



ZEF alumni news

No. 8 December 2015

Dear ZEF alumni,

As the holiday season comes around, we would like to wish you happy Christmas and New Year! In addition, we want to thank you for staying in contact with ZEF. The alumni network makes our jobs evermore a pleasure and keeps our research efforts successful and sustainable.

You can always stay up-to-date with ZEF's activities via **ZEF's Website**, where you can also find **ZEF on Facebook**, **ZEF on youtube**, **ZEF on twitter** or read the **ZEF Blog**.

We wish you and your families all the best,

Günther Manske & Team

Contents

1. ZEF Ranked!	1
2. News from ZEF 2015	2
3. New Research Projects	4
4. Awards for ZEF Doctoral Students and Alumni ...	5
5. Alumni at Conferences and Workshops	6
6. ZEF Alumni Career News	7
7. News from ZEF Alumni Families	9
8. Doctoral Defenses 2015	9
9. New ZEF Discussion Papers	10
10. New ZEF Working Papers	11
11. Selected New Publications from ZEF Alumni	11
12. Miscellaneous	12

1. ZEF Ranked!

Rankings have become fashionable in academia lately. From universities to individual scholars, everybody gets a score. Of course, with popularity comes critique and the fierce debate about how valuable rankings can be is far from over. A notable contribution to the discourse is the Leiden Manifesto by Diana Hicks, Paul Wouters and colleagues. Their collection of rules and guidelines for the smart application of rankings was published in Nature's April 2015 issue. A team at ZEF took a closer look at the matter earlier this year. They analyzed the performance of current and former researchers of the institute, as well as ZEF's standing as an institution.

The most important indicator used by popular rankings like Google Scholar and Web of Science is the so-called h-index. There are various indices, what they all try to measure, is the number of publications and citations per researcher and their impact on their field. The study conducted by ZEF concluded that rankings are indeed valuable quality management and PR tools. The authors, however, remained critical and questioned if it is adequate to measure the impact of ZEF solely based on citations in peer-reviewed journals. Scientific projects, policy advice, capacity building through the doctoral program, cooperation with national and international institutions have potentially a much higher impact on sustainable development in the Global South argued the ZEF researchers in their paper. They see ZEF's impact materializing beyond mere citations in publications.

Findings of the report in detail

ZEF researchers published 995 peer-reviewed papers from 2004-2014. This is around 90 papers every year.

All articles combined got cited 20,406 times, meaning 20.8 times per article. The median number of citations per publication was 11.5. In most cases, publications were linked to doctoral research conducted at ZEF. More than 50 % of the publications are from ZEF junior researchers.

The h-index of ZEF is 70 for peer-reviewed publications in the period from 2004-2014. Other research institutes do not publish their h-index so direct comparisons are difficult. The only comparison possible is with Universities. Bonn University's index is 44.49, Harvard scored highest with 72.00, Oxford has an index of 53.65 and the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) in Munich of 47.63.

More Information

ZEF is again among the top international think tanks in "Go To" ranking 2014. The Global Go To Think Tank Index Report has been conducted and published by the "Think Tank and Civil Societies Program" of the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. on an annual basis since 2007. ZEF has been listed for the fifth year in succession among the world's leading think tanks. ZEF is among the top three in science and technology think tanks as well as under the top 20 of best university-affiliated think tanks (as the only German institute listed there). More than 6,600 think tanks based in 182 countries are evaluated annually by 1,100 international experts from science and politics. You can read the full ranking report [here](#).

Google scholar provides an interesting platform by Google for every researcher. This web search engine allows the search for digital or physical copies of articles, online or in libraries, and indexes full texts of scholarly literature across a wider range of disciplines. It also offers "Scholar citations profiles" and provides an index of peer-reviewed online journals, plus scholarly books. scholar.google.de

2. News from ZEF 2015

Research on the Economics of Land Degradation

A joint research team of ZEF and IFPRI has published a global assessment of the economics of land degradation and improvement. The research has been conducted in cooperation with numerous other regional and national partners and was supported financially by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation

and Development (BMZ). The book is available online without charge: Nkonya E., Mirzabaev, A. and von Braun, J. 2015. Economics of Land Degradation and Improvement - A Global Assessment for Sustainable Development. Springer Open. [Open access](#)

Excerpt from the foreword by Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) and former Under Secretary General of the United Nations, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): *"The research presented in the book shows that investments to address land degradation have significant economic payoffs. Next to investments, we have to address the question of adoption of sustainable land management practices and policies. To implement land restoration, we need to understand obstacles within the social, economic, and the political context. The results of this study show that particular attention needs to be paid to tangible local incentives for taking action against land degradation. This requires secure land rights, enhancing extension services, and empowering local communities to manage their natural resources. The identification of implementation pathways through multi-stakeholder processes assumes a particular importance in this regard. This book can serve as a highly valuable resource and reference for policymakers, civil society, researchers, and practitioners."*

ZEF's Research on Migration

ZEF has been conducting research on different aspects of migration and mobility since its start in 1997. Moreover, our efforts and activities in the realm of institutional and academic capacity development in emerging countries have addressed root causes of forced migration. Around 80 percent of our doctoral students return to their home countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia after graduation to re-invest their skills in developing institutions and shaping policies in their societies.



You can find more outcome and publications by ZEF researchers on different aspects of migration and mobility online:

- [Webpage on mobility and migration](#)
- [Publications on mobility and migration](#)
- [Doctoral theses on mobility and migration](#)
- [Projects on mobility and migration](#)

You can also read the latest **ZEF news no. 32** (November 2015) which has a focus on Migration and the just published **ZEF Annual Report** with its **lead article** on the issue.

