



AFECO Newsletter June 2021



Reminder: Exam registration

Exam registration on BASIS for this semester ends on Tuesday, 15th of June! Don't forget to register for all your exams including assignments, homework, and seminar papers you did or will do during the semester as well as the written and oral exams. Withdrawal from all written and oral exams is possible up to one week before the respective examination date. For further deadlines see [here](#).



Food Systems Podcast

The Food Systems Podcast is created by the Forum for the Future of Agriculture ([FFA](#)) and provides diverse perspectives of industry executives, organic farmers, politicians and scientist. With the European Landowners' Organization and Syngenta as founding partner of the FFA as well as many further renowned organizations, the podcast gives insights into the European agricultural system. If we got you curious, listen yourself on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) or [Podbean](#).

IAMO forum 2021

The theme of this year's Leibnitz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) conference is "Agrifood systems in the bioeconomy." The forum takes place online from 7th to 9th of June. For instance, the following topics will be addressed: Trade-offs between sustainable development goals in the bioeconomy and the role of innovation policy in regional economic development. On Monday, 7th of June, Prof. Dr. Bröring will give a lecture on the topic "Moving the bioeconomy from mind to market: What drives technology transfer and innovation adoption?" at the IAMO forum. If you would like to attend the conference you can find all further information [here](#) or directly [register](#) for it.

5th World Food Convention

The World Food Convention is an annual event and will take place on the 24th of June from 2pm to 7pm. This years' theme is "Science for the society – How to secure food in a sustainable way" with topics such food security, gene editing and the carbon market. Further information and the opportunity to register can be found [here](#).

GAIA Masters Student Paper Award

– call for contributions –

The international journal [GAIA](#) – Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society invites Masters students to participate in the GAIA Masters Student Paper Award. Masters students are encouraged to submit their results from research-based courses or Masters theses in the field of transdisciplinary environmental and sustainability science. Every year, one article will be selected by a jury and the winner will be granted a price money of 1500€. Deadline for your submission is 17th October 2021. Further information as well as a guideline for you manuscript can be found [here](#).



Internship & Job Opportunities*

[Praktikum \(w,m,d\) als Sales Officer](#) (6 Monate), Sencrop, remote

[Praktikant*in im Globalvorhaben Beschäftigung im ländlichen Raum mit Fokus auf Jugendliche](#), GIZ, Bonn, Bewerbungsfrist: 13.06.21

[Studentische Hilfskraft \(w,m,d\) im Bereich Projektadministration](#), KIAG Knowledge Intelligence Applications GmbH, Köln

[Wissenschaftliche*r Mitarbeiter*in "Agrarökonomie/Bioökonomie"](#), Institut für Ländliche Struktur- forschung, Frankfurt am Main, Bewerbungsfrist: 15.06.2021

[Research Assistant](#) (3 years), Institute of Food Economics and Consumption Studies, University of Kiel, application deadline: 15.06.2021

* job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

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



Interview with Zara Grauer

For this issue we could win Zara Grauer for an interview. Zara is an AFECO alumni and did the master program from 2016 to 2019. We hope her experiences and insights will be as interesting for you as they were for us.

JM/LH: Hi Zara, we really appreciate that you took the time for us! Let us start with a very brief question: What is the first thing you remember when you think back to your study time in the AFECO program?

ZG: The first thing I remember is the many hours we all spent at the Poppelsdorfer Library. But these are by no means negative memories. I rather remember the many nice exchanges, lunches in the Mensa and breaks in front of the Poppelsdorfer Schloss.



JM/LH: Let's stay with the memories of that time for a bit. Can you recall situations that were tough but now, in retrospect, you realize how much you gained from them for your professional life? Especially now that most of us started the master program during COVID-19 it sometimes becomes difficult to see how the effort will pay off eventually.

ZG: For me, the master's thesis was definitely the biggest challenge. Even more than two years later, I cannot relativize the burden of it. However, I was lucky to be given the opportunity to travel to Indonesia to conduct interviews with medium-size organic companies for my data collection. This was not only great for my personal development but was also beneficial when I was applying for jobs. I am also sure that these are harmless challenges compared to your current situation. I sincerely hope that you will soon have face-to-face events again.

JM/LH: Can you remember the first time you had an idea for a topic for the master thesis? Or did it arise for you from a chosen major/minor? Your thesis topic sounds very interesting! What was your research question for doing the interviews and could you give us a short summary of your findings?

ZG: During my internship at GIZ, I got to know the Import Promotion Desk (IPD). Together with them and the university, we worked out the topic. My research questions were (1) What are currently general problems and obstacles to the Indonesian organic sector? (2) To what extent are applied agricultural policy measures an obstacle to the further development of the organic sector? And (3) Are selected organic policies adopted by Thailand an opportunity for Indonesia and how would they impact the Indonesian organic sector? In a nutshell, my main findings were that the extension services and marketing support by the Indonesian government is oriented towards conventional production systems. Most organic information is disseminated by farmers, companies and private organizations themselves. And secondly, not only in terms of organic, but for the whole agricultural sector, bureaucratic obstacles are high, and administrative procedures are non-transparent. I also analyzed the impact on some specific policies, but this would go into too much detail.

JM/LH: What led you to focus on that topic? And did you continue to work in that subject area after you graduated?

ZG: I knew relatively early on in my studies that I wanted to work in international cooperation. The motivation for the subject became even greater when I learned that I would be allowed to travel to Indonesia. After I graduated, my plan worked out and I found a job in international cooperation. For the past two years, I have been working in Bonn for the Andreas Hermes Akademie in the area of international cooperation for projects with African farmers' organizations. Working with local partners is great and a privilege. It motivates me to continue working in this context.

JM/LH: Now we have one last question: What would you recommend current students for their studies and the time after their graduation?

ZG: Enjoy the study time while you can!



We want you to contribute!

This is a student-run newsletter and we want to hear from you! If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, events around town or something else you would like to share, don't be bashful and have your voice heard! If you would like to contribute one time or consistently contact us at jmeder@uni-bonn.de or s7lahoop@uni-bonn.de.

Judith Meder & Lara Hoops