

SLE OVERSEAS RESEARCH PROJECTS 2021

TITLE	The value(s) of food: Promoting sustainable food value chains. A case study from the groundnut and dairy value chains in Zambia
COUNTRY	Zambia
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 BMZ established “Green Innovation Centers” (GIC) in 16 partner countries to promote innovations in the agricultural and food sector. In Zambia, the GIC promotes, amongst other, innovations along the dairy and groundnut value chains (VC) in the country’s southern and eastern provinces. The interventions target smallholder farmers and aim to increase regional food supply, raise smallholder incomes and create more employment opportunities, especially in the food processing sector - also in view of emerging challenges due to climate change.</p> <p>In the context of multiple global crises such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land conflicts, rising inequalities, the on-going Covid19- pandemic and increasing food insecurity worldwide, the BMZ and other international donors seek to promote the transition to sustainable patterns of producing, consuming, and distributing food. In this context, the concept of food systems has gained momentum, putting the emphasis squarely on the complex, systemic nature of food as a nexus issue. The increasing popularity of agroecology is a case in point. Food value chains are an integral part of a food system, and reflections on sustainability need to identify critical innovations along a food VC that might trigger key sustainability outcomes. However, “sustainable food value chains” and “sustainable food systems” are contested concepts, and to date, poorly understood in their respective contexts. Furthermore, the process of innovation cannot be described as a simple cause-effect relationship but rather as a systemic, complex and political process that requires an analysis of to the broader political- economic context in which they are embedded and its realization of desired societal outcomes.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<p>The interdisciplinary study explores sustainability “hot-spots” along both value chains, probe the potential for multi- dimensional value- creation (costs and benefits), analyzes how GIC’s 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 such as co-research.</p>
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 Zambia; BMZ; Zambian universities and think- tanks (NN)
TEAM	Johanna Kückes (Forstwissenschaften), Cornelius Krüger (Economics), Annika Reimann, (Politik- & Umweltwissenschaften), Joel Hähnle (Politik- und Verwaltungswissenschaften), Rickie North Klingler (Global Change Management)
TEAMLEADER	Dr. Klaus Droppelmann
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