

AFECO Monthly Newsletter

July 2019

Internship presentations

On **July 19th and 24th from 14:00 - 16:00 in the PC room, Nussallee 21** seven AFECO students will present their internship experiences at many interesting companies organizations like [Farm Brothers BV](#), [Rabenhorst O. Lauffs GmbH & Co. KG](#), [NOMOO](#), [Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung \(BMZ\)](#), [Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\) GmbH](#), [Wasser- und Bodenverband in Ostholstein](#), [Raiffeisen Waren-Zentrale Rhein-Main eG \(RWZ\)](#). All AFECO/AFEPA students are invited to attend and get insights into interesting internship places.

Packaging Technologies in Developing Countries: A Case Study in Benin

Malnutrition is still common in sub-Saharan Africa. The lack of appropriate technologies that can prolong the shelf life of perishable foods leads to high amounts of food losses in the supply chains, notably during transportation and storage. The development of an innovative bio based packaging solution is a critical step in the local supply chain and can assist in the reduction of these losses. Therefore, the University of Bonn is cooperating with the University of Abomey-Calavi, in Benin, to develop sustainable packaging solutions for three local products to reduce food losses. Barbara Götz is presenting her work as part of the ARTS seminar series on **July 4th, 2019 from 17:00 -18:00 at Nussallee1, Lecture Hall I.**

Industry 4.0 and Artificial Intelligence – Towards a bright future or mass unemployment and Orwellian societies?

What are the promises and perils of “Industry 4.0” and artificial intelligence, globally and in different world regions? Possible impacts are not mainly related to the environmental dimension of sustainability but to the decent work agenda (quantity and quality of jobs), the global division of labor and to issues of data security and privacy. These issues are discussed **on July 7th, 2019 from 16:00-18:00 at German Development Institute Tulpenfeld 6 53113 Bonn “Lecture hall”**. More information can be found [here](#).

Theodor Brinkmann Master thesis prize 2019

The Theodor Brinkmann Foundation would like to financially support outstanding ideas and concepts for Master's theses. The Master thesis prize winner will receive 500 euros. Master theses written in English can also be submitted but must include a German abstract. More information can be found [here](#): **Applications are due July 15th, 2019.**

DAAD “Go East” Summer School in Zhytomyr, Ukraine

The National Agricultural Ecology University Zhytomyr (ZHNAEU) in Ukraine has organized the summer school „[Die Ukraine auf dem Weg zu einem globalen Agrar-Player](#)“ for German students from September 9-20th, 2019. Bachelor and Master students from German universities can apply for a scholarship at the DAAD as part of the Go East Summer School Program.

Internship and Job Opportunities*

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\)](#) für die Projekte "Green Economy Transformation" und "Strategische Umweltdialoge", Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 02.07.2019

[Praktikant \(m/w/d\)](#) im Globalprojekt Qualitätsinfrastruktur, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 07.07.2019

[Zwei Studierende Beschäftigte](#) für die Evaluierungen "Institutionelle Evaluierung von Engagement Global" und "Menschenrechte in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit", Deutsches Evaluierungsinstitut der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (DEval), Bonn
Bewerbungsfrist: 10.07.2019

[Praktikum in Uganda](#), Schorlemer Stiftung des Deutschen Bauernverbandes e.V.
Bewerbungsfrist: 01.08.2019

[Praktikant/in \(w/m/d\)](#) für den Bereich Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Transfair e.V. / Fairtrade Deutschland, Köln

[Internship Sustainable Land Use - focus on Africa](#), ForestFinest Consulting GmbH, Bonn

Check out the ILR [website](#) for PhD positions and other post-graduate job opportunities.

*job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

ILR Testimonial: Linmei Shang, PhD Candidate

I sat down with [Linmei Shang](#) who started AFECO in October 2015 and continued as a PhD candidate in 2018 in the [Economic and Agricultural Policy Chair](#).



AT: What made you decide to come to UniBonn to study in the AFECO program?

LS: I did my Bachelor's in Agricultural Economics and knew that UniBonn has one of the best research institutes for agricultural economics in the world. Before coming to Germany, I was struggling with another Master's study in China, but I decided to give it up and apply for AFECO in Bonn, and I've never looked back.

AT: You are now working at the Chair of Economic and Agricultural Policy; did you know from the beginning that you want to major at that chair?

LS: I didn't expect that I would choose Economic and Agricultural Policy as my major. So, for those of you who do not know which major you should choose, no worries and just try out courses from different chairs. For those who already know from the beginning of the program, be careful and remain open-minded because you won't be the same "you" after two years.

AT: Did you originally plan on pursuing a PhD?

LS: To be honest, not many students still have an interest in studying after being tortured by a Master's thesis. But from the bottom of my heart, I knew I wanted to pursue a PhD degree in my life. But I thought I hated doing research, remember reading a research paper? But things can change and luckily my current research project allows me to learn lots of interesting things: phenotyping robotics in agriculture, machine learning, programming in Python and so on. I also have chances to take courses in other universities in Europe, which helps me to get to know researchers and other PhD students in the field of agricultural economics.

AT: How did you decide to pursue a PhD in Germany? And how did you choose UniBonn specifically?

LS: After finishing AFECO, I was applying for jobs in the industry. One day a colleague of mine, but also an AFECO student at that time, told me that Professor Heckelei was recruiting PhD students. I wrote my thesis with Dr. Jafari and liked people in that group a lot, so I immediately applied for the position. You may think that information is always on the internet, but sometimes the most efficient way to get valuable information is to talk with your classmates. Your fellow students can change your life sometimes, can't they?

AT: What advice would you give a current AFECO student who is considering a PhD?

LS: 1) Study hard: Your GPA must be at a certain level.

2) Take your Master's thesis seriously, it's good training/preparation if you consider a PhD.

3) Be visible: Let professors in ILR get to know you and show your interest in pursuing a PhD (otherwise, they won't know).

4) Be confident: Doing a PhD does not mean you are super intelligent, it is rather a choice. You may think that you are not qualified for a PhD, but don't judge yourself and let the professors make their decision.

5) Choose your professor/supervisor carefully: a good professor/supervisor is half the success of a PhD!

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 multiple issues of the newsletter, more student voices are encouraged!