Ministers of WASCAL Member States met in Berlin with BMBF-Minister Johanna Wanka

Ministers of the 10 West African WASCAL member states met in Berlin in July 2015 with Germany's Federal Minister for Education and Research (BMBF) Johanna Wanka to discuss the future of the Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL). At this high-level ministerial meeting, it was agreed upon that the WASCAL member states in West Africa will operate and finance the center with



their own means in the near future by raising their own funds and cooperate more closely with ECOWAS. It was also decided that the following countries will join WASCAL: Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

In an interview with the German radio channel Deutschlandfunk, ZEF-Director Christian Borgemeister said *"West and Southern Africa will suffer in particular from the impact of climate change, such as raising temperatures and uncertain rainfall."* He also pointed out: *"Africa has been left far behind in terms of investment in international climate research. Especially in the field of climate prognoses Africa lacks research capacities."*

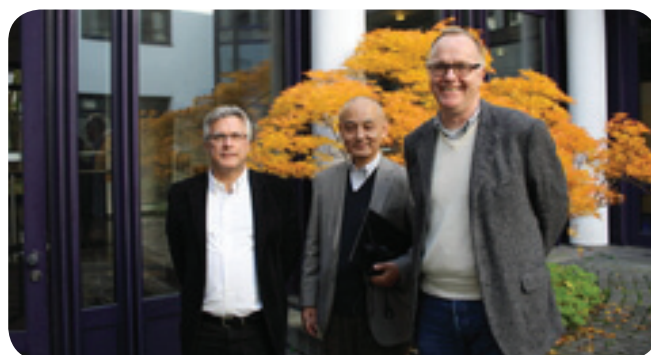
First Batch of PhD Students Graduated from WASCAL Climate Change Economics School in Dakar



ZEF-director Joachim von Braun with WASCAL graduate Yameogo Bindayaboa Thomas after the successful defense of his doctoral thesis.

April 17, 2015, six PhD students from six different West African countries celebrated their graduation in Dakar, Senegal. High-ranking Senegalese officials and the German Ambassador attended the ceremony, which was broadcast on national television. The students are part of the WASCAL Graduate Research Program in Climate Change Economics at the University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (UCAD) Dakar, Senegal.

ZEF and the International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) of the University of Tokyo embark on Strategic Partnership



From left to right: Manfred Denich (ZEF), Seishi Ninomiya (IPADS) and ZEF-director Christian Borgemeister.

The International Program in Agricultural Development Studies (IPADS) at the University of Tokyo and ZEF are embarking on a strategic partnership in research and education and on an exchange program of students and staff.

IPADS offers interdisciplinary Master's and PhD programs on agricultural and environmental issues in developing countries. Both institutes have started to exchange academic staff and held first lectures in person and via video conference. In October, Professor Ninomiya gave two talks at ZEF to doctoral students which were also video-transmitted to IPADS students in Japan. In April 2016, ZEF doctoral students will visit IPADS in Tokyo to participate in a workshop.

Watch the interview with Taro Takahashi, IPADS project coordinator on our Youtube-Channel.

3. New Research Projects

ZEF has acquired a number of significant new research projects recently, and some projects have been extended:

New Research Initiative "NutriHAF" to Combat Hunger and Malnutrition in East and South Africa

ZEF, as part of the research initiative NutriHAF ("Diversifying agriculture for balanced nutrition through fruits and vegetables in multi-storey cropping systems"), will promote the cultivation of vegetables and fruits in multi-storey cropping systems in Ethiopia and Madagascar. The aim of the research project is to find and introduce adequate varieties of fruits and vegetables that can help to improve the nutritional situation of the local population. Providing new sources of food and income can also help to reduce the pressure on natural resources and prevent resource depletion.

The project consortium includes 14 research and capacity building partners in Africa and Germany. The project will be funded by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) for a three-year period. See **NUTRIHAF** project website.

ZEF Embarks on German-Bolivian Partnership about Biodiversity

ZEF has started a long-term partnership with the Department of the Universidad Católica Boliviana (UCB) in Cochabamba (Bolivia). The partners intend to work on a better appreciation and a more appropriate implementation of biodiversity accounting in Bolivian environmental impact assessments with the aim of minimizing the gap between academia and practice by strengthening the science-policy interface. The project is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for a three-year period. For more information look at the project **Website**.

Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI)

Innovation for sustainable and high agricultural growth forms an important part of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024 (STI Strategy 2024). The German Government has acknowledged this innovation potential and supports the improvement of food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural value chains through agricultural innovation centres in 12 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia), as well as in India. ZEF's Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation (PARI) offers independent scientific advice to support these innovation centers. The main Cooperation Partners are the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), African Growth and Development Policy Modeling Consortium (AGRODEP), Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation, University of Bonn (INRES), School of Life Sciences Weihenstephan at the Technical University of Munich, University of Hohenheim (UHOH) and the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).

The main donor is the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). See **Website**.

PROIntensAfrica

ZEF is collaborating in this coordination and support action with a consortium of over twenty European and African institutions (research organizations, universities, research councils, and regional organizations). The project, titled "Towards a Long-Term Africa-EU Partnership to Raise Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security in Africa," aims to develop a proposal for a long-term research and innovation partnership between Europe and Africa. Focus is on the improvement of the food and nutrition security and the livelihoods of African farmers by exploring and exploiting the rich diversity of pathways leading to sustainable intensification of African agro-food systems, with support of the relevant policy environment. The main funding partner is the European Commission H2020. See **Website**.

