Prof. Dr. Holm Tiessen

Holm Tiessen studied biology and agricultural production systems with a B.Sc., (Cell & Molecular Biology) from King's College, London, U.K., and a Ph.D., (Soil Science) from University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada. He has worked on biogeochemistry in natural and agricultural ecosystems; carbon cycles; tropical landuse; and drivers of and constraints on agricultural development. He has worked in Ghana for the German Development Agency, held professorships at the Universities of Saskatchewan, Canada and Göttingen, Germany, and visiting scientist positions at the Centre for Development Research in the University of Bonn, Germany; Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, Argentina, Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, México; Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas and Unversidade Federal de Pernambuco, Brazil. In 1998 he received the Alexander von Humboldt Science Prize for his work on tropical landuse, particularly of semiarid and marginal lands. For his engagement in global change science, he received the IPPC's recognition for contributions to the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. He has been active for 25 years on the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, International Council of Scientific Unions, at last as vice president until 2014. He has edited and co-edited 8 books; authored and co-authored 40 book chapters, and 100+ peer-reviewed articles.

Between 2005 and 2017 he lead the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research concentrating on science governance and the management of international research, capacity building, and finance. The main task in this position was to promote and develop interdisciplinary science for decision making and policy application in the IAI's 19 member countries, bridging the worlds of science and policy.