



SLE OVERSEAS RESEARCH PROJECTS 2021

TITLE	The value(s) of food: Promoting sustainable food value chains. A case study from the potato and fish value chains in Uganda
COUNTRY	Uganda
COOPERATION PARTNERS	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
BACKGROUND	<p>As part of its “One World- No Hunger” special initiative (SEWOH), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to implement the global program “Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture” in nine partner countries and the global program “Promotion of Nutrition-Sensitive Potato Value Chains in East Africa” in two partner countries. In Uganda, the GIZ promotes technical, social and institutional innovations along the fish and potato value chains in the vicinity of Lake Victoria and South-Western Districts, respectively.</p> <p>Food value chains are an integral part of a food system, and considerations on the food systems transformation towards sustainability need to include reflections on food value chain promotion as a development approach that delivers on the sustainability of food. However, sustainability assessments along value chains are complex, and existing instruments seem to lack practicable usability in empirical project realities. Moreover, the concept of “sustainable food value chains” is often built around the concept of weak sustainability and lacks recognition of the ecological and social foundations of fair, regenerative, and distributive economic development. As a result, the concept of “value” underlying the common understanding of “value chains” blinds out the true social and ecological costs of value chains and falls short of highlighting their social and ecological value. The issue of necessary and (non-) negotiable sustainability trade-offs is also insufficiently explored. In order to achieve the sustainable development goals, value chain promotion needs to focus on strong sustainability and multidimensional value creation and capture.</p>
OBJECTIVES	The interdisciplinary study explores sustainability “hot-spots” along both value chains, probe the potential for multi- dimensional value- creation (costs and benefits), analyzes how the promoted innovations align with sustainability concerns, and discusses sustainability- trade-offs and how they should be negotiated. The study seeks to provide implementable recommendations for a holistic value chain promotion and the up- and out- scaling of social-technical innovations along the VCs in the context of BMZ’s future EWOH initiative, putting emphasis squarely on agroecology and building on a food- system- approach. As this study is explorative in nature, it is proposed to use a mixed- method approach with emphasis on qualitative, participatory methods.
EXPECTED RESULTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inception report with conceptual framework, methodology, time frame• Study of maximum 100 pages in English with English and German Summary
PARTNERS	GIZ Uganda; BMZ; Ugandan universities, local organizations, and think- tanks (tbc)
TEAM	Lukas Eichelter (Global Studies), Felix Hegeler (Sustainable Internat. Agriculture), Jasmin Ahmed (Sustainable Development), Flavia Marà (Natural Resource Management), Eva Kirmes (Interdisciplinary Latin American Studies)
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