

ZEF ALUMNI NEWS

NO.13, FEBRUARY 2021



DEAR ZEF ALUMNI,

We are happy to send you the latest edition of the ZEF alumni newsletter and hope it finds you in good health and spirits. Despite all the challenges the COVID 19 pandemic presented, especially in terms of contact and travel restrictions, we are once again proud to inform you about the accomplishments and innovative research projects of our ZEF alumni and affiliates.

The newly started Online Development Study and Research Community (ODSRC) is the major storyline this year at ZEF. The project was initiated and made possible in the context of the pandemic and the need to digitize teaching processes. ZEF and BIGS-DR will hopefully benefit long-term from the novel ideas developed within ODSRC. Online collaboration will enhance the instruction of our doctoral students and present opportunities for our alumni to engage more in BIGS-DR teaching and activities. ODSRC enables you to participate online in workshops at ZEF as students and lecturers.

ZEF's ever-growing alumni network continues to branch out and establishes new opportunities for collaboration. We hope that you will take advantage of that vital resource at ZEF. Please share your own experiences, tell us about your personal, professional, and academic stories and we will spread the word for you in our global community.

Wishing you and your families all the best and a happy New Year,

Dr. Günther Manske & the BIGS-DR Team

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BRINGING OUR ALUMNI ON BOARD!

Online Development Study and Research (ODSRC) project allows our alumni to teach at BIGS-DR.

The batch 2019 courses had just finished when COVID-19 started to disrupt the work at ZEF and BIGS-DR. The supervision and work with doctoral students were quickly shifted to online platforms like Zoom and Slack, the BIGS-DR team together with our students used those new tools to organize office hours, online hang-outs (our virtual coffee breaks to combat the loneliness of working in home office), and game nights. Not only our work shifted to the virtual realm, but also our BIGS-DR community.

It became obvious in springtime that we had to reconsider our course program for the winter term 2020/2021. In-class teaching was most likely not an option. Guenther Manske, Manfred Denich and Max Voit were committed to introduce innovations to our teaching program to make the best of the changes we had to master. Online learning should not only be a temporary stopgap for times of a global pandemic, but rather a model to integrate our global network of alumni and partners into the teaching and training of doctoral students at BIGS-DR. The positive experiences we had made in forming an online community with our students was an encouraging sign in that regard, working together online was already going well.

Ideas to enhance online learning at BIGS-DR culminated in the DAAD IVAC grant application for the Online Development Study and Research Community (ODSRC). BIGS-DR teamed up with the International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) at the University of Tokyo for this project. BIGS-DR and IPADS started the online collaboration based on their existing teaching collaboration, but it is the stated goal of the project to expand and include our partners (universities, study programs, research networks, alumni) from across the Global South to achieve a North-South, South-North, and South-South collaboration in the near future.

The project will organize joint online lectures, development study online modules, and workshops by alumni for current students. The online lectures will mainly focus on BIGS-DR and IPADS students and will be part of the respective curricula long-term. The development study online modules will offer a condensed introduction to development studies from different disciplines for external students. They will be fully asynchronous allowing the external students to peruse their learning goals at their own pace. The modules will be wrapped-up by a short live online

summer school. The workshops will be the format where BIGS-DR alumni are central. They work at the crucial interfaces of science-policy, science-development practice, and policy-development practice, the workshop formats will be a forum where our alumni can train students for future careers in that crucial area.

We already started a first round of workshops in which our alumni shared their experience and know-how with students. Dr. Bibiana Betancur organized several workshops to *meta-analysis with R*. Dr. Andreas Mandler introduced *knowledge in rural areas & knowledge in agriculture*. Powell Mponela, who just defended his thesis, worked together with students on digital soil mapping using random forest machine learning. Dr. Daniel Callo-Concha shared his perspective on how to survive a PhD at ZEF. Dr. Marwa Shumo presented science communication. Dr. Denise Matias spoke to *transdisciplinary research processes and science-policy engagement*. Dr. Jonatan Lassa gave a talk on *70 years of disaster and risk studies*, and Dr. Hart Feuer organized a workshop on *field experiments in the social science*.

The thanks of the BIGS-DR team and students go out to all who already offered their expertise and know-how and we look forward to many more such workshops in the future under the roof of the ODSRC project. Please get in touch with

Max Voit (maxvoit@uni-bonn.de), if you are interested in collaborating with us on the ODSRC project.

FIRST EXPERIENCES WITH THE ODSRC – INTERVIEWS WITH AN ALUMNA LECTURER AND TWO DOCTORAL STUDENTS



Interview with **Dr. Bibiana Betancur Corredor** (ZEF alumna) postdoc at the Senckenberg – Leibniz Institution for Biodiversity and Earth System Research in Görlitz. Dr. Corredor is teaching a lecture series on “Meta-analysis with R” for ODSRC.

BIGS-DR: Dr. Corredor, first thank you for taking the time to talk to us. Can you give us a quick overview of what you do as a lecturer in the ODSRC?

My first lecture took place in mid-September. It started as an idea after Dr. Manske asked people to share their knowledge. I was interested in teaching on meta-analysis, which is something I do in my regular work as well. The idea was much welcomed since some doctoral students have to conduct a meta-analysis in their own research projects. We planned an introductory lecture on how to conduct a meta-analysis with R first. After a while, we realized that some students needed even more basic information. We also realized we needed a follow up session because some other students had some more complex issues that need to be addressed. Thus, the idea for a longer workshop series was born.

BIGS-DR: What are your first experiences with the ODSRC and especially the work online? How do you judge the strengths and potentials of digital teaching and networking?

I found it extremely rewarding, especially thanks to the support I have gotten from Max and the team at ZEF. So far, we have managed to migrate the course into an online platform. We coupled several tools that allow us to offer our students some interactive approaches to learning specific kinds of coding and the students have already been able to interact with those new tools successfully. It is much better to teach these kinds of things online. In person students do not manage to catch up sometimes, and on other occasions they have technical issues they need to sort out on the spot. All that can be very time consuming in the classroom. I think it is actually pretty nice that they now have access to the lectures online and can later on interact with the tools themselves.

BIGS-DR: With regard to Covid 19 the advantages of digitized learning and an online teaching platform seem clear, but what would you deem to be positive carryovers to a post-pandemic world? Especially in a highly international development studies context.

Yes, there are most definitely positive carryovers. Students who cannot come to Germany, who are in the field or otherwise unable to travel, can now have access to learning materials from their actual location. More flexible and effective work with students can be achieved that way. The students have furthermore better access to the lecturer. New learning and communication tools allow for much better interaction with the students. They do not only have access to the knowledge, but also to a person who is probably a little bit more experienced than they are. Ideally, they can get answers to questions which arise out of the field or during their studies. It is a very interesting new way of teaching, right now with all the restrictions on traveling, and also with an eye on the future.

BIGS-DR: How would you judge the potential and the opportunities that ODSRC offers for ZEF-Alumni? Both as teachers and life-long students.

This is one of my favorite parts of the project. When I did my PHD we only had lectures in class. Now as a postdoc I often remember those lectures given by my professors three or four years ago. I would like to revisit or retake those lectures, but traveling to Bonn and joining in person is of course not always an option. As you said, as lifelong students - which I think we all are - it is an amazing opportunity to have better access now.

Alumni or external people can further share their knowledge now directly from their current position in professional life. Not only the general type of theoretical topics, which we always covered as part of the program, is being offered. Very specific skills are being transferred via the workshops. I have seen applied topics like “How to conduct interviews in social sciences,” or “How to do field experiments in social sciences,” or “How to manage your time.” These kinds of skills are not only important for doctoral students but also for alumni. Therefore, it is great that we are creating a big community that works regardless of our geographical location. We will always be connected in some way or form and that is an amazing addition to the regular lectures.

BIGS-DR: The ODSRC also aims at allowing more teaching exchange (alumni and int. partner). Do you see the ODSRC as a good career opportunity for young researchers who started a career in academia?

Most definitely yes. Usually when you finish your PHD you end up working on a research project, where you also have teaching responsibilities. Teaching experience,

next to research experience, is always needed. It is a very good opportunity for early career researchers to gain some experience in teaching, interacting with students, and answering questions. I was just recently talking to my boss about the importance of teaching. You only truly know something when you can teach it to somebody else. Therefore, this is a very important experience. To have this chance to interact with students, and learn what needs and expectations they have is very useful. It also helps to freshen up my own ideas! Students at ZEF always come from different backgrounds and different parts of the world, it is a very nice interaction. I myself found it amazing experience.



