

ASA University cooperation Ghana

A survey of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in agricultural commodity chains

Involved Institutions:

The *Centre for Migration Studies* of the University Ghana conducts teaching and research on migration and development, offers capacity building and consulting services for political processes concerning migration.

The *Sustainability Research Centre (artec)* of Bremen University conducts interdisciplinary and international research on sustainability issues. Current projects deal - among others – with global change and social standards. The *Department for Anthropology and Cultural Research* of Bremen University (IFEK) is participating in the research project with a focus on rural labor and migration.

The two universities resp. the Centre for Migration Studies (Accra) and the Sustainability Research Centre artec (Bremen) are collaborating since 2014 in the field of migration and environmental changes in South-East Ghana.

Short description of the Project:

Ghana and Germany are linked through trade in agricultural products. Vegetables and cocoa are exported to Germany while dairy and meat products are traded to Ghana. With these commodities, also people and standards travel across the world. Both countries thus have a number of common concerns with regard to the production of these commodities, such as migration-related questions and social standards. Therefore both partner organizations have a common interest in dealing with labour- and migration-related questions as well as social standards along the commodity chains.

The aim of the project internship is to carry out a study on the sustainability of agricultural commodity chains of the aforementioned commodities. Special focus is directed on the working conditions of migrants and on social standards in agricultural production. The project thus aims at contributing to the elaboration of two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12). More specifically, this global project is aimed at contributing to the evaluation of the impact of instruments, e.g. information campaigns and privately established standards (e.g. ISO certification) on addressing issues of social sustainability on an international level.

Research will be carried out in an international team consisting of two Ghanaian and two German students. In the project phase in Germany, they examine the working conditions of migrants and environmental problems in animal-based production (milk, meat). Similar topics will be dealt with in Ghana using the example of cocoa, fruit or vegetables industries relevant for export to Germany.

One Ghanaian-German sub-team will work on an analysis of structures and problems that are linked to the working conditions of migrants. The second sub-team will focus on the establishment, communication and verification of different sustainability standards in production and consumption. In both countries students will be supervised by representatives of the collaborating universities. In the German part of the program, participants will also have seminars carried out in the framework of the ASA-program. The North phase takes place in Bremen, Germany from April to June 2018; the South phase takes place in Accra, Ghana from August to October 2018. All project phases are full-time internships.

For general information about the ASA program see: <http://en.asa-programm.de/english/home/>

For information about the ASA University cooperation program see:

http://en.asa-programm.de/fileadmin/user_upload/ASA_university_cooperation_Factsheet_EN.pdf

Contact at Bremen University:

Dr. Martina Grimmig (IFEK) <grimmig@uni.bremen.de>

Prof. Dr. Michael Flitner (artec) <flitner@uni-bremen.de>