Forests in the Global Bioeconomy: Developing Multi-Scale Policy Scenarios

Many countries around the world are developing explicit strategies to promote bio-based economic transitions to reduce their dependency on non-renewable resources and to enhance sustainability. The bio or green economy is an opportunity to meet the growing global demand for food, fuel, fiber

and other biomass uses, while at the same time reducing the impact of economic development on the environment. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the design of policies and measures that promote synergies between global bioeconomy development, forest ecosystem service provision (more sustainable management of natural resources), and poverty alleviation (reducing rural poverty) on tropical forest margins in Brazil and Indonesia. The main funding partner is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through the Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development (Beratungsgruppe Entwicklungsorientierte Agrarforschung - BEAF). See [Website](#).

Volatility in Commodity Markets, Trade Policy and the Poor (2nd Phase)

The volatility research project analyzes the drivers of food prices and price volatility, ranging from speculation, storage/trade and production to demand shocks. The project group is concerned with related impacts on food security and food production. They further work on policy and risk management strategies to reduce price volatility. The main cooperation partners are the Institute for Food and Resource Economics, IFPRI, House of Finance at Goethe University Frankfurt, Ethiopian Economic Association, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, University of Ghana in Accra and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi, India. Main funding partners are the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Union Investment and Bayer Crop Science. See www.zef.de/volatility.html

4. Awards for ZEF Doctoral Students and Alumni

In August 2015, ZEF researchers won prestigious awards for their respective papers at the 29th triannual **International Conference of Agricultural Economics (ICAE)** in Milan, Italy. About 1200 researchers from over 70 countries participated at the conference. The jury recognized the ZEF scholars in the categories of oral- and visual presentation. **Marcos Elias Cisneros Tersitsch**, along with co-authors **Sophie Zhou** and **Jan Börner**, won the T.W. Schultz Award for best paper (oral category). The award is named after Nobel Laureate T.W. Schultz. The title of the paper was "Forest Law Enforcement through District Blacklisting in the Brazilian Amazon."



ZEF economists received prestigious awards at the ICAE conference (From left to right: Jan Börner, Marcos Elias Cisneros Tersitsch, Oliver Kirui, Alisher Mirzabaev and Joachim von Braun)

Oliver K. Kirui, along with co-author Alisher Mirzabaev, won the N. Westermarck Award for best paper (visual category). The award bears the name of the former president of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE). The title of the paper is "Costs of Land Degredation in East Africa."

Juliet Akello (ZEFc, Uganda, batch 2008) was granted an AWARD fellowship, which aims to empower African women scientist in agricultural research for development with leadership and scientific skills. AWARD stands for African Womaen in Agricultural Research and Development. Juliet works now as a post-doctoral fellow at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Zambia.

In July 2015, **Navneet Kumar** (ZEFc, India, batch 2010) was selected as the recipient of the Foreign Scholar Award during the ninth International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) World Congress in Portland, Oregon, USA. He presented his research titled, "Land-use Change Analysis and its Impact on Water Resources of Upper Kharun Catchment, India."



Jose Jara-Alvear (ZEFc, Ecuador, batch 2011) was accepted and awarded a scholarship to train with the Disaster Risk Management of Stiftung Ländliche Entwicklung (SLE) in Berlin, from July 20-31, 2015.

Rapti Siriwardane (ZEFa, Sri Lanka, batch 2011) has been awarded a Carlo-Schmid-Scholarship for a six-month internship at the UN Framework for Climate Change Control (UNFCCC) in Bonn.

Hendricus Simarmatan (ZEFa, Indonesia, batch 2011) has been awarded the 2015 World Science (WSS) Fellow on Sustainable Urbanisation II from the International Social Science Council (ISSC). Through the Global Fellowship Programme, the WZB Berlin Social Science Center and the ISSC aim to build a new generation of outstanding social scientists in developing countries, who are willing and able to solve current global problems. The Fellowship Programme enables an outstanding early-career social scientist from a developing country to spend four to six months in the exciting and stimulating environment of an exceptional social science research organisation in Germany. Hendricus has been further invited to participate in a workshop in Taiwan with 20 other young researchers. Hendricus and four other colleagues are currently in the process of submitting an academic paper to the Cities Journal with the topic: "Sustainable Urbanization and Displacement of the Urban Poor."



WASCAL students and recent postdocs from the Climate Change Economics Program at Sheik Anta Diop University (Dakar) made it through a highly competitive selection process for this year's prestigious annual Global Development Conference of GDN in Casablanca. Only 5% of applicants were selected and invited to give an oral or poster presentation. We can congratulate WASCAL students **Owodon Afo-Loko** (Togo), **Aboubakr Gambo Boukary** (Niger), **Boris Lokonon** (Benin), **Mikemina Pilo** (Togo) and **Oliver Kirui** (ZEFb, Kenya, batch 2012) who were selected and participated energetically in the climate sessions. See http://www.gdn.int/html/feature_story.php?id=71



5. Alumni at Conferences and Workshops

Damaris Achieng Odeny (ZEFc, Kenya, batch 2002) was invited to a panel discussion at the U.S. - Africa Leaders' Summit Spousal Program, which was part of the U.S. - Africa Leaders' Summit held in Washington from August 4-6, 2014, in order to strengthen ties between U.S. and African leaders. The goal of the summit sought to "[empower] African women and girls to participate in economic growth and [promote] healthy lives through technology and job training." Damaris Odeny currently works as a senior biotechnology scientist at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Nairobi, Kenya. After her doctoral study at ZEF she held a postdoc position at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding in Cologne, Germany, and then at the Agricultural Research Council - Biotechnology Platform in South Africa.

In December, **Ayodele Ajayi** (ZEFb, Nigeria, batch 2000) visited ZEF leading a team from the Nigeria Petroleum Development Fund for a joint scholarship meeting with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung.

Anastasiya Shtaltovna (ZEFa, Ukraine, batch 2008) organized a "Follow the Innovation (FTI)" training for facilitators in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, earlier this year. She also gave the keynote speech at a workshop of the Regional Programme for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Central Asia in Avaza, Turkmenistan (September 29 - October 3, 2015).

