



## AFECO Newsletter March 2022



### Registration for AFECO Modules Summer Term 2022

The first registration period for modules on BASIS of the summer term 2022 is between March 1 up to March 13. The follow-up registration periods are from March 23 to March 29 and April 14 to April 18. The preliminary timetable for the summer term 2022 is attached. However, you should check the [AFECO website](#) and [BASIS](#) for changes before registering for the modules.

### AFECO Update

Prof. Dr Silke Hüttel and Prof. Dr Stefanie Bröring will be leaving the University of Bonn and ILR, effective for the start of the summer semester 2022. We wish them well in their new positions. We thank them for the good collaboration over the past years and for helping us to ensure a smooth transition over the coming semester. There should be no major changes to our study program.



### International Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Crop Production

The conference will be held from March 28-30, 2022 and is a fully remote event with presentations in video format followed by discussions. Participation is free of charge for all participants but [registration](#) is needed until March 24. You can find the program for the live event [here](#) but a lot of talks are already online on the [conference website](#) and the [PhenoRob YouTube](#) channel.

### International Women's Day 2022

In the face of this year's international Women's Day on the 8th of March initiated a series of events to exchange, celebrate and inform about the status quo of gender equality. One of these is the opening of the "WE ARE! New Women's Movement and Feminist Art. 100 Years of Women's Political Awakening, Part 3" exhibition. Further, on the March 10, starting at 18:00 there is a virtual panel to discuss how gender equity fosters climate action. You can register for the event [here](#). The other activities in the city of Bonn are mentioned [here](#).

### Funding for a Master's Thesis

The Theodor Brinkmann Foundation would like to financially support outstanding ideas and concepts for master theses. The call for applications for this personal sponsorship is issued on a semester basis and is endowed with 500 euros. All master students at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Bonn can apply with a concept for the master thesis. Next application deadline is March 15. Details what is needed for the application can be found [here](#).

### IFOAM turns 50

The Bonn-based association [IFOAM – Organics International](#) turns 50 this year. Against this background, Louise Luttkholt (Executive Director) has given an interesting interview which is available [here](#).

## ASG-Mentoring

This program is offered by the Agrarsoziale Gesellschaft e.V. and invites young professionals who want to work rural area. It aims to provide you with a better understanding of the interdisciplinary collaborations as well as the different tasks in this field in the sector through a personal mentor as well as diverse seminars. More detailed information can be found [here](#). The application deadline is March 15 and the cost of participation is 200€.



## Internship & Job Opportunities\*

[Student assistant \(6h/week\)](#) for the module “Advanced Methods of Market Research”, Agricultural and Food Market Research, application deadline: March 15, 2022

[Student assistant \(6h/week\)](#) for the module “Extended Methods of Market Research”, Agricultural and Food Market Research, application deadline: March 15, 2022

[Student assistant \(6h/week\)](#) for the module “Behavioral Economics in the Agri-Food Sector”, Agricultural and Food Market Research, application deadline: March 15, 2022

[Intern \(m/f/d\) Renewable Energy for the project Water and Energy for Food](#), GIZ, Bonn, application deadline: March 07, 2022

[Praktikum Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit](#) für 3 Monate, Stiftung Umwelt- und Entwicklung NRW, Bonn, Bewerbungsfrist: 11.03.2022

[Two PhD positions \(70%\)](#) for investigating social group dynamics and the psychology of human cooperation and conflict from a cross-scientific perspective, UZH, Switzerland, application deadline: April 1, 2022

\*job descriptions in German require fluent German skills



## Insights in Double Degree Program in Wageningen

After some of the AFECO students have submitted their application for the BoWaCo Double Degree in February, you may feel excited and overwhelmed by anticipating your next academic year. To open at least one of the black boxes to you, we would like to introduce the course of “Academic Consultancy Training” to you, which is mandatory and compared to the usual university course quite different. Christina, who is currently doing the Double Degree kindly shared her insights and experience of this course with you.

Thank you Christina!

**Wageningen’s Academic Consultancy Training – one of the courses I appreciated most in my studies.**



When following the BoWaCo program and heading to Wageningen it does not take long to hear about “ACT”, Wageningen’s famous Academic Consultancy Training. Either dreaded or popular with students ACT is definitely a course you will hear different stories about, but also one you can write your own story about. This is a positive report about ACT taking you along my experience and why I enjoyed it so much!

First of all, let’s get to know the concept of ACT a little better: As the name suggests, students are both academics as well as consultants in this project. In a group of 5-7 students from different studies, you are assigned a real-world problem or task of a company or institution you are commissioned to solve. You do so by applying your academic background and knowledge but also – and this is the new part – by consulting the company, which can mean taking a different position than your commissioner’s. During the eight weeks of the course your team develops a consultancy report which can look quite different for every project. All teams have in common that you have an academic advisor and personal coach to guide you, though understanding your commissioner’s problem, developing a strategy and time-plan on how to approach and solve it is totally your responsibility. This is at the same time challenging and inspiring as you are – very different from ordinary courses – defining yourselves which path you are taking. This applies methodology- and organizational-wise as you as a team schedule regular meetings with different advisors and your commissioner, no one else will do it for you.

There is a multitude of projects to choose from, tasks and problems can be quite different: Performing a market analysis, developing a new product, drafting a concept for circular agriculture in a municipality or in my case developing a tool to predict soil health. In my team, we had five different disciplines (Bioinformatics, Earth & Environment, Organic Agriculture, Biosystems Engineering and Agricultural Economics) and seven different personalities. Understanding, respecting, and employing both is the essence of ACT as I learned. It is a skill to be an expert in your studies but even more to understandably convey your knowledge and respect the expertise of your team members. Equally important is to understand the behavior of your team members and yourself as you work together, be able to act and react appropriately and be willing to change your habits.

