



Call for Papers

60th GEWISOLA annual conference in Halle (Saale) 23 - 25 September 2020

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Institute of Agricultural and Nutrition Sciences)
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO, Halle)
Anhalt University of Applied Science (Bernburg)

The 60th annual conference of the German Society of Economics and Social Sciences in Agriculture (GEWISOLA) will be held from Wednesday, 23 September to Friday, 25 September 2020 at the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg in Halle (Saale). The conference theme is:

Challenges for rural development – Economic and social science perspectives

The Organising Committee invites the submission of contributed papers related to this conference theme. Poster contributions are equally welcome. Contributions to other topics may also be submitted if they contribute to the state of knowledge regarding socio-economic issues in the agri-food sector. Methodological-theoretical and empirical work are equally welcome.

Current issues are also to be discussed at the annual conference in organized sessions. Preconference activities are also a possibility. The organizing committee would welcome suggestions for both kinds of activity.

Key dates

- Submission of suggestions for self-organised working groups (organized sessions) and pre-conference activities **by Friday, 31 January 2020** (confirmation of acceptance by 2 March 2020)
- Submission of papers **by Monday, 9 March 2020** (confirmation of acceptance by 29 May 2020)
- Submission of poster contributions (written summary) **by Monday, 11 May 2020** (confirmation of acceptance by 12 June 2020)
- Delivery of written papers revised in accordance with reviewers' comments for publication on the conference website and AgEconSearch **by Friday, 21 August 2020**

- Delivery of the final version of posters for publication on the conference website and poster jurors (as pdf-file) **by Friday, 21 August 2020**
- Delivery of the final version of papers and written summaries of posters for publication in the conference proceedings **by Friday, 6 November 2020**

The conference theme

The development of rural areas and the quality of life in rural regions are determined by a variety of interacting factors. These factors include the demographic developments (aging, migration), the economic development, the growth of incomes, the labour market situation (unemployment versus shortage of skilled labour), social structures that encourage or hamper participatory processes, and the quality of the infrastructure and basic public services. The state of the natural environment, which in rural areas is substantially shaped by agriculture, also plays an essential role.

At the political level, the prevention of major disparities in living conditions between regions, and in particular between urban and rural areas, is a widely accepted guiding principle. In the past, rural development policies focused on developing earning opportunities and ensuring a minimum standard of basic public services in rural areas. In Germany, this is reflected, for example, in the Spatial Planning Act, according to which balanced infrastructural, economic, ecological, social, and cultural conditions should be pursued across all regions. A similar mission statement is expressed in the 2nd pillar of EU's Common Agricultural Policy (development of rural areas).

Often, the quality of life in a region is equated with the economic performance measured as GDP per

capita. However, science, politics and civil society increasingly question the paradigm that social progress and quality of life depend entirely on material wealth and consumption opportunities. In addition, the question is raised whether non-governmental actors and collective action could and should play a more important role in improving the quality of life in marginal rural areas in the future. The concept of quality of life is thus understood as a multidimensional concept that includes not only income opportunities but also the social and ecological living conditions.

With regard to the promotion of the quality of life of people in rural areas, there is a multitude of issues that require in-depth scientific discussion and that should be analysed from an economic and social science perspective. These issues are closely linked to the question of the role and the functions of agriculture and its actors in and for rural areas. In particular, these issues are:

- Demographic developments: out-migration, in-migration, birth rates
- Aspects of in-migration: urban residents looking for housing, agricultural start-ups, refugees
- Impact of market mechanisms and competition on the development of the agricultural sector and rural areas (structural change)
- Labour market: from unemployment to shortage of skilled-labour
- Societal and social implications of the distribution of land ownership
- Role and potential of Corporate Social Responsibility in agricultural enterprises
- Commons, public welfare, and social participation in rural areas
- Collective action and quality of life in rural areas
- New forms of agriculture: from alternative sources of finance to supporting community welfare (e.g. Community Supported Agriculture, food-sharing initiatives, and open source seeds or technology)
- Negative and positive impacts of agriculture on the provision of environmental system services in various domains (e.g. biodiversity, habitats, landscape, and climate change)
- Ethical dimensions of conflicting objectives in rural development
- Digitisation as a solution for problems in marginal rural areas
- New animal welfare and environmental regulation and social protest movements

We look forward receiving contributions from agricultural economics and social sciences as well as from disciplines, such as sociology, communication science, psychology, geography or political science.

Information for contributors

Written papers and presentations

Complete papers must not exceed 12 pages (including literature but excluding the title page) and can be written either in German or in English. The formatting requirements and templates can be found on the conference homepage www.iamo.de/gewisola2020.

Manuscripts are to be submitted **by 9 March 2020** as pdf-files via the conference homepage. The number of accepted presentations of submitted papers is limited to one presentation per speaker. When papers are written by more than one author, the prospective speaker should be named. For papers submitted in English, it should be stated whether the presentation will be made in English or German. In the latter case, an additional German version of the English title of the paper has to be provided.

Reviews are carried out anonymously by two reviewers using the following criteria: relevance of the topic, originality of the paper, appropriateness of the methodological approach and comprehensibility of the presentation. Positively evaluated papers will be presented at the annual conference in thematic working groups. Final papers will be published in the conference proceedings after due consideration of reviewers' comments.

With their submission, authors agree that their written contribution will be electronically distributed to the registered participants of the conference and made available to the public via AgEconSearch.

Organised Sessions

Topical issues in agricultural economics and social sciences can be discussed in self-organised working groups with representatives from politics, economics, and society. A time slot of 90 minutes is available per working group. Proposals for organised sessions should explain on no more than four pages (either in German or in English) the subject of interest and the session's format (concept, timings, papers, speakers, panellists). Proposals are to be submitted **by 31 January 2020** as pdf-files via the conference homepage. The organising committee and the board of

GEWISOLA will jointly make a selection decision of the submitted proposals.

Poster contributions

Proposals for poster contributions should describe on no more than two pages (either in German or in English) the problem statement, the methods and the results of a piece of research. Submitted proposals are evaluated based on their quality and thematic suitability for the conference. Formatting templates can be found on the conference homepage. The proposals are to be submitted by **11 May 2020** as pdf-files via the conference homepage. Accepted posters are to be designed according to the information provided on the conference homepage. The poster contributions will be grouped by topic and presented by their authors within a fixed timeframe in parallel groups (max. 10 minutes per poster for the presentation and the discussion). A maximum two-page summary of accepted and presented posters will be published in the conference proceedings.

Pre-conference activities

Pre-conference activities can be hosted during the morning of 23 September 2020. They can be organised as workshops, meetings or discussion groups on self-selected topics. Proposals describing the content, structure, speakers, and participants on a maximum of two pages (either in German or in English) have to be

submitted by **31 January 2020** as pdf-files via the conference homepage. The organising committee and board of GEWISOLA will jointly make a selection decision of the submitted proposals.

Information and conference office

More information about the annual conference can be found on the conference homepage www.iamo.de/gewisola2020. If required, you may contact the conference office:

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