Christopher Tobe Okolo (batch 2020) is a ZEFc doctoral student and

Arif Budy Pratama (batch 2019) is a ZEFa doctoral student.



BIGS-DR: Christopher and Arif, first thank you for taking the time to talk to us. You are currently doctoral students at BIGS-DR. Can you describe to us how the Corona pandemic has changed your everyday working routine and how the ODSRC courses and other online activities have helped you to deal with some of these challenges?

Christopher: Because of the pandemic, there was a lot of uncertainty and it was challenging to get the right information, especially coming from a location that is far away from everything. I was in Nigeria when it all started and it has mostly affected my visa procedure, it was delayed by several months and I had to take the language courses online which was a strange situation for me. After the language course the hang-outs started, where we met up with Dr. Manske, Max and the other doctoral students. It was weird having the first meeting online, getting to know people virtually, people you have not really met. However, the more we met and the more we had the hang-outs, the more it felt like we already knew each other for a long time. There was a kind of organic bonding and it made easy for us start working together in small breakout rooms to work on small problems.

Taking the ODSRC courses really made it like a beautiful community in which we were always keeping in touch. We doctoral students had a WhatsApp group all the way back to June, before the Slack workspace came up. We created

it to keep each other informed about embassy trouble, traveling schedules and information about the corona restrictions, specifically the German travel restrictions. We actually kept ourselves quite busy and now it has made taking the courses online quite easy.

Arif: Of course, this condition has reshaped our everyday routines. It has changed significantly especially how people interact. The pandemic has also restricted physical interaction and evoked the need for social distancing. The ODSRC courses and other online activities fortunately helped us to keep connected with each other. Especially for me as doctoral student in the middle of my fieldwork, sometimes I need to refresh some ideas like recalling theoretical or conceptual insight. Here several ODSRC courses offered some theoretical or conceptual insights that can be of use in my thesis.

BIGS-DR: What is your first impression of a digitized teaching schedule? What do you like or dislike about online learning?

Christopher: I will start with a dislike, because it is always better to finish with something positive. My negative is that it depends on internet connectivity. I found that it is not just in Africa but also in Asia, in Europe, in America, the internet connection can fail and that is a problem. The one positive aspect I like so much is that the meetings and the lectures are recorded. Consequently, even if the internet fails on my side, I can always watch the recordings and then get to understand what was said.

Arif: At first, I was not familiar with online learning but as of now, we do it every day and I can follow the pace more easily. What I like is that it gives us the opportunity to participate in the lecture no matter where we are. However, sometimes the time difference is one of the issues I face. Here in Indonesia, in my case we have 6 hours difference to Europe, so if the course is held in the afternoon maybe it is late evening or even midnight here.

BIGS-DR: Do you think online lectures can be a viable alternative for face-to-face teaching? Are there aspects of the online lectures that you would like to keep around even when face-to-face teaching is possible again?

Christopher: If you include the use of Slack as a part of online teaching, then that is really a formidable aspect. I love Slack a lot. It makes the fluidity of communication very easy. Even if we come back to the face-to-face classroom, it is always good to continue the conversation online. It integrates communication into a social media platform beautifully.

Arif: Yes, I think it can be a very good alternative even though it cannot replace face-to-face lectures I would say. The aspect of online lectures that need to be kept in my opinion is the interactive learning. For future projects or at least a discussion forum among students through Slack or other platforms like that, is very beneficial to raise the interactivity of the program.

COVID-19 AND ITS IMPACT ON RESEARCH REALITIES

This special ZEF-Blog publishes contributions from ZEF- and affiliated researchers with opinions, impressions and academic insights into aspects of the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.zef.de/2129/zef-covid-19.html>

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF BONN



University of Bonn popular among visiting scholars

In a ranking by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Bonn is listed as one of Germany's most popular universities for visiting external scholars from abroad. Bonn takes eighth place in the annual ranking and is the only University from North Rhine-Westphalia in the top ten. This position exemplifies Bonn's appeal as a research location with a good network to the international scientific community and reflects the City of Bonn's appeal to international scientist.

University of Bonn ranked fourth best University in Germany in Shanghai Ranking

The Jiaotong University in Shanghai ranks more than 1,000 universities worldwide annually with a special focus on the universities' research quality. In this ranking, the University of Bonn is taking fourth place among German Universities, is in the top 20 in Europe and holds the 87th place worldwide. Special recognition was given to Bonn's research community, which ranked first in "Prizes and Awards" and third in most-cited scientists. Departments collaborating closely with ZEF such as Economics, Agricultural sciences and Geography were all among the highest-rated in Germany in the ranking.

University of Bonn among the world's most influential university brands

The *Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings (THE) 2020* are based on the world's largest by-invitation-only opinion survey among senior academics. Scholars are asked to name the in their opinion (maximum) 15 best universities in their academic field in terms of research and teaching. The the University of Bonn is ranked place nine among all German Universities and is in the top 150 worldwide. The THE is the most comprehensive assessment of global university prestige to date.

The University of Bonn now Fair Trade University

The University of Bonn can call itself a "*Fairtrade University*" now. This distinction has been awarded by TransFaire.V in November 2020 and marks the successful finish of a two-year application process. The initiative to become a *Fairtrade University* was essentially initiated and pushed forward by the commitment and work of the students' association body. The certificate for *Fairtrade Universities* is awarded to institutions that promote fair and sustainable trade and consumption. This engagement needs to be reflected in research and teaching as well as in the administrative aspects of university life.

(Photos: University of Bonn)



WHAT'S NEW IN 2020

Joachim von Braun to chair the Scientific Group for the UN Food System Summit

UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohamed has invited ZEF-director Professor Joachim von Braun to chair the Scientific Group for the Food System Summit of the UN Secretary General, which will be held in 2021. *"The agenda of the Summit is to transform the food system to meet the combined challenges of food*



Prof. Dr. Joachim von Braun will help prepare a UN summit in 2021. Photo: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn.

security, malnutrition, climate change, natural resource degradation, and economic well-being" said von Braun *"and it will obviously be deeply impacted by the tasks to rebuild a resilient system after COVID-19 crisis."*

The Summit will be convened in the context of the United Nations Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs. In line with the overall objectives of the Decade of Action, the aim of the Summit is to help countries and stakeholders in all parts of the world understand and maximize the benefits of a food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda. As the Chair of the Scientific Group, von Braun is entrusted to lead a committee of 25 internationally renowned experts to deliver on this mandate, and to do so while also engaging with diverse networks of independent experts during the preparatory process. In addition to his professorship at the University of Bonn, Prof. von Braun is also Vice-President of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

More information on the Scientific Group of the UN Food System Summit on: <https://sc-fss2021.org/>

ZEF's Gender Group

Operating since October 2019, the ZEF Gender group has the objective to promote interdisciplinary collaboration for more gender sensitivity in research theory and designs and development research practice. The group is initiated and managed by Dennis Aviles, Tina Beuchelt and Eva Youkhana and is active across all departments. The topics for the monthly meetings are selected based on the demands of participating doctoral students and Post-Docs and include theoretical and methodological discussions on gender studies. For further information on the topic or to follow the work of the gender group more closely, see the group's [website](#) or the [ZEF Gender Blog](#).

ZEF ranked among the world's leading Think Tanks

ZEF is listed again in the annual TTCSP (Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program) Ranking from the University of Pennsylvania, USA. ZEF is listed in the following categories:

- 2020 Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks: Rank 27
- 2020 Top Science and Technology Policy Think Tanks: Rank 7
- 2020 Best University Affiliated Think Tanks: Rank 11

ZEF was able to improve its position in these categories in comparison with last year's ranking. According to ZEF's Managing Director, Professor Christian Borgemeister, being ranked in three different categories displays ZEF's wide thematic portfolio and improves upon its international reputation and recognition.

This year over 1,800 scholars, scientist, journalists, policymakers and faculty members from all over the world participated in the TTCSP annual Go to Think Tank Index Report. You can download the full report [here](#).

Annual Partnership between the Right Livelihood College and the city of Bonn

The [Right Livelihood College \(RLC\)](#), with its [German Campus located at ZEF](#), is the first university program that was invited for such a significant partnership. The RLC promotes and implements transdisciplinary doctoral education and research on social justice, poverty, inequality reduction as well as environmental sustainability with laureates of the "Alternative Nobel Prize".

