ultimately, we want to better understand the land market, the behavior of agents to evaluate regulation, and derive policy recommendations.

AT: *What made you move to the agricultural sector coming from a purely economic background? How did you find that shift?*

SS: After finishing my PhD, I was looking for post-doc positions and considered various research fields. I stumbled over the job offer from the Production Economics chair and decided to apply after studying the research projects. I found land markets very interesting and a challenging field of research, and the integration into a large, interdisciplinary research project was promising. Fortunately, my expectations were correct.

Shifting my research from energy to land markets required me to reshape my thinking a bit, because the two goods are very, very different, and so are the markets. So, to analyze them, one has to understand their characteristics, but the environment in Bonn is great and I learn new things about agriculture every day.

AT: *What are some key skills students in the AFECO program could acquire from classes in the production economics chair?*

SS: The chair offers a broad variety of courses, including lectures focusing on management (e.g. investment and financing), managerial economics (e.g. agricultural production economics), but also econometrics (impact evaluation). Speaking only about the lectures in which I am involved, students will learn to transfer economic models into real life applications, and they will acquire methodological knowledge and necessary skills to answer research questions empirically. I think our chair prepares students for both academic and non-academic careers.

We want you to contribute!

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, whether it be on a recurring or one-time basis, please contact Alex Trecha at afeco.info@ilr.uni-bonn.de. A big thank you to **Ange** who has contributed to the last few issues of the newsletter, more student voices are encouraged!