

INNOVATION PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY

Distinguished Lecturers Series

Prof. MATIN QAIM

“NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES”

September 23, 2020, 14 h CEST, Zoom

Abstract

Hunger and other forms of malnutrition remain widespread problems globally, with huge negative health implications. Agriculture and people's diets and nutrition are closely linked. Hence the question how agricultural production needs to change in order to contribute more effectively to improved diets and nutrition is of key policy relevance. This lecture will provide an overview of relevant agriculture-nutrition links. A short historical review reveals how important agricultural developments – especially productivity growth in cereal grains – were for hunger reduction over the last several decades. However, food security is not only about grains and calories but also about micronutrients and broader dietary quality and diversity. Related technological, institutional, and policy challenges to shape future agricultural developments will be discussed.

After a brief global overview, micro-level evidence from various developing countries will be presented. As smallholder farmers in developing countries make up a large proportion of the world's undernourished people, the question how smallholder farming can be made more nutrition-sensitive is particularly relevant. One common hypothesis is that further diversifying small-farm production by introducing additional crop or livestock species is an effective strategy to improve diets and nutrition. This hypothesis is tested with empirical data. Beyond the role of farm diversification, effects of other strategies to improve diets and nutrition will be analyzed, including commercialization of the small farm sector, cash cropping, adoption of new technologies, and participation in emerging value chains. The

underlying mechanisms of nutritional impacts – such as changes in household income and intra-household gender roles – will also be explored.

About the speaker

***Matin Qaim** is Professor of International Food Economics at the University of Göttingen. Before, he had research and teaching positions at the Universities of Hohenheim, Bonn, Kiel, and California at Berkeley. He holds a doctoral degree in agricultural economics from the University of Bonn. His main research areas include food security, sustainable food systems, and smallholder agriculture. He has research experience in Europe, the USA, and numerous countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Qaim has over 200 academic publications, mostly in top disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals. He is member of the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina) and was recently recognized as Fellow of the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA). He has served on different high-level expert committees, including for the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), Africa Harvest, and the German Federal Ministry of Nutrition and Agriculture.*

Registration for the event:

<https://www.uni-bonn.de/forschung/forschungsprofil/innovation-und-technologie-fuer-eine-nachhaltige-zukunft/registration>

The lecture is held via Zoom and will be recorded and published afterwards.

The Zoom access data will be sent to those registered a few days prior to the lecture.

About the Lecture Series

The lecture series on Innovation Pathways to Sustainability is a forum for high profile and internationally visible scientists who are active in academia or at the science-policy interface. The lectures address an interdisciplinary audience of experts from natural, social, and engineering sciences as well as representatives from international and implementation-oriented organizations.

More information on past and upcoming lectures:

<https://www.uni-bonn.de/forschung/forschungsprofil/innovation-und-technologie-fuer-eine-nachhaltige-zukunft/registration>

Contact:

Hanna Pletziger, TRA 6-Manager, tra6@uni-bonn.de