Anna-Katharina Hornidge appointed new Director of DIE/GDI

Former ZEF-Researcher and ZEF-Director Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge was appointed Director of the German Development Institute (DIE/GDI) and Professor at the University of Bonn for Global Sustainable Development Studies as of Februar 13, 2020. ZEF congratulates Mrs. Hornidge for her new position and is looking forward to fruitful cooperation on issues related to global sustainable development, especially within the Bonn Alliance for Sustainable Research.



Professor Anna-Katharina Hornidge takes office. Photo: Benjamin Westhoff/DIE.



Dr. Shen Xiaomeng. Photo: UN Bonn.

Xiaomeng Shen appointed New Vice-Rector for UNU-ViE and Director for UNU-EHS

Former ZEF Junior Researcher Dr. Shen Xiaomeng was appointed UNU Vice-Rector in Europe (UNU-ViE) and Director of the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) on August 1, 2020. As the UNU Vice-Rector in Europe, Shen facilitates collaboration between UNU and stakeholders in and outside of the United Nations; contributes to high-level policy development with other United Nations entities and regional/national bodies; and guides UNU outreach efforts to Geneva-based UN entities, the European Commission, and European academic and research institutions. As the Director of UNU-EHS, Shen is the chief academic and administrative officer of the Institute and oversees its direction, organization and programs. More at <https://ehs.unu.edu/about/director>

At the science-policy interface: ZEF senior researcher Lisa Biber-Freudenberger appointed BMBF-funded Junior-Professor at ZEF/University of Bonn

Former senior ZEF researcher Dr. Lisa Biber-Freudenberger was appointed a Junior Professor at ZEF/Bonn University as of July 1, 2020. Biber-Freudenberger's Junior Professorship will be funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with a 1.8 Mio Euro grant for a five-year period. Supported by a group of junior researchers she will lead the project LAND Use SYnergies and CONflicts within the framework of the 2030 Agenda (acronym: LANUSYNCON) with the aim to develop coherent and sustainable land- use policies in East Africa and worldwide.



Junior-Professor Lisa Biber-Freudenberger. Photo: Yesim Pacal/ZEF.

RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

These are only a few selected projects. On our website you can find a list of all current [ZEF projects](#).

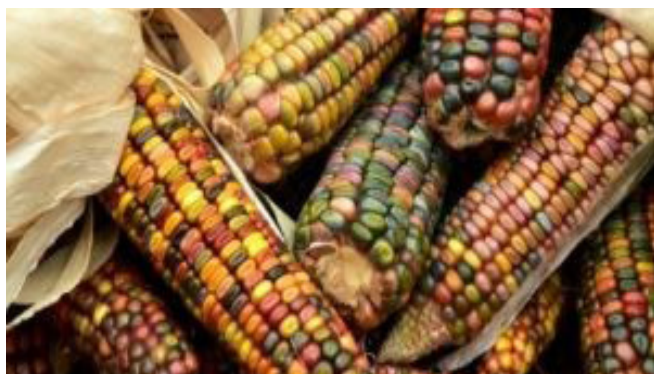
SABio Transformation and Sustainability Governance of South American Bioeconomics

This project focuses on the emergence and sustainability performance of bioeconomy in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. It aims to analyze bio-based initiatives from a political sciences and agricultural economics perspective.

The planned research seeks to inform governmental and non-governmental, including private, decision-makers in South America and beyond about entry points for action towards promoting climate smart bio-based innovation processes that safeguard rural employment and the equitable distribution of the benefits and costs of bio-based transformation.

The project's main funding partner is the "Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft" (BMEL) and the duration of the project duration is 2020-2023. You can find out more about the project on the [ZEF website](#).

Contact: [Jorge Sellare](#)



ZEF senior researcher Nawaphan Metchanun receives grant from Bonn University's TRA6



The *Transdisciplinary Research Area Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Futures* (TRA 6) of the University Bonn has granted a research fund of 30,000€ for the research proposal of ZEF junior (now senior) researcher Nawaphan Metchanun. The research will look into Covid-19 epidemic trends and projections of health system needs for developing countries. The project extends the established transdisciplinary collaboration

LANUSYNCON - At the Science Policy Interface: LAND Use SYnergies and CONflicts within the framework of the 2030 Agenda

The LANUSYNCON project strives to answer the vital question of how to use land more efficiently and thereby reduce the possible negative impacts of human development on the environment. LANUSYNCON will work on the conceptual and practical integration of different perspectives, actors and research disciplines. The insufficient coordination between land use decisions of different political sectors often leads to conflicts of ownership, access and use.

The project's funding time frame is from July 2020 until June 30, 2025. The main funding partner is the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the project's research will focus on Eastern Africa, especially Kenya and Tanzania. You can find out more about the project on the [ZEF website](#).

A two-day virtual kick-off event on November 26-27, 2020 presented and introduced the research project.

Contact: [Lisa Biber-Freudenberger](#)



between ZEF, University of Bonn, and global health institutes in the US, namely the Institute for Disease Modeling (IDM) and Northwestern University's Institute for Global Health.

The study applies mathematical-computational disease modeling to project Covid-19 epidemic trends and health system needs for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), using Thailand as a case study, to demonstrate how modeling can be applied in a situation where health care resources are highly limited.

Contact: [Nawaphan Metchanun](#)

Two ZEF-projects have been approved for a second phase.



Doctoral Studies Support Program (DSSP), Colombia

The bilateral doctoral studies support program on „[Environmental peace building and development in Colombia](#)“ of ZEF/University of Bonn and the Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Instituto de Estudios Ambientales (IDEA), looks into the nexus of natural resources, governance and conflict in Colombia. The capacity development program uses innovative and integrative concepts, methods and instruments to explore interdependencies. The joint German-Colombian knowledge production project draws on interdisciplinary exposure and integrative measures. This is the more important in a country where the signed peace appraisal will be put to test by the way the society finds solutions for pressing issues related to conflictive extractive activities and environmental protection. Above all, the participation and inclusion of the population in decision-making processes to reduce environmental conflicts plays a key role.

The second phase of this Doctoral Studies Support Program is funded for the duration from 2021-2025. You can find out more about the project on the ZEF [website](#).

Contact: [Eva Youkhana](#)



NRW Forschungskolleg “One Health and Urban Transformation”

The NRW Forschungskolleg “[One Health and Urban Transformation](#)” is a transdisciplinary graduate school seeking integrated interventions to attain optimal health for humans, animals, plants and the environment.

One Health and Urban Transformation graduate school is hosted by ZEF in cooperation with multiple institutes of the University of Bonn, the International Centre for Sustainable Development (IZNE) of the University of Applied Science Bonn Rhein-Sieg (HBRS), and the United Nations University - Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS).

Currently, 13 PhD candidates are conducting research in four metropolitan regions all over the world: the Ruhr Metropolis (Germany); Ahmedabad (India), Accra (Ghana), and São Paulo (Brazil).

The project has been approved for a second phase from the beginning of 2021 until June 30, 2024 with 12 new doctoral students from different interdisciplinary fields. They will conduct research on how ‘One Health’ approaches can contribute to achieving sustainable health improvements and food security.

In the wake of the present Covid 19 pandemic, the need for an integrated approach to health and environment is more urgent than ever. In order to better understand and prevent the transmission of infectious diseases from animals to humans and to allow quicker and more adequate reactions, the ‘One Health’ approach can be very helpful argues ZEF senior research and ‘One Health’ project coordinator Timo Falkenberg in ZEF [Podcast #1](#) and in a Covid-19 Blog Post you can read [here](#).

On November 3, 2020 the closing [symposium](#) for the first phase of the “One Health and Urban Transformation - identifying risks, developing sustainable solutions” Graduate School was held online. This symposium provided an opportunity for dialogue between stakeholders and academia on One Health and urban transformations. [More information and all symposium materials \(videos, presentations, posters\) are available online here.](#)

Contact: [Timo Falkenberg](#)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS IN GERMANY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many workshops or conferences had to be canceled and others had to be converted to online formats or deal with the requirements of social distancing. Nevertheless, we would like to present some events that took place physically - against all odds.

