



Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development  
in Transition Economies

*Theodor-Lieser-Str. 2  
06120 Halle (Saale), Germany*

***Daniela Schimming***

*Public Relations*

*Tel.: +49 345 2928-330*

*presse@iamo.de*

*www.iamo.de/en*

## **PRESS RELEASE 03/2021**

### **Challenges of food security in times of pandemics and climate change**

Virtual panel discussion on 22 January 2021 at the GFFA

**Halle (Saale), 21 January 2021 – Under the title “How to better cope with change: New approaches for food system resilience to pandemic and climatic shocks”, IAMO in cooperation with the German Agribusiness Alliance (GAA) organise an expert panel. Representatives from politics, industry and science will discuss approaches to ensuring food security under the conditions of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of producers and consumers. The online event will take place on 22 January 2021 as part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA).**

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed to many national economies the limits of their productive capacity and ability to function. All this on top of climate change, which is already posing an enormous challenge to agricultural supply chains: fluctuating precipitation levels, rising temperatures and changes in soil have been hampering agricultural production for some time and are causing growing unpredictability for producers and consumers.

What agricultural strategies are the economies of Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Asia pursuing in times of climate change and pandemics - especially China and Ukraine? What innovations are looking promising? What technologies can help to make production systems and agrarian value chains more resilient – both now and in future?

These questions will be discussed online by high-level representatives at the GFFA expert panel “How to better cope with change: New approaches for food system resilience to pandemic and climatic shocks” on 22 January 2021 from 10:30 to 11:30 am (CET).

## Panel guests

**PD Dr. Daniel Müller**, Deputy Head of Department Structural Change, IAMO

**Taras Kachka**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine

**Dr. Thomas Kirchberg**, Member of Executive Board, Südzucker AG

**Michael Wironen**, TNCs Center for Sustainability Science, The Nature Conservancy

## Moderator

**Julia Harnal**, Co-Chair German Agribusiness Alliance

Simultaneous interpretation in German and English language will be provided. The livestream takes place via the website: [www.gffa-berlin.de/en](http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en). Registration is not required. If you want to join in the discussion and vote, please register here: [www.gffa-berlin.de/en/registration](http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/registration). The expert panel will be followed by a “deep dive” from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm (CET).

Further information on the panel discussion can be found here: [www.iamo.de/en/events](http://www.iamo.de/en/events).

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## About GFFA

The 13th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA) entitled “How to Feed the World in Times of Pandemics and Climate Change?” will be held virtual from 18 to 22 January 2021. The GFFA is an international conference on central future issues of agri-food policy. It is organised by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in cooperation with the Senate of Berlin, Messe Berlin GmbH and GFFA Berlin e.V. General information on the GFFA 2021 can be found on the conference website: [www.gffa-berlin.de/en](http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en).

## About IAMO

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) analyses 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.

## Contact

Daniela Schimming

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