The third **World Congress on Agroforestry**, organized by the World Agroforestry Centre, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Indian Society of Agroforestry, and Global Initiatives, took place in Delhi, India, in February this year. The following ZEF researcher and alumni working on forestry joined the congress, chaired sessions and gave presentations, **Daniel Callo-Concha** (ZEFc, Peru, Batch 2004), **Grace Villamor** (ZEFc, Philippines, Batch 2008) and **Tobias Wünscher** (ZEFb, Germany, Batch 2003).

Evita Pangaribowo (ZEFb, Indonesia, batch 2008) visited Ghana and Ethiopia as part of the AG-WATSAN Research Project in March. Together with the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, she supervised a household survey and conducted a pilot intervention of the Aquagenx water testing toolkit for school children in Ghana. In Ethiopia, she supervised organized cooperation with the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) a follow-up survey, and consolidated the research reports and publications in the same project.

Grace Villamor (ZEFc, Philippines, batch 2008) chaired two sessions during the Global Land Project (GLP) Open Science Meeting in Berlin, Germany, in March this year. Grace also participated in the spring course on Companion Modeling organized by the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) Zurich and La Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) in Propstei, Switzerland. In April, Grace participated in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Inception workshop on gender, climate-smart agriculture and co-investment on tree-based systems on Mactan Island, Cebu, Philippines and attended the Alternative Slash and Burn (ASB) meeting in Manila, Philippines, in October.

Irit Eguavoen (ZEFa, Germany, batch 2003) taught a module “The Politics of Climate Change and Adaptation” at the University of the Gambia in Serekunda. The module is part of the WASCAL Master Program on Climate Change and Education. Irit also presented a paper “Translators of an Uncertain Future. Climate Change Translation and University Education in West Africa” at a conference “Development: What now?” organized by the Department of Applied Social Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong, China.

Till Stellmacher (ZEFa, Germany, batch 2002) was invited to give a speech on “Local Forest Governance in Ethiopia: Between Legal Pluralism and Livelihood Realities” at the International Conference of the German-Ethiopian Association in Kassel, Germany, on March 28-29. Till also participated in the conference “International Symposium on Society and Resource Management” at the Leibniz University in Hannover, Germany, in June. He organized a panel session on “Food Security and Local Development in Eastern Africa”.

Tobias Wünscher (ZEFb, Germany, batch 2003) visited the WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June. He presented his work on farmer innovations to research staff and continued his tour to Ghana, where he organized a workshop with committee members of the farmer innovation contest, formalized relationships with local partners, and took steps towards the scientific evaluation of selected farmer innovations together with local partners. In August, Tobias presented two papers at the biannual conference of the International Society for Ecological Economists (ISEE) in Reykjavik, Iceland. He also presented two papers at the seventh conference of the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) on “Local Action for the Common Good” in San Jose, Costa Rica, in September.

6. ZEF Alumni Career News

Chodechi Suwanaporn (ZEFb, Thailand, batch 1999) is now working as Executive Vice President of energy and economics policy at PTT Public Company Limited. PTT Public Company produces and sells crude oil and natural gas. According to Fortune Global, PPTPCL is the largest group of companies in Thailand.

Chian-Woei Shyu (ZEFa, Taiwan, batch 2006) was promoted to the position of Associate Professor for the Department of Political Science at the National Chung Cheng University in Taiwan.

Philip G. Oguntunde (ZEFc, Nigeria, batch 2000) was elevated to the rank of a professor of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering at The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria. He is currently a visiting scientist at the Institute of Landscape Hydrology, Leibniz Center for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), Muencheberg, near Berlin.

Kelemework Tafere Reda (ZEFa, Ethiopia, batch 2001) is currently working as a visiting researcher at the Institute of Dispute Resolution in Africa, University of South Africa (UNISA).

Komsan Suriya (ZEFb, Thailand, batch 2007) has been appointed as the director of the Social Research Institute of Chiang Mai University. His duty is to promote interdisciplinary development research in the university, including overseeing nine faculties in the field of social sciences and the humanities. He organized “The 1st International Conference on Interdisciplinary Development Research (IDR2015)” in Chiang Mai in September, which covered issues ranging from sustainable development, poverty and income distribution, energy, environmental management, urban and community development climate change, to informatics.

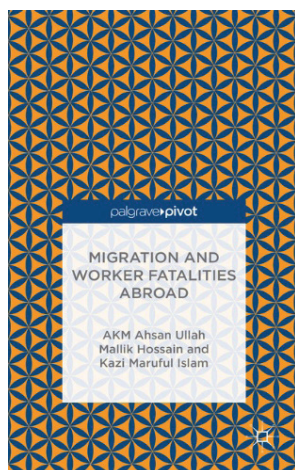
Ruchika Singh (ZEFa, India, batch 2010) is a consultant for a World Bank project detailing the implications of forest rights acts for land rights of tribal and forest dwelling communities. She is working as a lead researcher/co-principal investigator.

Farhat Naz (ZEFc, India, batch 2007), works now at the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) Vietnam office in Hanoi. She has co-authored with colleague Delia Catacutan “A Guide for Gender Mainstreaming in Agroforestry Research and Development,” developed by ICRAF. This guide aims at preparing gender research proposals, and designing and implementing gender research in agroforestry. Please find 45 papers from a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary background from researchers of IWMI (International Water Management Institute), IRRI (International Rice Research Institute), World Fish, BRAC and other local partners

from India and Bangladesh, including government agencies working on water issues/management in the coastal zones of India and Bangladesh at: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/66389>

Seid Nuri Ali (ZEFb, Ethiopia, batch 2004) spoke at the plenary and parallel sessions of the African Emergence Conference organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire. The plenary session topic was about the Ethiopian experience in achieving high growth and its efforts of transformation in the last decade. At the parallel session, Seid Nuri Ali presented a paper with the Ethiopian Economics Association, the core message being: putting aside the right issues and good governance in order to investing in long term capabilities and inclusivity, which has already helped to ensure high growth and reduce poverty in the last decade in Ethiopia.