October 13, 2020

A world without hunger is possible: Conference by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



Prof. von Braun during his speech
Photo: BMZ, Twitter

The [“A world without hunger is possible” Conference](#) took place on October 13, 2020, working out recommendations for European action on the path to achieving the SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). The Conference was held in hybrid form (virtual and partly physical) and live-streamed to reach out to a broad audience. One of the focal points was the study [“Investment Costs and Policy Action Opportunities for Reaching a World without Hunger \(SDG 2\)”](#), that ZEF produced and published in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Among the speakers were ZEF-Direktor Joachim von Braun, Dr. Gerd Müller, Federal Minister BMZ, and Bill Gates of the Bill&Melinda Gates Foundation.

November 16-20, 2020

The hybrid Global Bioeconomy Summit

The [Global Bioeconomy Summit](#) took place from November 16-20, 2020.



Twelve workshops were held in addition to plenary sessions and debates. Change makers from around the world discussed the development and necessity of a sustainable bioeconomy. The Global Bioeconomy Summit (GBS) is a high-level, biennial international conference. It has become the leading event with a format to globally review and discuss emerging opportunities and challenges of the bioeconomy and develop visions for the future development of a sustainable bioeconomy among key actors from governments, science and innovation, business and civil society. The summit links bioeconomy policy closely to global sustainable development and climate agendas.

The Global Summit was originally initiated in 2015 by the Bioeconomy Council of the Federal German Government. Prof von Braun is Co-Chair of the German Bioeconomy Council and an initiator of the Global Bioeconomy Summit series.



Christine Lang and Joachim von Braun co-chaired the Friday plenary debate of the Global Bioeconomy Summit 2020.

Photo: Global Bioeconomy Summit 2020

November 17, 2020

Launch of the Bonn Water Network: Connecting competences for sustainable water futures,

2.1 billion people have no access to clean drinking water and more than 4.5 billion have no safe sanitation. In many countries, increasing water scarcity threatens food security and energy production or leads to conflict. For the past 15 years, seven Bonn-based organizations have been sharing their insights into solutions towards a more water secure world through their [“water lecture” series](#).

With the launch of the “Bonn Water Network” the coordination of the endeavors for sustainable water futures intensifies. The new initiative allows for strengthening the visibility of the network’s multi-disciplinary expertise and international partnerships.



It aims at facilitating a better exchange of perspectives on global water problems and fostering joint endeavors in identifying and advocating technical and institutional solutions. Bonn Water Network will benefit from and reinforce Bonn’s status as a center for international cooperation, sustainable development, and innovation.

The network consists of seven renowned institutions with longstanding experience on water and related issues: the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC); Bonn University with its Institute of Geography (GIUB) holding the UNESCO Chair in Human Water Systems, and the Center for Development Research (ZEF); the German Development Institute (DIE); the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and two UN institutions, the United Nations Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The online [launch event](#) took place on November 17, 2020

Contact: [Luna Bharati](#)



ZEF AROUND THE WORLD

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic alumni visits to the ZEF and the usual ZEF travels of employers, affiliates and doctoral students around the globe were severely restricted. Anyhow, research activities kept going. Here are some highlights.

"Friends of ZEF" Prize for an Outstanding Doctoral Thesis 2021

The "Friends of ZEF" (Gesellschaft der Freunde der Entwicklungsforschung e.V.) is awarding a prize of 2,000 Euro for an outstanding doctoral thesis in development research. The prize will be awarded for the 8th time at the end of 2021.

Eligible candidates are doctoral students of ZEF/BIGS-DR and those who have conducted their doctoral research in affiliation with ZEF and defended their thesis in 2018, 2019 or 2020, with a grade "very good" (magna cum laude) or "excellent" (summa cum laude). All eligible candidates are encouraged to apply. In addition, supervisors may also nominate former doctoral students.

Applicants should submit a cover letter explaining the development relevance and the innovative character of their thesis, a separate summary of the thesis not exceeding five pages, an electronic copy of the doctoral thesis, a tabulated CV and an electronic copy of the doctoral certificate compiled in one pdf-portfolio to <https://uni-bonn.sciebo.de/s/K27hYcrU6JmEGY3>

The **submission deadline is March 31, 2021.**

An independent committee of reviewers will select the winner.



ZEFc alumna Dr. Bibiana Betancur Corredor on a visit to ZEF in summer 2020.

Alumni prizes and career news

Batch 1999

- **Mohsin Hafeez** (ZEFc, Pakistan) is Country Representative at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Lahore, Pakistan.
- **Gerd Rücker** (ZEFc, Germany) is Senior Scientific Officer for Science, Innovation and Development Policy at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), Project Agency (PT) in Bonn.
- **Daniela Lloyd-Williams** (ZEFb, United Kingdom) is Director of the JAC Trust, Oxford, UK. The JAC Trust is an independent UK-based grant-making charity. The main area of interest is Climate Change and Displacement.
- **Tadesse Woldemariam Gole** (ZEFc, Ethiopia) is Executive Director at the Environment and Coffee Forest Forum and Executive Director of the Buna Qala Charity Association, an NGO with the main mission to improve the livelihoods of coffee farming communities in Ethiopia through implementation of integrated social development and coffee improvement program.
- **Shyamal Chowdhury** (ZEFb, Bangladesh) has become one of the editors of the Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Batch 2000

- **Adama Konseiga** (ZEFb, Burkina Faso/Canada) is now Director/Vice-President at the International Center for Evaluation and Development in Nairobi, Kenya. 
- **Khalid Yousif Khalafalla** (ZEFa, Sudan) has been working with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) for many years. He is now Principal Executive Assistant for Islamic Finance and Private Sector Development, Executive Office of the President.
- **Frank Mussnug** (ZEFc, Germany) is Component Head and Deputy Project Director at Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). 

- **Talia Vela-Eiden** (ZEFa, Germany) is Bridge 47 Officer at the European Association of Development Research and Training Institute (EADI) in Bonn.

Batch 2001

- **Arisbe Mendoza-Escalante** (ZEFb, Mexico) is Director Global Impact at Fairtrade International in Bonn.
- **Charlotte van der Schaaf** (ZEFa, The Netherlands) is Principal Project Manager at KfW Development Bank. She is engaged in the management of the energy portfolio, including solar energy and energy efficiency projects.



Batch 2002

- **Damaris Achieng Odeny** (ZEFc, Kenya) is Global Theme Leader of ESA Biotechnology at International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Nairobi, Kenya
- **Malte Kassner** (ZEFa, Germany) is now Senior Consultant, Gesellschafter, at partnership for Development (p4d) KG in Bonn. P4d has been organizing the intercultural weekend seminar at ZEF for many years.
- **Carlos Javier Puig** (ZEFc, Argentina) is now working as a Senior Climate Change AFOLU Specialist Consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, D.C., USA. He is working on projects of the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) sector in Latin America and the Caribbean region.
- **Darya Hirsch Zavgorodnyaya** (ZEFa, Uzbekistan) works at Biostadt Bonn. Bonn positions itself as “Germany’s center of competence for sustainability, environment and development issues”. Institutionally, the organic sector in Bonn is represented both internationally and nationally. Internationally, for example through the “International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements” (IFOAM) and other UN organizations, nationally through numerous ministries (BMEL, BMG, BMU) and the Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE) with its affiliated Federal Center for Nutrition (BzFE). The German Society for Nutrition (DGE) also has its headquarters in Bonn.
- **Alice Beining** (ZEFc, Germany) has a new position as Senior Project Specialist at DFGE - Institute for Energy, Ecology and Economy.



- **Fafré Bagayoko** (ZEFc, Mali) is Chef de mission, AFC Agriculture and Finance Consultants.

- **Taye Kufa** (ZEFc, Ethiopia) is Coffee Specialist at IITA, Bujumbura, Burundi.

- **Kassahun Tesfaye** (ZEFc, Ethiopia) is Director General of the Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute.



- **Anke Reichhuber** (ZEFb, Germany) is Lead Economist at UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH, Berlin.

- **Kerstin Zander** (ZEFb, Germany) is Associate Professor at Charles Darwin University, Australia.

- **Damaris Achieng Odeny** (ZEFc, Kenya) Global Theme Leader at ESA Biotechnology at ICRISAT, Nairobi.

- **Borbala Eszter Rojahn** (ZEFb, Romania) works as Senior Consultant at Control Risks, Berlin.

- **Nodir Djanibekov** (ZEFb, Uzbekistan) is Research Associate at Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) in Halle.

