

AFECO Excursion 2017

This year's excursion of the AFECO master program was leading us to different parts and cities of North Germany: Münster, Quakenbrück and finally Hamburg.

Iglo – specialist of frozen food products across the European continent, especially known for its spinach – was the first company we visited. We were welcomed with a rich lunch-breakfast (fish fingers, spinach and tortellini at 10 am) while a farmer introduced us to Iglo's history and principles. Afterwards we got a tour through the factory and the fields, where the spinach and herbs are grown for the food production. In the afternoon, we arrived at Stroetmann Saatgut, who acts as retailer for seeds, pet food and as well as a supplier for grocery stores. Lutz Stroetmann, current managing director of the family business, presented us the firm history and guided us through the storage capacities.

On the second day, we visited Leiber, a company specialized in processing yeast products. It serves as an excellent example for the cascading use of biomass as Leiber valorizes the by-products of the beer brewing process.



Leiber GmbH in Bramsche

Later, we stopped at the German Institute for Food Technology (DIL), where we had the chance to see innovative food technologies like 3D food printing.



German Institute for Food Technology (DIL) in Quakenbrück

On the next day, after a pleasant social evening with table tennis, basketball and barbecue, we visited ADM in Hamburg, one of the four Global Players in trading agricultural raw materials. Especially the size of the company and the scope of trading were fascinating. In the afternoon we stopped at Amandus Kahl, a traditional German engineering company that develops machinery for feed-, biomass-, chemical- and pharmaceutical industry.

The last company on the agenda was Gut Hülsenberg, a practice-oriented research farm with about 600 ha land, a dairy farm and two biogas plants. The students got insights into the optimal conditions for dairy farming and sustainable power generation. We finished the day at the North Sea with a mudflat hiking tour, a refreshing and entertaining activity as well as a joint dinner.



Mudflat hiking tour at the North Sea

At our last day, we enjoyed a sunny harbor tour through Hamburg, where we saw huge container ships and luxury yachts before we headed back to Bonn.

All in all, we got to know several companies in the agri-food value chain that differ in terms of their size, core competencies and customers, which made the excursion a unique and enriching experience for all participants.