

IAMO Forum 2023

International Agricultural Trade, Geopolitics and Global Food Security

21 – 23 June 2023 | Halle (Saale), Germany



International agricultural trade is a key to improving global food security. It ensures better access to more diversified and nutritious food, especially in low-income countries, and acts as a safety net against food shortages caused by climate risks, crises, political tensions and other shocks. However, recent supply chain disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events and the war in Ukraine have posed serious challenges to international agricultural trade. Rising geopolitical risks, such as the China-US trade conflict and tensions between Russia and the West, are further challenging trade relations. Following a long period of reduced agricultural trade barriers, the global food economy could now be faced with growing isolation and autarky resulting from trade-restricting measures, such as sanctions and export restrictions.

Against this background, IAMO Forum 2023 will focus on the role of international trade in improving global food security and consider geopolitical interests and geographic reconfigurations. Particular attention will be paid to the benefits, stability and resilience of global versus local agricultural supply chains. In particular, the forum will look at how geopolitical interests and the restructuring of the world into like-minded economic blocs could lead to the de-globalization of established agricultural trade structures. This is likely to be to the detriment of food-insecure people in the Global South and to cause economic hardship in Eurasian transition economies.

Over the three-day forum, distinguished guests from research, civil society, agribusiness and policy will discuss international trade and global food security with particular focus on the growing importance of geopolitics. These topics will be addressed from an interdisciplinary perspective that will include contributions from fields such as agricultural sciences, economics, political, social and geographical sciences, and economic history. The regional focus will be on transition and emerging economies in Eastern Europe and Asia, and developing countries in Africa.

In particular, we encourage submissions of extended abstracts and proposals for organized sessions on the following thematic areas:

- Geopolitical tensions, like-minded blocs and international cooperation
- Agricultural trade and economic prosperity
- Rethinking supply chains in the era of crises: re-shoring, friend-shoring, free trade
- The geopolitical dimension of international agricultural trade
- Barriers to food security in the Global South

- Digitalization of food supply chains
- Agricultural production and trade potentials in Eurasian countries
- Environmental risks and adaptation mechanisms to climate change
- Food loss and waste in agricultural supply chains
- Food demand patterns and changes in consumer behavior

Call for Extended Abstracts

We request the contribution of extended abstracts with up to 1,000 words (excluding bibliography) in strict compliance with the provided formatting guidelines. The abstracts should include a concise summary of the significance, major research questions, data and methods, and findings. All contributed extended abstracts will go through peer review. Accepted abstracts will be considered for oral presentations only and published on the conference website.

Call for Organized Sessions

We welcome proposals for organized sessions that match the theme of the IAMO Forum 2023. Proposal should include the title of the session and an abstract of up to 1,000 words (excluding bibliography) that describes the relevance of the session to the conference topic and provides a list of speakers.

Important dates for all submissions:

Submission deadline: **12 February 2023**

Notification of acceptance: **27 March 2023**

IAMO Forum 2023 will take place in Halle (Saale). In case of travel restrictions to Germany, virtual presentation will be possible.

The conference language will be English.

More information on the conference is available at: www.iamo.de/forum/2023.

The IAMO Forum 2023 is jointly organized with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the German Agribusiness Alliance and the Leibniz ScienceCampus "Eastern Europe – Global Area" (EEGA).

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