- **John Kedi Mduma** (ZEFb, Tanzania) is Senior Lecturer and Director at the Dar es Salaam Center for Economic Research and Policy.



- **Alice Beining** (ZEFc, Germany) became Senior Project Specialist at the Institute for Energy, Ecology and Economy (DFGE) in Munich.

- **Kelemework Tafere** (ZEFa, Ethiopia) is now part of an international collaborative project called ECLIPSE which deals with cutaneous Leishmaniasis. The project is being implemented in four countries: Ethiopia, Brazil and Sri-lanka. The project is coordinated by the University of Keele (UK). It is funded by the UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). It is a four-year program.

- **Akmal Akramkhanov** (ZEFc, Uzbekistan) is Regional Coordinator for the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) in Tashkent. Prior to joining ICARDA, Dr. Akramkhanov worked as a lead specialist with UNDP Uzbekistan and as a senior researcher at KRASS, a national NGO in Uzbekistan. He also worked in the ZEF/ UNESCO project on the economic and ecological restructuring of land- and water-use in the Aral Sea Basin.

Batch 2003

- **Alexandre Sessouma** (ZEFa, Burkina Faso) works currently to support the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System (DNP-GCA), GIZ German Development Cooperation in Niamey, Niger.
- **Tamer Mohamed Ahmed Affi** (ZEFb, Egypt) is Senior Advisor at the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Cologne.
- **Dilys Sefakor MacCarthy** (ZEFc, Ghana) is research fellow at the University of Ghana Legon.
- **Mamusha Lemma** (ZEFa, Ethiopia) is Capacity Development and Innovation Expert at ILRI, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- **Alexander Stein** (ZEFb, Germany) is Policy Analyst at European Commission, Brussels.
- **Miguel Angel Alva Gonzalez** (ZEFb, Mexico) is Finance Manager at Fairtrade International in Bonn.
- **Welyne Jeffrey Jehom** (ZEFa, Malaysia) is Head of the Center for Malaysian Studies, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- **Dil Bahadur Rahut** (ZEFb, Bhutan) will take up a new position Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) at the end of Dec 2020. He has worked since 2013 with the International Centre for Wheat and Maize Improvement (CIMMYT), where he was recently Global Program Manager, in the Socioeconomics Program and Sustainable Intensification Program, stationed in Mexico.
- **Irit Eguavoen** (ZEFa, Germany) is conducting a joint research project „Urban villages by the airport. Everyday entanglements of social-economic extremes and negotiations in anticipation of development-induced displacement in Mumbai and Abidjan” at the Department of Geography, University of Bonn.



Batch 2004

- **Yaw Bonsu Osei-Asare** (ZEFb, Ghana) is Agricultural Economist and Senior Lecturer at University of Ghana Legon.
- **Jonathan Stephen Mbwambo** (ZEFc, Tanzania) has the position Regional Coordinator, East and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project (ACE II), Inter-University Council for East Africa.

- **Caleb Wall** (ZEFa, Canada) is Manager, International Operations, at Benevity, Inc., a certified B Corporation, is the global leader in corporate social responsibility and employee engagement software, including online giving, matching, volunteering and community investment.
- **Paul Maina Guthiga** (ZEFb, Kenya) is Senior Policy Analyst at International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).
- **Nayeem Sultana** (ZEFa, Bangladesh) is Professor at Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka.
- **Inna Rudenko** (ZEFb, Uzbekistan) is Senior Researcher at Urgench State University.
- **Pan Tao** (ZEFc, China) is Urban Program Technical Director of the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) in Shanghai. ISC's mission is to help communities around the world address environmental, economic, and social challenges to build a better future shaped and shared by all. Bringing together best practices from the public and private sector, ISC uses creative, flexible training and mentoring to help communities produce breakthrough results (<https://sustain.org/>). Pan Tao is also founder of Ecoland Club Farm (in German: Schrebergarten) at Urban Rural Partnership at the Huangpu District, Shanghai.
- **Kirsten Kienzler** (ZEFc, Germany) is Head of Unit, Cooperation with CIS Countries, Project Management Agency c/o German Aerospace Center (PT-DLR).
- **Daniel Alberto Callo-Concha** (ZEFc, Peru) is now Scientist at the BMBF project: Process-based & Resilience-Oriented management of Diversity Generates Sustainability (PRODIGY) of the University Koblenz-Landau.



Batch 2005

- **Devesh Rustagi** (ZEFb, India) is now Assistant Professor for Applied Microeconomics at the Department of Economics, University of Nottingham, UK.
- **Donal Makoka** (ZEFb, Malawi) is Research Fellow at the Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD), Lilongwe, Malawi.



- **Faisal Abbas** (ZEFb, Pakistan) is Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H), National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Batch 2006

- **Ly Thim** (ZEFa, Cambodia) is Chief River Basin Planner, Mekong River Commission.
- **Ermias Aynekulu Betemariam** (ZEFc, Ethiopia) is Land Health Researcher at ICRAF in Kenya.
- **William Tsuma** (ZEFa, Zimbabwe) works now at UNDP as Crisis Prevention & Recovery Advisor in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria.
- **Flávia da Fonseca Feitosa** (ZEFc, Brazil) is Professor at Center for Engineering, Modeling and Applied Social Sciences, Federal University of ABC (CECS/UFABC), Sao Paulo, Brazil.



Batch 2007

- **Nadine Reis** (ZEFa, Germany) is now Professor at the El Colegio de México A.C. in Mexico City.
- **Thai Hoa Nguyen** (ZEFa, Vietnam) has a management positions for Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) at ABB.
- **Maria Teresa Kohr-Almanza** (ZEFc, Germany) is Team Leader Bees-Ecotoxicology at Bayer Crop Science, Cologne.
- **Mina Kumari Devkota-Wasti** (ZEFc, Nepal) is Cropping Systems Agronomist for CIMMYT at ICARDA in Rabat, Morocco.
- **Nargiza Nizamedinkhodjayeva** (ZEFa, Uzbekistan) is Research Associate at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) in Kenya.
- **Tatjana Bauer** (ZEFa, Germany) is Research Fellow at Hans Böckler Stiftung in Düsseldorf.
- **Farath Naz** (ZEFa, India) is now Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (IITJ), India.
- **Nina Langen** (ZEFa, Germany) is Professor at the Technical University Berlin, Department of Education for Sustainable Nutrition and Food Science. She is also Acting Director of the Institute of Vocational Education and Work Studies (IBBA) at the TU Berlin.
- **Aziz A.Karimov** (ZEFb, Uzbekistan) is now Head



of the Regional Representative Office for Central Asia and South Caucasus in Tashkent of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), an international, non-profit research-for-development organization that aims to strengthen agricultural productivity in marginal and saline environments through identifying, testing and facilitating access to sustainable solutions for food, nutrition and income security.

Batch 2008

- **Abdul Salam Lodhi** (ZEFb, Pakistan) is currently Director of the University College of Zhob, Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, BUITEMS, Pakistan.
- **Liu Dan** (ZEFb, China) is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Office-Director, Center for Germany Research, at the Sichuan Agricultural University, China.
- **Hart Feuer** (ZEFa, USA) is now Junior Associate Professor at the Division of Natural Resource Economics, Internationalization Initiative, Laboratory of the Philosophy of Agricultural Science, Faculty/Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University, Japan.
- **Krishna Prasad Devkota** (ZEFc, Nepal) is now Senior Scientist (Agronomist) at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University in Marrakech, Morocco. Before he has worked as a System Agronomist (Associate Principal Scientist) at the Africa Rice Center, Cote de Ivoire.
- **Simon Benedikter** (ZEFa, Germany) is now Research Coordinator of the FLOURISH project, Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products, TU Dresden.
- **Juliet Akello** (ZEF, Uganda) is Project Coordinator at IITA-Zambia.
- **Gebreyesus Brhane Tesfahunegn** (ZEFc, Ethiopia) is Associate professor at Aksum University, College of Agriculture, Ethiopia.
- **Grace Villamor** (ZEFc, Philippines) works now as a scientist at Scion, the leading New Zealand Crown Research Institute in the areas of sustainable forest management and tree improvement. She applies the agent-based model framework for New Zealand's forest research.