Kazi Maruful Islam (ZEFb, Bangladesh, batch 2003) is co-author of a book on "Migration and Worker Fatalities Abroad." In recent years, the alarming number of fatalities among migrant workers has stirred up outrage and controversy. Most cases of migrant fatalities were reported from countries in the Middle East and South East Asia, and their deaths were the result of unhealthy food habits, poor access to health services, mental stress and dangerous working conditions. These fatalities are also due to flaws in the policies of the governments, of both origin and destination. This book investigates conditions, policies and impacts of fatalities. The authors argue that migrant workers are often powerless and unprotected by national laws, and unearth new truths about migrant workers and their increased significance as an economic and political player.



Felix Asante (ZEFb, Ghana, batch 1999), Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana, and Tadesse Woldemariam Gole (Ethiopia, batch 1999, ZEFc), Director of the Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF) in Ethiopia participated in a panel discussion at the Bonn Conference for Global Transformation 2015 which offered insights into research on global transformation processes. The conference was held at the World Conference Center Bonn, May 12-13, 2015.

Aikek Baibagys Uulu (ZEFb, Mongolia, batch 2006) works now as a consultant with The World Bank.

Ira Matuschke (ZEFb, Germany, batch 2003) has been working since August 2014 at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies in Berlin (IASS) where she coordinates the Forum for Renewable Resources and Sustainable Development. Prior to her work at the IASS, she has worked as an analyst for agricultural policy at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. Other workstations in her career are the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, Rome), the International Fund for Rural Development (IFAD, Rome) and the International Research Institute for Food and Development Policy (IFPRI, Washington DC. and Addis Ababa).

Tina-Maria Schieder (ZEFb, Germany, batch 2002) is working now as a consultant for International Climate Protection Fellowships and Humboldt Alumni Award at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Bonn.

Quang Bao Le (ZEFc, Vietnam, batch 2001) is working now as an Agricultural Livelihood Systems Expert at the CGIAR Research Program on Dryland Systems, c/o International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), Amman, Jordan.

Jonathan Lassa (ZEFa, Indonesia, batch 2007) is working now at the Center for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, www.rsis.edu.sg

Manja Reuter (ZEFc, Germany, batch 2001) is working now as a coordinator of the Leibniz Research Alliance "Sustainable Food Production and Healthy Nutrition" at the Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering (ATB) in Potsdam. ATB is a European center of agricultural engineering research at the nexus between biological and technical systems. The research targets a knowledge-based bioeconomy. ATB is developing highly innovative and efficient technologies for the use of natural resources in agricultural production systems - from basic research to application.... [more at <http://www.atb-potsdam.de/en>]

Frank Mussnug (ZEFc, Germany, batch 2000) is working now as a Senior Advisor - Agricultural Extension & Training at the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM), GIZ, in Eschborn near Frankfurt.

Jonathan Mbwambo (ZEFc, Tanzania, batch 2004) is working now as a Director at the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Tanzania.

Tilmann Schachtsiek (ZEFc, Germany, batch 2009) is now working as a "Referent" (Advisor) with the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) in Bonn at the Department for Forest and Wood - Research for International Sustainable Forestry (www.ble.de).

Faisal Abbas (ZEFb, Pakistan, batch 2005,) received a Fulbright Scholar Award to conduct research at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at the Cornell University, USA, with Professor Dr. Arnab Basu, a Senior Research Fellow at ZEFb.

Jaqueline Garcia-Yi (ZEFc, Peru, batch 2005) got a new position as a Research Officer at United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna.

Luki Abdullah (ZEFc, Indonesia, batch 1999) is now Dean of the Faculty of Animal Science, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia.

Eklou Attiogbevi-Somado (ZEFc, Côte d'Ivoire) is now Principal Agronomist at the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Katinka Weinberger (ZEFb, Germany) is now Officer-in-Charge, a.i., Environment and Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Thailand.

Neeraj Mishra, (ZEFa, India, batch 2005) is now working as an assistant professor at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (MP)

7. News from ZEF Alumni Families

Chian-Woei Shyu (ZEFa, Taiwan, Batch 2006) and his wife An-Gi became proud parents on June 25, 2014 at 01:45 am of their son Mu-Heng. We congratulate both!

Beatrice Wambui Muriithi (ZEFb, Kenya, Batch 2010) gave birth to her son Muriithi on May 17, 2014 at 10:24 am. Congratulations!

8. Doctoral Defenses 2015

09.02.2015 - José Luis Viveros Anorve (ZEFb, Mexico): The opportunity cost of financing Oportunidades: a general equilibrium assessment for poverty reduction in Mexico. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

11.03.2015 - Monica Gruezmacher (ZEFc, Colombia): Understanding social ecological change through palm use and management. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, University of Bonn

12.03.2015 - Michael Simon (ZEFb, Germany): Resource Allocation for Health in Tanzania - Determinants and Development Implications. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

17.03.2015 - Dawit Diriba Guta (ZEFb, Ethiopia): Bio-based Energy, Rural Livelihoods, and Energy Security in Ethiopia. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

22.04.2015 - Thi Phuong Linh Huynh (ZEFa, Vietnam): State-Society Interaction in Vietnam: The Everyday-Dialogue of Local Irrigation Management in the Mekong Delta. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Arts, University of Bonn

