

SLE OVERSEAS RESEARCH PROJECTS 2021

TITLE	Sustainability of Modern Agri-Food Systems – Requirements for developing and promoting sustainable food value chains in German development cooperation
COUNTRIES	Uganda, Zambia
COOPERATION PARTNER	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
DURATION	November 2020 – July 2022
BACKGROUND	<p>Since 2014, the BMZ's special initiative "ONE WORLD - No Hunger" (SEWOH) has focused on structural causes of poverty and hunger in the Global South, inter alia, the implementation and design of food value chains (VCs). In particular, the global program "Green Innovation Centers in the Agri-Food Sector" promotes technical and institutional innovations along agri-food value chains in 16 partner countries.</p> <p>While the relevance of food VC promotion for poverty reduction and food security has been documented, little is known about the contribution of the promoted VCs to ecological and social sustainability aspects. This is partly due to the fact that sustainability assessments along value chains are a complex endeavor, and existing instruments lack feasibility due to empirical project constraints. Furthermore, VC promotion is 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 an attempt to close this gap, the NAMAGE research project will identify requirements for a holistic sustainable value chain promotion that is imbedded in a food system approach and underpinned by principles of agroecology.</p>
OBJECTIVES	<p>NAMAGE will review scientific evidence on sustainable value chain development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The research project will adapt and implement a sustainability hot-spot analysis along selected value chains in order to gather empirical evidence and to derive a practical and participatory approach highlighting key sustainability issues. Furthermore, NAMAGE will interrogate the potential of agroecological innovations to deliver on the sustainability of selected value chains. The results of the conceptual and empirical research will provide recommendations for future promotion of sustainable value chains in the context of development cooperation projects. The participatory nature of the empirical research will also explore avenues for the improvement of ownership and adaptation of the institutional environment in the context of value chain promotion.</p>
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review on state of the art of the Sustainable Food Value chains analysis and the potential of agroecology • Portfolio Analysis of the Global Value Chain Projects in the framework of SEWOH • Two cases studies along selected value chains in Uganda and Zambia (potato, fish, dairy, groundnut) • Policy Brief with recommendations for future promotion of sustainable food value chains
TEAM	Prof. Dr. Markus Hanisch; Christian Berg; Dr. Agustina Malvido; Carolin Müller; Aicha Mechri; Henrice Stöbesand