- **Tapiwa Uchizi Nyasulu-Rweyemamu** (ZEFa, Malawi) is now Head of Division, Gender Analysis and Monitoring at African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Batch 2009

- **Sophia Baumert** (ZEFc, Germany) is working as project manager and senior consultant for Agriculture & Agribusiness at AFC Agriculture and Finance Consultants GmbH in Bonn.
- **Quy-Hanh Nguyen** (ZEFa, Vietnam) is now Social Consultant at Environmental Resource Management (ERM) in Hanoi, Vietnam. Since 2017 is also co-founder and affiliated senior researcher of the Center for Knowledge Co-Creation and Development Research in Hue, Vietnam.
- **Tania Gabriela Osejo Carrillo** (ZEFb, Costa Rica) works since several years at the World Food Program in Rom, where she is now a Cash Program Officer.
- **Manh Quyet Vu** (ZEFc, Vietnam) is Deputy Head of Department, Soil and Fertilizer Research Institute (SFRI), Ha Noi, Vietnam.
- **Boaz Shaban Waswa** (ZEFc, Kenya) is Senior Scientist- Soil Fertility at CIAT- Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA), Nairobi, Kenya.

Batch 2010

- **Begzod Mashrabovich Djalilov** (ZEFc, Uzbekistan) is Senior Economics Officer at Asian Development Bank, Uzbekistan Resident Mission.
- **Thi Phuong Linh Huynh** (ZEFa, Vietnam) is researcher at the Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) working in the “inequalities and Environmental Changes in the Lower Mekong Basin” project.
- **Andreas Mandler** (ZEFa, Germany) is responsible for Coordination and Public Relations at the Department of Research at Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Italy.
- **Olena Dubovyk** (ZEFc, Ukraine) is Interim Professor at the Remote Sensing Research Department (RSRG), Geography Institute, University of Bonn.



Batch 2011

- **Jan-Niklas Bamler** (ZEFa, Germany) is now manager at meliorate GmbH in Hamburg. Meliorate GmbH is the strategic and organizational consultancy for infrastructure operators (energy networks and storage systems, transport routes and structures, telecommunications networks).
- **Stephen Ataamvari Adaawen** (ZEFa, Ghana) works as a consultant for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Bonn.
- **Sewmehon Demissie Tegegne** (ZEFa, Ethiopia) is Assistant Professor at Bahir Dar University, Social Science Faculty, Department of Gender and Development Studies, Ethiopia.
- **Sonam Tashi** (ZEFc, Bhutan) is Associate Professor at College of Natural Resources, Lobesa, Bhutan.
- **Khushbakht Hojiev** (ZEFa, Tajikistan) works as Adolescent Program Manager at UNICEF in Kampala, Uganda.
- **Rapti Siriwardane-de Zoysa** (ZEFa, Sri Lanka) is Principal Investigator, Blue Urban project (DFG/SPP 1889), at Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research in Bremen. Together with her collaborators she secured a Social Science Research Council (SSRC, US) planning grant within the funding initiative “Transregional Collaboratory on the Indian Ocean”. The project titled “Southern Collective - Northern Indian Ocean. Within the next 12 months, the project team will also create a web-based portal to facilitate grassroots public engagement, and with the aim of democratizing knowledge generation in and for the region.
- **Hendricus Andy Simarmata** (ZEFa, Indonesia) became President of Indonesian Association of Urban and Regional Planners (IAP). He is also Senior Lecturer at the University of Jakarta.



Batch 2012

- **Charles Yaw Okyere** (ZEFb, Ghana) has a position as lecturer at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, University of Ghana.
- **Evelyn Nyathira Kihui** (ZEF, Kenya) is working now at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research

and Analysis in Nairobi.

- **Marco Elías Cisneros Tersitsch** (ZEFb, Germany) works as a Senior Researcher at the University of Göttingen.
- **Janina Kleeman** (ZEFc, Germany) is Researcher at The Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg.
- **Rythia Afkar** (ZEFb, Indonesia) is Economist at the World Bank.



- **Irfan Mujahid** (ZEFb, Indonesia) is Senior Officer at The ASEAN Secretariat in Indonesia.
- **Daniel Ayalew Mekonnen** (ZEFb, Ethiopia) is Researcher at Wageningen Economic Research.
- **Tamer Eshtawi** (ZEFc, Palestinian Territory) is Assistant Professor at the University College of Applied Science and freelance water resources - GIS expert.
- **Hugo Rosa da Conceicao** (ZEFa, Brazil) is Policy Officer - Forests at CDP, Berlin. CDP is a global disclosure system for companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts and for investors or purchasers to access environmental information for use in financial decisions.
- **Aftab Nasir** (ZEFa, Pakistan) is Assistant Professor at Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, Punjab. Pakistan.
- **Alisher Ergashev** (ZEFb, Uzbekistan) is now Principal Economic Analyst / Commercial Evaluation and Management, Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- **Arda Bilgen** (ZEFa, Turkey) is Visiting Scientist, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts.



Batch 2013

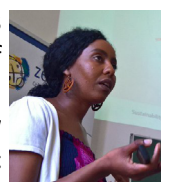
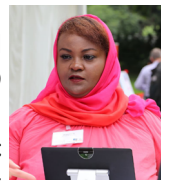
- **Isaac Mbeche Nyang'au** (ZEFa, Kenya) found a position as a consultant researcher at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) after his doctoral defense.
- **David Boansi** (ZEFb, Ghana) is lecturer at the Kwame Nkrumah' University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana.
- **Johannes Schielein** (ZEFc, Germany) works as a Project Manager at the KfW Entwicklungsbank.

- **Mohammad Monirul Hasan** (ZEFb, Bangladesh) is currently serving as Market and Trade Policy Advisor at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Dhaka.
- **Jan Brockhaus** (ZEFb, Germany) is Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company in Cologne.
- **Johanna Rapp** (ZEFa, Germany) is Coordinator for Max Planck Schools, Science and Policy Department, Max Planck Society, Munich.
- **Gebrelibanos Gebremedhin Gebremariam** (ZEFb, Ethiopia) is now consultant for CIMMYT in Addis Ababa.
- **Denise Margaret Mastias** (ZEFc, Philippines) works now as Research Scientist at the Institut für sozial-ökologische Forschung (ISOE) GmbH, Frankfurt.



Batch 2014

- **Darius Mwingyine** (ZEFa, Ghana) works as a lecturer at the University of Development Studies, Ghana.
- **Marwa Abdel Hamis Shumo** (ZEFc, Sudan) found after her doctoral defense a new position as R&D Scientist at Hermetia Baruth GmbH in Berlin where she works on organic waste conversion and management using biological agents. She has been invited to participate in the exclusive hybrid SILBERSALZ Conference taking place at the Leopoldina German National Academy of Sciences in Halle (Saale) on 17 October 2020. She was also chosen as a nominee at the 70th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting. Once a year a scientific review panel of the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings selects only the 650 most qualified applicants from all over the world to meet about 40 Nobel Laureates for scientific exchange.
- **Bibiana Betancur Corredor** (ZEFc, Colombia) is Postdoctoral Researcher at Senckenberg – Leibniz Institution for Biodiversity and Earth System Research in Görlitz.
- **Juliet Wanjiku Kamau** (ZEFc, Kenya) is Research Associate at Department of Geography/SFB Future Rural Africa, University of Bonn. She works now under the Professorship for Organic Farming with a Focus on Sustainability at the University of Gießen. She is working on two projects, 1) assessment of nitrogen-transformation




processes for optimization of nitrogen use efficiency and ii) assessment of how to increase water retention in soils through regenerative farming practices to improve adaptation to climate change.

- **Pablo Ernesto Evia Salas** (ZEFb, Bolivia) is now Poverty and Climate Change Specialist at the Ministry of Development Planning, La Paz, Bolivia.
- **Essa Chanie Mussa** (ZEFb, Ethiopia) is Assistant Professor at the University of Gondar, Ethiopia.

Batch 2015

- **Gabisel Barsallo** (ZEFa, Panama) found a new position as Research Professor at the Universidad de Panamá. 
- **Nino Pkhikidze** (ZEFb, Georgia) is Young Professional Economist at The World Bank in Washington, D.C.
- **Florent Anguilles Dèhogbè Noulekoun** (ZEFc, Benin) is Research Professor at Korea University
- **Regine Weber** (ZEFb, Germany) is working at the FAO at the Agricultural Development Economics Division, Economic and Social Development Department.
- **Till Ludwig** (ZEFb, Germany) is advisor for sustainable supply chains and standards at the GIZ in Bonn.
- **Sneha Sharma** (ZEFa, India) has a postdoctoral position at the University of Bonn. She is conducting a joint research project „Urban villages by the airport. Everyday entanglements of social-economic extremes and negotiations in anticipation of development-induced displacement in Mumbai and Abidjan. 
- **Eeusha Nafi** (ZEFc, Bangladesh) is now Post-Doctoral Research Scientist, NWARC, MSU-Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystem, Crop Modelling, Climate Change Adaptations, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.