24.04.2015 - Tania Gabriela Osejo Carrillo (ZEFb, Nicaragua): Costs and effectiveness of REDD policies: insights from Biosphere Reseale, Nicaragua. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Forestry, University of Göttingen

27.04.2015 - Jin Zhang (ZEFc, China): Crop management options to reduce nitrogen pollution in Liangzihu lake basin, Central China. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

27.04.2015 - Yessengali Oskembayev (ZEFb, Kazakhstan): International Analyses of Natural Resource Curse and Kazakhstan's Related Economic Performance with Special Attention to its Wheat and Energy Sectors. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

27.04.2015 - Ildephonse Musafiri (ZEFb, Rwanda): The Determinants of Long-Term Growth in Smallholder Agriculture in Rwanda: An Intergenerational Analysis. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

28.04.2015 - Mekbib Gebretsadik Haile (ZEFb, Ethiopia): Volatility of International Food Prices: Impacts on Resource Allocation and on Food Supply Response. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

05.05.2015 - Justice Akpene Tambo (ZEFb, Ghana): Farmer Innovation in Rural Ghana: Determinants, Impacts and Identification. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

07.05.2015 - Siwei Tan (ZEFa, Singapore): Wastewater Management in the Industrial Zones of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta: A Socio-spatial Analysis of Environmental Management in a Transition Economy. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, University of Bonn

03.06.2015 - Valerie Graw (ZEFc, Germany): Interlinkages of Land Degradation, Marginality and Land Use Cover Change in Kenya - Development of an interdisciplinary framework using remote sensing and GIS. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, University of Bonn

07.06.2015 - Tamer Eshtawi (ZEFc, Palestine): Integrated hydrologic modeling as a key for sustainable development planning of urban water resources in the semi-arid watersheds of the Gaza Strip. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, University of Bonn

15.06.2015 - Heike Baumüller (ZEFb, Germany): Agricultural innovation and service delivery through mobile phones: Analyses in Kenya. Doctoral thesis at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

16.06.2015 - Rapti Lalana Siriwardane (ZEFa, Sri Lanka): Sambandam: Cooperation, Contestation and Coastal Life-worlds in Postwar Sri Lanka. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Arts, University of Bonn

06.07.2015 - Abu Hayat Md. Saiful Islam (ZEFb, Bangladesh): Impact of technological innovation on the poor: integrated aquaculture-agriculture in Bangladesh. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

06.07.2015 - Lukas Kornher (ZEFb, Germany): Food price volatility: the role of stocks and trade. Doctoral thesis at Faculty of the Agriculture, University of Bonn

08.07.2015 - Sarah Winands-Kalkuhl (ZEFb, Germany): International Cooperation for the Conservation and Sustainable and Fair Use of Biodiversity. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

10.07.2015 - Yang Haoran (ZEFb, China): Land rental market and rural economic development: Evidence from rural Chongping, China. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

10.07.2015 - Yi Zhang (ZEFb, China): Impacts of rural-urban migration on demographic transition, human capital investment and agricultural productivity in China's rural areas. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

13.07.2015 - Muntaha Rakib (ZEFb, Bangladesh): Gender Differentiated Asset Dynamics in Bangladesh: Individual Adaptation and Potential for Group Based Approaches in the Context of Climate Change. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

13.07.2015 - Esther Dörendahl (ZEFa, Germany): Boundary Work for Collaborative Water Resources Management: Conceptual and Empirical Insights from a South African Case Study. Doctoral thesis at the University of Münster

22.07.2015 - Ben Selengia Dandi (ZEFb, Tanzania): Foreign aid, economic growth, and poverty reduction in Tanzania. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

10.08.2015 - Hendricus Andy Simarmata (ZEFa, Indonesia): Locally Embedded Adaption Planning: A trilogy on the adaption of flood-affected people in Kampung Muara Baru, Jakarta. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Arts, University of Bonn

12.08.2015 - Julia Schöneberg (ZEFa, Germany): NGOs - Development Actors as Agents for Alternatives to Development? Exploring the role of the privileged

in regard to Post-Development theory by looking at cooperation and partnerships between Haitian organisations and international NGOs. Doctoral thesis at the University of Kassel, Faculty of Social Sciences

18.08.2015 - Tigabu Degu Getahun (ZEFb, Ethiopia): Industrial clustering, firm performance and employee welfare: Evidence from Ethiopia Shoe and Flower Cluster. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

18.08.2015 - Sonam Tashi (ZEFc, Bhutan): The Prospects of Organic Farming in Bhutan. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

27.08.2015 - Stephen Ataamvari Adaawen (ZEFa, Ghana): Migration from and to the North of Ghana: Historic Paths in Confrontation with Environmental Risks. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Arts, University of Bonn

06.11.2015 - Philipp Baumgartner (ZEFb, Germany): The impact of large-scale land-acquisition in East Africa on poverty reduction and rural economy: Studies from Ethiopia and Uganda. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

16.12.2015 - Siti Rahyla Rahmat (ZEFb, Malaysia): Global value chains and the role of innovation for sustainable palm oil: An international bioeconomy analysis for Malaysia. Doctoral thesis at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn

9. New ZEF Discussion Papers

(Available online for download: <http://www.zef.de/index.php?id=2214>)

Stark, O. and E. Zawojka. 2015. Gender differentiation in risk-taking behavior: On the relative risk aversion of single men and single women. (ZEF Discussion Papers 206)

Ngigi, M.W., Mueller, U. and R. Birner. 2015. The role of livestock portfolios and group-based approaches for building resilience in the face of accelerating climate change: An asset-based panel data analysis from rural Kenya. (ZEF Discussion Papers 205)

von Braun, J. and A. Mirzabaev. 2015. Small Farms: Changing Structures and Roles in Economic Development. (ZEF Discussion Papers 204)