ACT is not only an academic consultancy project but even more a personal development project. In several sessions you will be asked to reflect on your characteristics and behavior in group work, identify personal challenges and set learning goals to pursue during ACT. No doubt this course is intense as whilst under time-pressure, you will learn a lot about yourself if you allow for it. However, you are not alone with this, but encouraged to learn as a team and support each other. Being very open about your strengths but also flaws with your team, will allow your peers to give helpful feedback and eases the workflow for your “real” project. This is why I value ACT so much. If everyone commits to developing a project and at the same time seven personalities, you are leaving with way more than just a consultancy report to print. You will be able to easily engage in working with different teams, addressing conflicts in a way that they’ll be solved not intensified, reflect on your behavior, and know ways how to adapt it. These are crucial skills for your professional life; therefore I am glad I followed ACT and that Wageningen acknowledges their importance by remunerating your personal development efforts with a grade equally important to the project grade!

Though skeptical in the beginning I am a big fan of ACT now. I know it can be some harsh Eight weeks, especially if your team atmosphere is not supportive, tasks remain unclear, and it seems that your attitudes impede change or each other. There are some tough nuts to crack during ACT and surely not all of them will be cracked eventually. My team and me are still on one: we are currently nominated for the impactprijns 2021 with the Soil Health Index we developed and hope to accomplish it, so if you want a glimpse of the team and project, click [here](#).

I was lucky to have honest, eager, and always fun team members and if one is not, it is even more important to seize opportunities: For our project, we decided to drive to the Dutch province of Zeeland and interview some farmers. When I found myself sitting on a cozy couch, drinking coffee, and discussing soil organic matter contents, different crop rotations and the importance of healthy

soils for future generations with one of them, I realized this was all I had wished for when coming to Wageningen – diving deep into and understanding Dutch agriculture and farmers. So, ACT is for you is really what you make of it, good luck!



## We want to hear from you!

This is a student-run newsletter, and we would love to get your input. If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, events around Bonn or something else you would like to share, let us know! It doesn't matter if you would like to contribute one time or consistently, everyone is more than welcome to join us! Feel free to contact us at [jmeder@uni-bonn.de](mailto:jmeder@uni-bonn.de) or [s7lahoop@uni-bonn.de](mailto:s7lahoop@uni-bonn.de).

Judith Meder & Lara Hoops

## Draft of AFECO Timetable Summer Term 2022

Summer Term AFECO - 2nd Semester					
time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 to 10	ENV Beer-Freundberger, L. Data Wrangling, Visualization and GIS Data Analysis with R (U)	MAC210 Rink-Lohmann, J. / Birke, J. / Traut, M. Advanced Methods of Market Research	AP0 250 Birte, W. Partial and general equilibrium Modeling (L+T)	MAC210 Rink-Lohmann, M. Food Industrial Economics (L+T)	AP0 388 Heidele, T. / Jansok, V. Research Seminar: Ag. policy first meeting
10 to 12	ASB 310 N. N. Seminar in Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship ENV 110 Berner, J. / Gellion, T. Environmental Economics and Policies (L+T)	BAS 130 Paul, U. Extended Methods of Empirical Research (L+T)	ENV 130 Berner, J. / Damm, V. Impact Evaluation of Conservation & development projects and environmental policies (L+T) ENV 110 Berner, J. / Gellion, T. Environmental Economics and Policies (L+T)	ENV Beer-Freundberger, L. Data Wrangling, Visualization and GIS Data Analysis with R (U)	ASB 330 Gerweth, C. Research Seminar: Agribusiness first meeting
12 to 14	MAC 220 Simon, J. Communication in the Food Sector (L+T)	MAC 110 Herrmann, M. Food Industrial Economics (L+T)	MAC 210 Rink-Lohmann, J. / Birke, J. / Traut, M. Advanced Methods of Market Research	BAS 150 N. N. Risk Management in Agribusiness (L+T)	ENV 138 Berner, J. / Damm, V. Impact Evaluation of Conservation & development projects and environmental policies (L+T)
14 to 16	AP0 260 Birte, W. Partial and general Equilibrium Modeling (L+T)	AP0 280 Heidele, T. Advanced Applied Econometrics (L+T)	ASB 300 N. N. Seminar Production Economics and Firm Management	AP0 230 Heidele, T. Advanced Applied Econometrics (L+T)	MAC 120 Wengertzen, N. / Ruyssels, N. / Jansok, K. Behavioral Economics in Agri-food markets (L+T)
16-18	AP0 240 Gilm, M. / Kerschbaur, A. Development Economics (L+T)	ASB 280 N. N. Strategic Technology and Innovation Management	MAC 120 Wengertzen, N. / Ruyssels, N. / Jansok, K. Behavioral Economics in Agri-food markets (L+T)	AP0 240 Gilm, M. / Kerschbaur, A. Development Economics (L+T)	MAC 220 Wengertzen, N. / Ruyssels, N. / Jansok, K. Behavioral Economics in Agri-food markets (L+T)
unregelmäßig	AP0 310 Heidele, T. Special Project in Agricultural and Development Policy by arrangement BAS 120 Kausonius-Gerber, N. Perfection Week 2022	ASB 220 Bering, S. Special Project in Technology and Innovation Management by arrangement	ASB 340 N. N. Special Project in Production Economics by arrangement	MAC 300 Herrmann, M. Research Seminar: Market and Consumer Research first meeting	MAC 110 Herrmann, M. Special Project in Market and Consumer Research by arrangement

U = compulsory for AFECO students

T = tutorial

L = lecture