Tropentag 2008
International Conference on Research for Development in Agriculture and Forestry, Food and Natural Resource Management

Competition for Resources in a Changing World - New Drive for Rural Development

October 7–9, 2008
Centre for Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics
University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart

Call for Papers

General information
“Tropentag” is the annual International Conference on Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural and Natural Resource Management in Germany.

The Tropentag is jointly organised by the universities of Bonn, Göttingen, Hohenheim, Kassel (Witzenhausen), Hamburg (2009), Zürich (2010) and the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Research (ATSAF e.V.) - in cooperation with the GTZ Advisory Service on Agricultural Research for Development (BEAF).

As an academic forum, the Tropentag brings together scientists, students, graduates, development experts and funding organisations from several countries in central Europe and their various international partner institutions.

The Tropentag is a development-oriented and interdisciplinary conference. It addresses issues of resource-, environmental-, agricultural-, forestry-, fisheries-, food-, nutrition and related sciences in the context of international rural development, sustainable resource use and poverty alleviation worldwide.

Who should attend
The Tropentag invites all scientists, students and experts addressing topics in the above fields. Young scientists are particularly encouraged to present their research projects and results.

Contributions pertaining to rural development, hunger and poverty alleviation, climate change issues, the conflicting field of food vs. bioenergy production, and their environmental repercussions and influences of globalisation on these topics are particularly welcome.

Topic 2008:
Competition for Resources in a Changing World – New Drive for Rural Development

The opportunities
Growing demand for food for a still rapidly increasing population in the South, an alarming decrease in available arable land, and the emergence of bioenergy production as a new powerful and competitive player have contributed to recent price hikes in agricultural commodities. This development increases the value of agricultural enterprises and stimulates investment in this long-time neglected sector.

The threats
Better-off farmers and international companies will most likely benefit from the recent trends in agriculture, whereas resource-poor rural people, being economically unable to take part in the new drive in rural development, may be left even more vulnerable and dependent.

Land degradation, increasing scarcity of water and negative impacts of climate change, which are intensively hitting the tropics and subtropics, may counteract potentially positive developments.

The challenge
The agricultural sector being a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and one of the largest water users, also holds the key to alleviating emerging problems by developing more resource-efficient, productive and sustainable land use systems.

The Tropentag 2008 will discuss the implications of the aforementioned issues on a global, regional, farm and field level, considering resource allocation and use, biodiversity and income generation.

www.tropentag.de
**Conference structure**

The Tropentag will be organised in four sessions of five parallel thematic groups. Each session will be opened by an invited keynote lecture, to be followed by four original papers. Posters will be introduced during a plenary session on the first day at early evening time. On the second day there will be two parallel guided poster sessions around lunch time.

**Submission procedure**

The conference language is English.

Abstracts of original research containing 250-350 words must be submitted until April 30, 2008, using the online form at www.tropentag.de.

A panel of referees will decide upon the acceptance of the contributions based on the abstract. The decision for a contribution to be accepted either as poster or oral presentation is at the discretion of the panel of referees.

A programme committee will allocate the accepted oral contributions to interdisciplinary sessions (S 1–S 20). Contributions of an interdisciplinary nature will be preferentially selected as oral presentation.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent on June 30, 2008. Contributors will have to confirm their participation by August 15, 2008.

For online publication authors of papers will have to submit a four-page version of their paper by October 31, 2008.

Poster contributions will be grouped into thematic clusters and addressed in guided poster sessions.

All accepted contributions will be published in the conference proceedings and on the Tropentag homepage. Contributions, not presented at the Tropentag will be deleted from the online version of the proceedings.

**Programme structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 pm</th>
<th>Plenary Session</th>
</tr>
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<td>Plenary Session</td>
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**Road map**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission of abstracts:</th>
<th>April 30, 2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of acceptance:</td>
<td>June 30, 2008</td>
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<td>Reconfirmation of contribution:</td>
<td>Aug. 15, 2008</td>
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**Conference fees**

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<tr>
<td>Full Participants</td>
<td>60 €</td>
<td>90 €</td>
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<td>PhD candidates</td>
<td>30 €</td>
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**Please transfer your conference fee to:**

Universität Hohenheim Tropentag 2008

Account number: 2560 108

Bank: Baden-Württembergische Bank

Bank code (BLZ): 600 501 01

Swift: SOLADESTXXX

IBAN: DE20 6005 0101 0002 5601 08

Please indicate Tropentag 2008 and your full name on your money transfer.

**Conference location**

The Tropentag 2008 will be held at the University of Hohenheim campus. A map of the campus indicating the venue and facilities will be posted on the conference website: www.tropentag.de.

**Social activities and services**

The conference organisers will undertake to provide professional child care for participants travelling with small children.

More detailed information will be published shortly on the Tropentag website: www.tropentag.de.

**Local organising committee**

Prof. Dr. Georg Cadisch

Prof. Dr. Folkard Asch

Dr. Ludwig Kammesheidt

Bärbel Sagi, MSc.

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