Batch 2017

- **Dima Al Munajed** (ZEFa, Syria) was awarded this year's Prize of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Ms. Al Munajed received the prize for her voluntary work as managing director of the non-profit 



initiative Massyr which supports Syrian artists affected by conflict through the project [SAFIR](#), for establishing the intercultural “Dinner Club Bonn” with her ZEF colleague Juliana Minetto Gellert Paris, and for organizing digital workshops for her fellow students at ZEF.

- **Mekdim Regassa** (ZEFb, Ethiopia) became a post-doctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops (IGZ) in Berlin.

ZEF Senior Researchers


- **Heike Baumüller** was recognized as one of the most cited researchers in the Journal of International Development for her article “The little we know: An exploratory literature review on the utility of mobile phone-enabled services for smallholder farmers”. 

ZEF Senior Affiliates

- **Rattan Lal** has been awarded the 2020 World Food Prize. He was honored for his work promoting climate-resilient agriculture through sustainable soil management. Prof. Lal's work has spanned five decades and four continents. Prof. Lal has raised global awareness of the importance of soil health and the profound impact it has not only on agricultural yields, but also on climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as on global food security. 
- **Ahmadou Aly Mbaye** (ZEF Senior Fellow Prof.) has been appointed Vice Chancellor of the Cheikh Anta Diop University. Prof. Mbaye is a close collaborator of ZEF and has founded and coached together with Prof. von Braun the successful doctoral program on Climate Economics at the Cheikh Anta Diop University under WASCAL. 
- **Felix Ankomah Asante** became the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Development at the University of Ghana. He received his PhD in agriculture economics at ZEF in 2002. In his capacity as Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) University of Ghana Prof. Asante was instrumental in working with ZEF to secure DAAD sponsorship for ISSER's PhD program. 

DOCTORAL DEFENSES 2020

- Marwa Abdel Hamid Shumo** (ZEFc, Sudan) successfully defended her thesis on January 29, 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Use of black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) in bioconversion and feed production". The dissertation is published [online](#).
 
- Alicia Bustillos Ardaya** (ZEFa, Bolivia) successfully defended her thesis on May 26, 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Applying disaster risk governance in dynamic environments - case study Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil".
 
- Annis Fellahi** (ZEFa, Algeria) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on December 17, 2020. The Title of his thesis is "Youth Migration Choices in Light of the Rural Renewal Program in Algeria: The case of Batna Province (Aures Region)".
 
- Aminata Germer** (ZEFa, Germany) successfully defended her thesis on September 24, 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Food habits and nutrition security in West Africa - Practices from Southwestern Burkina Faso". The dissertation is published [online](#).
 
- Mohammad Hossain** (ZEFa, Bangladesh) successfully defended his thesis on July 3, 2020. The topic of his thesis is "Dispossession, environmental degradation and protest: Contested development in Bangladesh".
 
- Mouhamed Idrissou** (ZEFc, Togo) successfully defended his thesis on April 21, 2020. The topic of his thesis is "Modeling water availability for smallholder farming in inland valleys under climate and land use/land cover change in Dano, Burkina Faso". The dissertation is published [online](#).
 
- Henry Kankwamba** (ZEFb, Malawi) successfully defended his thesis on October 5, 2020. The topic of his dissertation is "Economic disruptions, commodity and factor market linkages in eastern Africa: Implications for income distribution, food and nutrition security."
 
- Quyen Mai** (ZEFa, Vietnam) successfully defended her doctoral thesis on November 26, 2020. The title of her thesis is "Networks and flows in the World Heritage governance: The case of Vietnam".
 
- Mercy Mashingaidze** (ZEFa, Zimbabwe) successfully defended her doctoral thesis on September 2, 2020. The title of her thesis is "Pooling resources, scattering the family: transnational realities of Zimbabwean post-2000 migrants in the United Kingdom".
 
- Nawaphan Metchanun** (ZEFc, Thailand) successfully defended her thesis on July, 21, 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Evaluating novel vector control strategies - Modeling the impact of gene editing for malaria elimination in the Democratic Republic of Congo".
 
- Powell Mponela** (ZEFc, Malawi) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on December 14, 2020. The topic of his doctoral thesis is "Options for sustainable intensification in maize mixed farming systems: Explorative ex-ante assessment using multi-agent system simulation".
 
- Francis Molua Mwambo** (ZEFc, Cameroon) successfully defended his thesis on July 8, 2020. The topic of his thesis is "Energy efficiency analysis of biomass production - Considering human and draft animal labor inputs in maize-based production system in the Sudanian savanna agroecological zone, Ghana".
 
- Euusha Nafi** (ZEFc, Bangladesh) successfully defended his thesis on March 3, 2020. The topic of his thesis is: "Interactive tillage and crop residue management effects on soil properties, crop nutrient uptake and yield in different weathered soils of West Africa - measurements, modelling and scenario simulations". The dissertation is published [online](#).
 

- **Melissa Roxana Quispe Zúñiga** (ZEFc, Peru) successfully defended her thesis on March 16, 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Mining and small-scale farming in the Andes: Socio-environmental roots of land-use conflicts". The dissertation is published [online](#). 
- **Sundus Saleemi** (ZEFb, Pakistan) successfully defended her thesis on September 7 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Empowerment of girls and women in rural Pakistan: Migration, decision-making and consciousness". The dissertation is published [online](#).
- **Daniel Akoto Sarfo** (ZEFc, Ghana) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on September 25, 2020. The title of his thesis is "Towards bamboo-agroforestry development in Ghana: exploring socioeconomic and ecological potentials".
- **Yasobunt Sandul** (One Health, India) successfully defended his doctoral thesis on December 10, 2020. The topic of his thesis is "Research to explore Intersectoral Collaborations for One Health Approach (RICOHA): A health system study in Ahmedabad, India".
- **Johannes Schielein** (ZEFc, Germany) successfully defended his thesis on June 22.2020. The topic of his thesis is "Broken Roads and Broken Laws. How Infrastructure and Law Enforcement Shape Amazonian Deforestation Frontiers". The dissertation is published [online](#).

- **Sneha Sharma** (ZEFa, India) successfully defended her doctoral thesis on January 21, 2020. The title of her thesis is "Politics of Waste: Contestations, Practices and Geographies of Exclusion at a Dumping Site in Mumbai". 
- **Shova Shrestha** (ZEF, Nepal) successfully defended her doctoral thesis on November 9, 2020. The topic of her thesis is "Diagnosing and managing zinc and boron deficiencies in emerging crop production systems of Nepal".
- **Kalterina Shulla** (ZEFc, Albania) successfully defended her thesis on July 22.2020. The topic of her thesis is "Analyses on the role of non-state actors for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals". The dissertation is published [online](#). 
- **Regine Weber** (ZEFb, Germany) successfully defended her thesis on January 20.01.2020. The topic of her thesis is "Food security monitoring for developing countries in the age of big data". The dissertation is published [online](#). 

ZEF DISCUSSION PAPERS 2020

- Cai, S. and K.F. Zimmermann. 2020. Social Assimilation and Labor Market Outcomes of Migrants in China. (ZEF Discussion Paper 304). [Download](#)
- Chu, S., Zeng, X. and K. F. Zimmermann. 2020. Parental Gender Stereotypes and Student Wellbeing in China. (ZEF Discussion Paper 303). [Download](#)
- Stark, O. and G. Kosiorowski. 2020. An adverse social welfare effect of quadruply gainful trade. (ZEF Discussion Paper 302). [Download](#)
- Saini, S., Gulati, A., von Braun, J. and L. Kornher. 2020. Indian farm wages: Trends, growth drivers and linkages with food prices. (ZEF Discussion Paper 301). [Download](#)
- Beye, A. and A.M. Komarek. 2020. Quantification and benefits of reducing post-harvest losses: Evidence for vegetables in Senegal. (ZEF Discussion Paper 300). [Download](#)
- Olayide, O.E., Sangare, S.A., Koo, J. and H. Xie. 2020. Targeting Small-Scale Irrigation Investments using Agent-Based Modeling: Case Studies in Mali and Niger. (ZEF Discussion Paper 299). [Download](#)
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NEWS FROM THE BIGS-DR TEAM

Maïke Retat-Amin, had to leave ZEF at the end of 2020, after 10 years of working with us. Unfortunately, we were not able to renew her contract due to government regulations. We are very grateful to Maïke for her contribution to the doctoral program. With her help e.g. in finding accommodation, visa applications, applications to the faculties and organization of intercultural seminars and leadership seminars, she has paved the way for a large number of ZEF doctoral students to have a successful study and a pleasant life in Bonn. For many doctoral students she was an important contact person for personal and family problems. We are very grateful for her commitment and will miss her a lot.

