

## Call for Paper Proposals

We request the submission of extended abstracts with up to 1,500 words which needs to include a short abstract of up to 250 words plus a concise summary of the major research questions, data and methods, findings and key literature. Extended abstracts in Russian will be also accepted in limited cases. The extended abstracts should be sent electronically to [recca@iamo.de](mailto:recca@iamo.de) until **11 July 2014**.

All contributed paper proposals will go through a peer review. Notification of selected proposals for an oral presentation will be sent latest 29 August 2014.

## Registration and Travel Costs

Participation in the conference is free of charge. Researchers from Central Asia are strongly encouraged to submit paper proposals. The travel and accommodation costs of selected participants from Central Asia will be covered. Limited support towards the travel and accommodation costs of researchers from Germany is also possible.

Applications for the travel/accommodation grants should be sent to [recca@iamo.de](mailto:recca@iamo.de) with short CV and a cover letter explaining your motivation to apply for funding.



## Important Dates and Deadlines

11 July 2014	Deadline for paper submission (extended abstracts)
29 August 2014	Notification of accepted papers
10 October 2014	Deadline for registration
24-26 November 2014	Conference

## Location and Language

The conference will be held in Halle (Saale), Germany, in the conference facilities of the IAMO. The conference language is English. Simultaneous translation from/to Russian will be provided.

## Funding Agency

The conference is financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

## Contact

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# Conference

## Regional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia: Agricultural Production and Trade



24 - 26 November 2014  
Halle (Saale) | Germany

**DAAD**

**iamo**  
Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development  
in Transition Economies

## Background

The Central Asian countries have been facing increasing risks and barriers to sustainable economic development. The current approach of coping individually with the problems as they occur will have a limited effect. The adaptive capacity of a single country is limited and achieving economic resilience will be a costly and lengthy process during which the effects of external events are likely to become more severe. Central Asia (CA) offers favorable conditions for regional cooperation and integration. The geographical, economic, socio-structural, and historical contexts and asymmetrical distribution of natural resources in the region pre-determine the cooperation among the CA countries. Regional cooperation is expected to reorient economies toward each country's comparative advantage and to expand production and trade. This, in turn, will make the region attractive to foreign and domestic investors, strengthen the CA countries' interaction with other regions of the world and facilitate access to large neighboring and major developed markets surrounding the region

The aim of this workshop is to provide a platform for knowledge exchange by inviting researchers from Central Asian countries to share and discuss relevant findings on topics related to regional economic cooperation and integration for strengthening sustainable economic development in the region. The workshop invites contributions from multi-country, single country and comparative studies on the following topics:

- Restructuring agricultural production and rural landscape
- Land reforms, privatization and consolidation
- Governance of the agricultural sector and water use
- Climate change and agricultural productivity
- Credits, insurance and governmental financial support programs

- Developments in regional cooperation agreements (Customs Union, Free Trade Zone and WTO)
- Cross border cooperation and trade opportunities and constraints
- Regulations on import and export duties
- Changes in market infrastructure
- Comparative advantages of countries in agricultural production
- Transformation of supply chains
- Food trade and consumer demand

## Program Highlights

The conference will be organized in three sessions with one day allotted to each session. The selection of the speakers is based on the quality and relevance of submissions (extended abstracts).

## Sessions

### *Session 1: Organization of agricultural production and land reforms*

In Central Asia, agriculture has been of considerable economic importance since national independence, and the governance of the agricultural sector and organization of rural landscapes has an important coordination function for economic and social development. The Central Asian governments have been making efforts to restructure the agricultural sector such as to address agricultural and water-related problems. These reforms differ significantly among countries both in the speed and the manner of implementation. Different production unit sizes were considered to be optimal: large collective production units were replaced by smaller individual, often family-based, farms or the land reforms were nonlinear. In all CA countries, the transition from the planned to a market economy has been driven by a different mixture of political and economic objectives. Topics related to these issues will be discussed in this session.

### *Session 2: Constraints and opportunities in regional cooperation*

The inability of governments to protect rural population from external effects, such as economic crises, often results in a search for negotiations with neighbors to develop common bi-multilateral mechanisms for coping with international shocks. These efforts were mainly directed to establish strong basis for reducing various forms of costs (bureaucratic and transaction) of regional trade. Central Asian countries have established or became members of several international or regional cooperation organizations during recent years. The customs union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, the CIS free trade zone and the WTO are the main platforms which may have significant effects on regional cooperation and commodity exchange between these states. This session covers topics relevant to these regional cooperation agreements and their impacts on trade and development in these countries.

### *Session 3: Comparative advantages in supply chains*

Each of the CA countries has a comparative advantage in producing certain agricultural commodities. This comparative advantage was fully utilized during the former Soviet Union when each of those countries specialized in producing certain commodities. However, commodity exchange between the countries collapsed after the independence and each of those countries selected to pursue a food self-sufficiency policy. The recent improvements in regional trade agreements clearly point at growing opportunities for commodity exchange based on comparative advantages. Therefore, this session will consider topics related to structural transformation, product specialization, transformation of supply chains, government interventions as well as constraints existing in the supply chains.