



AFECO Newsletter April 2021



Application for the AFECO program ends at April 30th

The deadline for AFECO applications for the intake term 2021/2022 is April 30th, 2021. Spread the word amongst friends, former study colleagues and anyone who may be interested in joining the AFECO Master program. More information on the application procedure can be found [here](#).

Lecture period starts at April 12th

So far the university decided to plan the whole summer term as a further remote semester and all modules will be take place online. Especially for those of you who aren't in Bonn right now it might be good to know that you don't have to rush to come back until April 12th.



Easter is coming up

In Germany, Easter is tied to traditions such as baking a yeast bread and blowing eggs to color them and then decorate branches with buds with the colored eggs. Also, you may have noticed the chocolate eggs and Easter bunnies in the shops. These are hidden somewhere around the garden or house for the children to find them. In some parts of Germany bonfires are lit up on Saturday evening before Easter.

If you would like to get a taste of traditional Easter, try this yeast bread recipe:

- 750g flour
 - 125g sugar
 - 1 cube of yeast/ 2 bags of tried yeast
 - 375ml milk
 - 100g butter
 - a pinch of salt
 - 2 eggs
1. mix the yeast into ca.4 tablespoons of lukewarm milk and a teaspoon of sugar. Lightly mix with the flour. Leave to rest for 15 minutes.
 2. Add other ingredients and knead for around 5 minutes until the dough is smooth. Leave to rest for another 45 minutes.
 3. Knead lightly and separate the dough into three equal parts. On a surface with flour, form rolls and braid them together on a baking tray. Finally coat the loaf with a little milk.
 4. Bake at 200°C for 20 to 30 minutes.
 5. Enjoy your fresh yummy yeast bread :-)

Recipe Source: [here](#)

Rhive Ideathon XXL

The Entrepreneur Club Cologne, a volunteer initiative by students for students, is offering a Startup Conference from April 15th to April 17th for those interested in starting a business and for founders. More information can be found [here](#). The event will be held in German.



Internship & Job Opportunities*

[Student Assistant/ Studentische Hilfskräfte \(WHF\) SABIO project](#), Transformation and Sustainability Governance in South American Bioeconomies (SABIO), Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn

[Student Assistant/ Studentische Hilfskräfte \(WHF\) \(12-19 hours/week\)](#), Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation - PARI, Center for Development Research (ZEF), Bonn

[Werkstudent \(m/w/d\)](#), Fachassistenz im Bereich land- und forstwirtschaftliche Immobilien, Greif & Meyer GmbH, Lohmar

[Studentische/r Mitarbeiter/in im Bereich Projektadministration](#), KIAG Knowledge Intelligence Applications GmbH, Köln

[PhD in Science and Management of Climate Change \(4 years\)](#), fully funded PhD program, University of Venice, Italy

* job descriptions in German require fluent German skills

Check out the ILR [website](#) for PhD positions and other post-graduate job opportunities



Interview with James Henderson

For this month newsletter, we have interviewed our interim study program coordinator James Henderson, so you can get to know him. He kindly shared some experience and insights with us.



JM/LH: Hey James! Would you be so kind to briefly introduce yourself? We're all curious to get to know you a bit better as our intermediate AFECO coordinator.

JH: Hi! No problem - My name is James Henderson and I have the monumental task of filling in for Manuela Meraner during the recruitment process to find her permanent replacement. I was lucky to be able to step in during the last phase of my PhD and make sure students get support, but I am sure Manuela's presence is very much missed!

JM/LH: What were reasons for you to go to Bonn for doing your PhD? And could you explain what your focus of research is at zef?

JH: I came to Bonn specifically to work with Prof. Börner. My former master's thesis advisor was aware of the work his lab was doing and thought it would be a good fit for my research. My research looks at land use change dynamics in South America with a focus on soybean frontier expansion.

JM/LH: How did you come to focus on soybean production and its value chain in South America? Could you share an interesting finding with us?

JH: I was an agricultural extensionist in rural Paraguay for two years and lived in a region that was being transformed by soybean expansion. This gave me a unique perspective on the ground as to how this changes communities and exposed me to some of the externality costs of the globalized food system. I applied to my master's degree while working down there with the goal of working on the other side of the system to try to make as much of an impact as possible.

JM/LH: What role does academia play in addressing such problems?

JH: Academia has an important role in informing policy as well as informing a quickly changing media landscape. I think academia is going through some changes at the moment and I hope that it will be able to navigate future challenges despite eroding confidence in institutions in many parts of the world.

JM/LH: What insights led you to focus further on the environmental aspects instead of policy and governance?

JH: There are certainly aspects that relate to policy and governance. The most challenging issue with soybean production, or any other internationally traded agricultural commodities for that matter, are that many of the big players operate in many countries with different laws and governance systems and differing abilities to enforce laws. This leads to a wide range of problems and is exceedingly complex to research because of how interconnected everything is.

JM/LH: Having studied in different places throughout the world and successfully pursued your academic career, what would be an advice you can give to us as AFECO students?

JH: Talk to as many potential mentors as possible at different stages in their career. Only through going to many of my professors' office hours and getting to know people, did I start to see my own potential and how my own mix of experiences could be applied to my research career. It is also a great way to get a more candid perspective about career paths and job opportunities.

JM/LH: What is in your opinion the most pressing issue in the agricultural sector in the future?

JH: We are at a technological crossroads in many parts of society, which also has massive implications on the agricultural sector. There are ways to make technology empower smallholders and open new markets and opportunities to more people, but there are also ways to further bifurcate global production systems and further perpetuate inequality. Tackling this issue is going to be one of the largest challenges in the near future, on top of the many other problems facing humanity as a whole.



We want you to contribute!

This is a student-run newsletter and we want to hear from you! If you have any helpful information about the AFECO program, job/internship opportunities, events around town or something else you would like to share, don't be bashful and have your voice heard! If you would like to contribute one time or consistently contact us at jmeder@uni-bonn.de or s7lahoop@uni-bonn.de.

Judith Meder & Lara Hoops