

PRESS RELEASE 1/2016

Urbanisation and rural exodus are major challenges for the development of rural areas in Eastern Europe

Expert panel at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture on 14 January 2016

Halle (Saale), 13 January 2016 – As part of the International Green Week 2016, the IAMO is organising an agro-political expert panel discussion in cooperation with the German Agribusiness Alliance of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA) on 14 January 2016 at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) in Berlin, Germany. At the event 'Urbanisation, Migration and Structural Change – Challenges and Strategies for Agriculture in Eastern Europe', representatives from politics, science and business will discuss how to deal with the upcoming issues of food supply in growing cities experiencing rural exodus from regions of Eastern Europe.

Currently, the role of the Russian agricultural sector is, above all, to supply cheap agricultural raw materials. Regional or local processing can, however, provide additional income for farms, improve the employment situation locally, and increase the attractiveness of the agricultural sector and agricultural value chains. Furthermore, investment and targeted support through local initiatives can promote the establishment and development of manpower along agricultural value chains, in order to attract new skilled workers, and to make underdeveloped areas of Eastern Europe more attractive. Against this backdrop, participants of the expert panel will discuss their perspectives on such changes, and the necessary economic policy measures.

In their opening speeches, IAMO Director **Prof. Dr. Thomas Glauben** and **Dr. Robert Kloos**, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) will explain the general problem and associated issues concerning the development potential of rural areas in Eastern Europe.

In the following panel discussion, **Ivonne Julitta Bollow**, Head of Eastern Europe and International Affairs of the Metro Group, and **Aleksey Kiryanov**, owner of Russian sausage company "IP Kiryanov", will especially report on their practical experience and the status of regional and local products in Russia. **Prof. Dr. Martin**

Petrick, Deputy Head of Department Agricultural Policy of IAMO, will discuss the developments of recent years and future expectations in the Russian agricultural sector from a scientific point of view. **Kerstin Müller**, Programme Manager for Russia, APOLLO e.V., and **Dr. Raimund Jehle**, Senior Field Programme Officer of FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, will be dealing with the phenomenon of rural exodus and the problem of the decreasing number of young people in the Russian agricultural sector. **Dr. Franz-Georg von Busse**, Chairman of the German Agribusiness Alliance of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA), will moderate the expert panel.

The expert panel discussion will be held on 14 January 2016, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, in the CityCube Berlin (level 3, room M2/M3), Germany. Simultaneous interpretation in German, English and Russian language will be provided. Admission will be free of charge. **Interested media representatives are invited to register at presse@iamo.de until 14 January 2016.**

On 16 January 2016, from 9 am to 3 pm, IAMO will also be present at GFFA's cooperation market (level 1, hall A8) in the CityCube Berlin, Germany. You are cordially invited to come to the IAMO booth to talk to researchers and to get information on the institute's research activities.

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About IAMO

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) analyzes economic, social and political processes of change in the agricultural and food sector, and in rural areas. The geographic focus covers the enlarging EU, transition regions of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, as well as Central and Eastern Asia. IAMO works to enhance the understanding of institutional, structural and technological changes. Moreover, IAMO studies the resulting impacts on the agricultural and food sector as well as the living conditions of rural populations. The outcomes of our work are used to derive and analyze strategies and options for enterprises, agricultural markets and politics. Since its founding in 1994, IAMO has been part of the Leibniz Association, a German community of independent research institutes.

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About the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations and the German Agribusiness Alliance

The Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations (OA) is a joint organization of the leading associations representing German business and acts as a central point of contact for German companies with interests in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Central Asia, South Caucasus and South-eastern Europe. The OA

supports economic policy developments in bilateral relations with those countries and promotes trade, investments and service transfers by German companies in this regionArbeitsgruppe Agrarwirtschaft, or the German Agribusiness Alliance, unites leading associations and companies in the German agriculture and food sector focussing in particular on agricultural machinery and equipment, animal husbandry, plant breeding and plant protection as well as agricultural trade. Its objective is to actively support the development of the agriculture and industries in partner countries by providing knowhow, modern technology as well as by promoting economic relations and direct investment. The German Agribusiness Alliance operates its Eastern Europe office in co-operation with the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations.

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