The student assistants **Anna Grimminger, Lani Döhring and Hendrick Wolf** have left ZEF in October to focus on their studies.

New in the BIGS-DR team

Till Sloane, Philipp Werkman have joined the team as student assistants.

In addition, we have additional teaching assistants for the online courses: **Charlotte Epple, Orenaike Oluwatosin, Nicholas Haluska and Abhilash Cheekoti**.

Friedericke Ahrens joined the team as a media expert to help with the online teaching tools.

From former BIGS-DR team members

Anna Yuwen (USA) is now Executive Assistant at Ares Genetics in Vienna.

Jishoy Vithayathil (Germany) is Climate Change Expert at the KfW-DEG in Cologne.

Elena Herzen lives now in the Metropole region Houston, USA, where she is a Learning & Training Consultant/ Higher & Professional Education/ Cooperation & Relationship Manager/ Project Manager.

Simon Forster (Germany) is Policy Advisor at Deutscher Bundestag in Berlin.

Timo Weinbrenner is Policy officer (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) at the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium.

NEW ZEF CALENDAR 2021

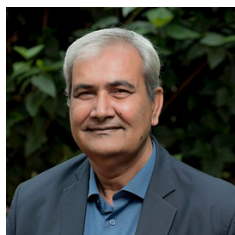
The ZEF calendar for 2021 is available now! It shows another series of amazing pictures taken by our ZEF researchers from all over the world. If you are interested in receiving a calendar, please send your postal address to bigs-dr@uni-bonn.de.

OBITUARIES

Obituary for Dr. Muhammad Mehmood Ul-Hassan

April 22, 2020.

Our beloved former colleague Muhammad Mehmood Ul-Hassan passed away in Kenya, where he worked and lived.



It is with great sorrow that we heard and herewith announce that our beloved former colleague Dr. Muhammad Mehmood Ul-Hassan from Pakistan passed away on March 20. Dr. Mehmood Ul-Hassan completed his doctoral studies at ZEF in March 2013. He received his doctoral degree from the Faculty of Agriculture in Bonn for his doctoral thesis on “Nurturing Interdisciplinarity in Agricultural Research through Capacity-Building: A case study of ZEF’s Uzbekistan Project”

He was a strong interdisciplinary researcher, bringing in rich experiences from the practical world as well. He was a well-beloved colleague with a calm, humble and cooperative personality and a focused and effective way of working. Particularly his contribution to the development of the ‘Follow-the-Innovation approach’ with other ZEF colleagues in the context of ZEF’s long-year research work in Uzbekistan and Central Asia remains part of his academic legacy. He will be deeply missed by us.

After leaving ZEF he worked as Head of the Capacity Development Unit at the World Agroforestry (ICRAF) in Kenya. Our thoughts are with his family in Pakistan.

Obituary for Dr. Franklin Simtowe

October 9, 2020

Dr. Franklin Simtowe, our ZEF alumnus and well-known scientist from Malawi, passed away in Ethiopia last week.



The ZEF community is deeply saddened by this unexpected loss; our condolences go out his friends and family in this time of mourning. Dr. Simtowe was working in his office in Addis Adaba when he passed, his body is now in the Embassy of Malawi, where his friends and colleagues can say goodbye. He will be brought back to his family in Malawi on his last journey and put to rest in his home village of Kameme, Chitipa.

Late Dr. Simtowe joined the ZEF doctoral program in 2003 and received his doctorate in Agricultural Economics from the University of Hohenheim in 2006 with a thesis on “Performance and Impact of Microfinance – Evidence from Joint Liability Lending Programs in Malawi.” He had a considerable international career in development research in Africa for more than 25 years. He conducted socio-economic research at the African Rice Center, IFPRI, the Alliance for Green Revolution, ILRI, ICRISAT, the World Bank and recently as a Senior Agricultural Economist at CIMMYT in Nairobi. He wrote many publications on impact assessment of social development interventions, policy analysis and was working closely with governments in designing and implementing pro-poor marketing, soil health and seed policies. He was also the co-author of several publications from ZEF doctoral students.

We lose a fine scientist in Africa and valued member of the ZEF alumni network. Our sincere condolences go to Dr. Simtowe’s family and friends.

Obituary for Professor Stephan Klasen

October 29, 2020.

Professor Stephan Klasen, ZEF Senior Fellow, passed away after a long illness on October 27, 2020. Prof. Klasen was for many years teaching in the ZEF Economics Doctoral Program and collaborated with ZEF research projects. He will be very much missed by the German and international development economics communities.



Stephan Klasen was Professor of Development Economics at the University of Göttingen. He was the director of the Courant Research Center ‘Poverty, equity, and growth in developing and transition countries. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University and has since held positions at the World Bank, King’s College (Cambridge, UK) and the University of Munich. His research focused mostly on issues of poverty, inequality, environment, and gender. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones.

STAYING CONNECTED

Your Alumni profiles & ZEF's Data Protection Policy

All our alumni and former researchers are listed under the [staff section on the ZEF website](#). Make sure your profile is up-to-date by [logging into the ZEF intranet](#) on our homepage by using your ZEF login and password. **Your Alumni profile on the ZEF website is the more valuable for you the more you keep it up-to date.** If you have any questions about your ZEF profile, email us at biggs-dr@uni-bonn.de!

We also updated our data protection policy in 2019 in accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR/DSGVO). You can find our updated [Data Protection Policy](#) (DPP) on our ZEF website (in German). The DPP also covers your Alumni profile on the ZEF website. **Please note, that by law we can only keep your profile, if you actively gave consent to it.**

Say hello to other ZEF alumni

Want to stay connected to other ZEF alumni and expand your network? Now it gets even easier: the [German Association of Postgraduate Programmes with special Relevance to Developing Countries \(AGEP\)](#) is an umbrella organization comprising various postgraduate study programs oriented to developing and threshold countries as well as countries with economies in transition. AGEP offers a number of international programs with different specializations for alumni, including workshops, webinars and didactic events. Join AGEP to explore your opportunities and expand your scope! Connect to AGEP by registering through the [Alumniportal Deutschland](#) and searching for the group AGEP-Network. You can also join the [Alumni Association of the University of Bonn](#) by registering on its [website](#) to remain an active part of our university family. Through the Uni Bonn Alumni Network, your university would like to keep in touch with you, keep you informed of current developments at your Alma mater, and, of course, also learn how you are doing after your time at the University of Bonn.

ZEF social media

Keep in touch with ZEF, BIGS-DR and other alumni through social media. Our network of users across all platforms continues to grow—so join us!



Preview our upcoming events and institute related news on our [Facebook](#) page. Join the [alumni group](#) to stay in touch with current and former ZEF researchers and find out what they're doing today.



Start tweeting [@ZEFbonn](#) and follow us to see where we are and what we're doing. Some events are recorded live, where you can join us and chat via Periscope.



Missed an event? No problem—head over to our [YouTube](#) channel to re-watch talks and lectures!



More into visual culture? Our [Instagram account](#) gives you a snapshot of working and studying, and even a behind-the-scenes sneak peek of how things are done at ZEF. Post your own photos and share with us by tagging [#ZEF](#)!



If you're looking for something more professional, connect with us via [LinkedIn](#). You'll find updates about projects and collaborations, and have the opportunity to network with other researchers connected to ZEF.



Finally, take a look at the [ZEF blog](#), a researcher-run space where individuals share stories and reflect about their work, both in and out of the field. The ZEF blog is written by senior and junior researchers, bringing personal experiences to the forefront.

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