Guta, D., Jara, J., Adhikari, N., Qiu, C., Gaur, V. and A. Mirzabaev. 2015. Decentralized Energy in Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus in Developing Countries: Case Studies on Successes and Failures. (ZEF Discussion Papers 203)

Stark, O. and A. Nicinska. 2015. How inheriting affects bequest plans. (ZEF Discussion Papers 202A)

Guta, D. D. and J. Börner. 2015. Energy security, uncertainty, and energy resource use option in Ethiopia: A sector modelling approach. (ZEF Discussion Papers 201)

Badiane, O. and S. Odjo. 2015. Regional trade and volatility in staple food markets in Africa. (ZEF Discussion Papers 200)

Stark, O., Jakubek, M. and M. Kobus. 2015. Engineering an incentive to search for work: A comparison groups approach. (ZEF Discussion Papers 199)

Stark, O., Jakubek, M. and M. Kobus. 2015. A bitter choice turned sweet: How acknowledging individuals' concern at having a low relative income serves to align utilitarianism and egalitarianism. (ZEF Discussion Papers 198)

10. New ZEF Working Papers

(Available online for download: <http://www.zef.de/index.php?id=2213>)

Husmann, C., von Braun, J., Badiane, O., Akinbamijo, Y., Abiodun, F.O. and D. Virchow. 2015. Tapping Potentials of Innovation for Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Growth: An Africa-Wide Perspective. (ZEF Working Papers 144)

Mohr, A., Beuchelt, T., Schneider, R. and D. Virchow. 2015. A rights-based food security principle for biomass sustainability standards and certification systems. (ZEF Working Papers 143)

Von Braun, J. and M. Kalkuhl. 2015. International Science and Policy Interaction for Improved Food and Nutrition Security: Toward an International Panel on Food and Nutrition (IPFN). (ZEF Working Papers 142)

Eguavoen, I. and J. Wahren. 2015. Climate change adaptation in Burkina Faso: aid dependency and obstacles to political participation. (ZEF Working Papers 140)

Wiesmann, D., Biesalski, H. K., von Grebmer, K. and J. Bernstein. 2015. Methodological Review and Revision of the Global Hunger Index. (ZEF Working Papers 139)

Amankwah, K., Shtaltovna, A., Kelboro, G. and A.-K. Hornidge. 2015. A Critical Review of the Follow-the-Innovation Approach: Stakeholder collaboration and agricultural innovation development. (ZEF Working Papers 138)

Bühler, D., Grote, U., Hartje, R., Ker, B., Lam, D.T., Nguyen, L.D., Nguyen, T.T. and K. Tong. 2015. Rural Livelihood Strategies in Cambodia: Evidence from a household survey in Stung Treng. (ZEF Working Papers 137)

11. Selected New Publications from ZEF Alumni

Abebaw, D. 2014. Infant and child health in Ethiopia: reflections on regional patterns and changes. *Journal of International Development* 25: 536-548.

Afifi, T., A. Milan, B. Etzold, B. Schraven, C. Rademacher-Schulz, P. Sakdapolrak, A. Reif, K. van der Geest, K. Warner. 2015. Human mobility in response to rainfall variability: opportunities for migration as a successful adaptation strategy in eight case studies. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21632324.2015.1022974>

Ali A., D.B. Rahut, B. Behera, 2015. Farmers' Access to Certified Wheat Seed and its Effect on Poverty Reduction in Pakistan. *Journal of Crop Improvement* 29(2): 247-265. DOI:10.1080/15427528.2015.1004147

Ali A., Erenstein O., and Rahut D.B. 2014. Impact of direct rice-sowing technology on rice producers' earnings: empirical evidence from Pakistan. *Development Studies Research*, 1 (1): 244-254. (Open Access)

Ali, A, O Erenstein, and Rahut D.B. 2014. Gender contribution in production of high value crops: empirical evidence from Pakistan. *Journal of Animal and Plant Sciences*, 24 (3): 936-944.

Alix A, T Steeger, C Brittain, D Fischer, R Johnson, T Moriarty, E Johansen, F Streissel, R Fischer, M Miles, C Lee-Steere, M Vaughan, B Vaissiere, G Maynard, M Kasina, RCF Nocelli, C Scott-Dupree, M Coulson, A Dinter and M Fry. 2014. Overview of a Proposed Ecological Risk Assessment Process for Honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and Non-Apis Bees. In: Fischer D and Moriarty T. (eds.): *Pesticide Risk Assessment for Pollinators*. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1-118-85252-1. 121-148

Behera, B. D.B. Rahut, A. Jeetendra, A. Ali, 2015. Household collection and use of biomass energy sources in South Asia. *Energy* 85. DOI:10.1016/j.energy.2015.03.059

Catacutan, D.; Naz, F. 2015. Gender roles, decision-making and challenges to agroforestry adoption in Northwest Vietnam. *International Forestry Review* 17 (1): 22-32

Djanibekov, N., U. Djanibekov, R. Sommer, and M. Petrick. 2015. Cooperative agricultural production to exploit individual heterogeneity under a delivery target: The case of cotton in Uzbekistan. *Agricultural Systems* 12/2015; 141:1-13

Hota, P. and B. Behera. Coal mining in Odisha: An analysis of impacts on agricultural production and human health. *Extr. Ind. Soc.*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.exis.2015.08.007>

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Kim, I., Le, Q.B., Park, S.J., Tenhunen, J., Koellner, T. (2014). Driving forces in archetypical land-use changes in a mountainous watershed in East Asia. *Land* 3(3), 957-980. DOI: 10.3390/land3030957

Laing, T., Palmer. C. 2015. Economy-wide impacts of REDD when there is political influence. *Resource and Energy Economics* 03/2015; 12. DOI:10.1016/j.reseneeco.2015.03.001

Mwaura MM, DK Isutsa, JO Ogweni and M Kasina.2014. Interactive effects of irrigation rate and leaf harvest intensity on edible leaf and fruit yields of multipurpose pumpkin (*Cucurbita moschata* duchesne). *International Journal of Science and Nature*, 5 (2): 199-204

Naz, F. and Buisson, M-C. "Multiple Actors, Conflicting Roles and Perverse Incentives: The Case of Poor Operation and Maintenance of Coastal Polders in Bangladesh", in Humphreys, E., T.P. Tuong, M.C. Buisson, I. Pukinskis and M. Phillips (ed.), *Revitalizing the Ganges Coastal Zone: Turning Science into Policy and Practices* Conference Proceedings. Colombo, Sri Lanka: CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food (CPWF). Pp. 147-161

Nyadzi E.,S.M. Ezenwa, K.B. Nyarko, A.A. Okhimamhe, T.T. Bagamsah, O.O. Francis. 2015. Assessment of Trace Gas Emissions from Wild Fires in Different Vegetation Types in Northern Ghana: Implications for Global Warming. *Environment and Natural Resources Research* 5 (2)

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Pohl, C., G. Wuelser, P. Bebi, H. Bugmann, A. Buttler, C. Elkin, A. Grêt-Regamey, C. Hirschi, Q. B. Le, A. Peringer, A. Rigling, R. Seidl, and R. Huber. 2015. How to successfully publish interdisciplinary research: learning from an Ecology and Society Special Feature. *Ecology and Society* 20(2): 23. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5751/ES-07448-200223>

Rahut, D. B., Ali. A., Menale K., Paswel P M.,and Chudamani B..2014. Rural Livelihood Diversification Strategies in Nepal. *Poverty & Public Policy*, 6 (3): 259-281

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Tamene, L., Le, Q.B., Vlek, P.L.G. (2014). Developing a landscape planning and management tool to help tackle land and water degradation in data scarce regions. *Water Resources Management* 28(2), 407-424. DOI:10.1007/s11269-013-0490-1 (ISI-indexed, Impact Factor 2013 = 2.463)

Tamene, L., Le, Q.B. 2015. Estimating soil erosion in sub-Saharan Africa based on landscape similarity mapping and using the revised universal soil loss equation (RUSLE). *Nutrient Cycling in Agroecosystems*, Online First. DOI: 10.1007/s10705-10015-19674-10709 (ISI-indexed, Impact Factor 2013 = 1.733)

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Yilma Z., A. Derseh, R. Sparrow, D. Abebaw, M. Dekker, G. Alemu, and A.S. Bedi.2014.Coping with shocks in rural Ethiopia. *Journal of Development Studies*, 50(7): 1009-1024

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Zander, K.K. et al. 2015 Heat stress causes substantial labour productivity loss in Australia. *Nature Climate Change* 05; DOI: 10.1038/nclimate2623

12. Miscellaneous

Cancellation of the lifelong Uni-Bonn E-Mail Address

The University of Bonn has changed the rules for the lifelong e-mail address `YourName@uni-bonn.de`. Unfortunately, it is not possible for alumni anymore to keep the e-mail address. The Uni-ID is only available for students registered with the university, employees and guest researcher/research fellows.

Please send us your new e-mail address so that we can stay in contact with you.

Get connected on LinkedIn – the business-oriented social networking service!



Here you can create a business profile, list your professional experience, upload your CV and establish professional connections. Job seekers can connect with hiring managers and get information on interesting positions. Stay in contact with other ZEF alumni and Günther Manske! Many ZEF alumni are already members. The website is available in 20 languages and has more than 300 million members in over 200 countries. <https://www.linkedin.com/english>

Active community of young scholars

The International Sociological Association (ISA) and its Junior Sociologists Network (JSN) have taken a new initiative to consolidate junior sociologists worldwide and to build a global active community of young scholars. At the first stage of this initiative, we are encouraging students who are in the middle of their PhD studies or have completed them in the last 5-6 years to add their doctoral dissertation. [Read more](#)

Cooperation Visit

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) and German Research Foundation (DFG) Cooperation Visits Programme provides postdoctoral researchers from sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa, with the opportunity to make a 'Cooperation Visit' to an institute in Germany of maximum three months. The aim of the visit is to discuss research collaboration with German scientists with the ultimate goal of developing longer-term collaboration, perhaps through other Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, or German Research Foundation) programmes. TWAS covers health insurance and travel expenses, while DFG will provide subsistence costs for the stay in Germany. The administration and financial operation of TWAS is undertaken by UNESCO in accordance with an agreement signed by the two organizations. Completed applications, together with the supporting documentation, should be sent by email to exchanges@twas.org as hard copies to TWAS secretariat, ICTP Campus, Strada Costiera 11, 34151 Trieste, Italy. Soft copies of the application form are available at ZEF from docp.zef@uni-bonn.de. Deadline: March 31, 2016.

ZEF Annual Report 2014/2015

The ZEF Annual Report has been published! It is also available [online](#). You can download the lead article co-authored by ZEF's directors Eva Youkhana, Joachim von Braun, and Christian Borgemeister on "[Addressing the root causes of migration](#)" as a separate file.

New ZEF calendar 2016

The new ZEF calendar 2016 is available now! It shows another series of amazing pictures from all over the world – home-made by our ZEF researchers. If you are interested in receiving a calendar, please send your postal address to Günther Manske; [gmanske\(at\)uni-bonn.de](mailto:gmanske(at)uni-bonn.de)

Below: A picture from ZEF's calendar, taken by Marwa Shumo, ZEF.

