

Call for Contributions

Workshop

„Resources, Livelihood Management, Reforms, and Processes of Structural Change“

Gobabeb, September 18th – 23rd 2006

Coordinators:

Dr. Joh Henschel, Gobabeb Training & Research Centre,
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Prof. Dr. Volker Kreibich,
Lübkestr. 22, 44141 Dortmund / Germany.
Tel.: +49 231 594899 or +49 231 755 2543

Dates:

September 18th – 23rd 2006

Place:

Gobabeb / Namibia

Participants:

50 scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa, Germany and other partner countries

Application:

Abstracts of contributions to be sent in English via e-mail before 30th April 2006 to
Prof. Kreibich at

gobabeb@uni-dortmund.de

The abstract should not exceed two pages (font size 11) containing

- title of the contribution
- short description of the topic (as outlined below)
- theoretical and methodological framework
- academic CV (very short)
- name and address of applicant.

Selection:

The two coordinators of the workshop together with the advisory board of the Volkswagen Foundation funding initiative “Knowledge for Tomorrow – Cooperative Research Projects in Sub-Saharan Africa” will select the contributions for the workshop.

Funding:

Travel expenses and accommodation will be fully reimbursed to the invited participants by the Volkswagen Foundation.

Framework of the funding initiative and goals of the workshop:

The workshop intends to explore funding strategies for scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa co-operating with German research institutions and, where necessary, associated partners from other countries.

The specific aims are to

- improve on “true partnership” in research and technology between North and South
- strengthen South-South cooperation
- foster the interaction between African and German research centres and universities.

Thematic background:

One of the key observations made in Africa is the continuous weakness of governmental institutions. This leads to a withdrawal of the state out of broad areas in society, not only with respect to regions but also to individual sectors. In addition, complex developments arise simultaneously: a dramatic increase of the population, ongoing migration of people mainly into major cities, and shortage of (natural) resources, which is aggravated by climate change and inappropriate technologies. It is widely agreed that one of the central issues for Africa lies in the relationship between population growth and available resources and their sustainable use.

For this reason, research for Africa must be centred on the people as the actors on their access to and use of resources as well as on their generation and distribution within different forms of social organisation and levels of economic development. Resources in the sense of this call for contributions do not only include natural resources (e.g. water, soil, land, energy) but also human resources (such as farming systems, product chains or indigenous knowledge).

Contributions in the framework of this workshop should investigate the relationship or interrelations amongst people, or between people and governmental or non-governmental organisations or other institutions with reference to resource use. They should not follow traditional and analytical approaches, but rather focus on creative and innovative research questions and desiderata.

Abstracts:

Abstracts can only be submitted for two panels:

1. **Livelihood strategies from the perspective of local actors:**
This panel focuses on innovative approaches on communal or individual levels.
2. **New alliances for improved livelihood management between local actors and local, national and international institutions and organisations:**
This panel includes work on the relationship between people and governmental and non-governmental institutions or organisations.

Note: Interdisciplinary work bridging these two themes as well as Natural and Social Sciences is particularly welcome.

Posters:

Proposals for abstracts which cannot be considered for an oral presentation can be presented as posters.

Preliminary program:

“Resources, Livelihood Management, Reforms, and Processes of Structural Change”

Workshop Program

<u>Location</u>	Gobabeb, Namibia
<u>Date</u>	18 -23 September 2006
<u>Organisers</u>	Dr. Joh Henschel, Gobabeb Training & Research Centre, Windhoek, Namibia Prof. Volker Kreibich, Universität Dortmund, Germany
<u>Arrival Day</u>	Registration and welcoming evening
<u>1. Day</u>	
<u>Morning</u> 10:00 – 12:00	“Welcoming“ (Joh Henschel, Volker Kreibich) “Presentation of the Volkswagen Foundation and its funding initiative ‘Knowledge for Tomorrow’“ (Indra Willms-Hoff) “Introduction to the workshop program, issues and organisation” (Detlef Hanne) “Introduction lecture” (<i>Robert Kriger*</i>)

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon

14:00 – 17:00 3 Key note lectures:

1. “The continuous weakness of government institutions and its consequences” (*Achille Mbembe**)
2. “Changes in Africa with respect to natural resources” (e.g. population growth, migration, shortage of natural resources, climate change, enduring poverty, health) (*Steve Tonah**)
3. ”Innovation systems of the African poor” (*Paul Richards**)

afterwards Discussion of key note lectures

19:00 Dinner

2. Day

Morning

09:00 – 12:00

Panel 1: Resource management – the basis

- 1) Desertification (*Mariam Akthar-Schuster**)
- 2) Land/Water/Energy (*Wilbard Kombe**)
- 3) Indigenous Knowledge (Mamadou Diawara)
- 4) Informal sector, product chains, services (*Kate Meagher**)

4 presentations à ca. 40 minutes (25 min talk + 10 min discussion + 5 min reserve) + coffee break, discussants.

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon

14:00 – 17:00

Panel 2: Livelihood strategies from the perspective of local actors

4-5 presentations à ca. 30 minutes selected from the submitted abstracts (15 min talk + 10 min discussion + 5 min reserve) + coffee break, discussants

afterwards Working groups (partnership discussion, discussants)

19:00 Dinner

3. Day

Morning

09:00 – 12:00

Panel 3: New alliances for improved livelihood management between local actors and local, national and international institutions and organisations

4-5 presentations à ca. 30 minutes selected from the submitted abstracts (15 min talk + 10 min discussion + 5 min reserve) + coffee break, discussants

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon
from 14:00

Thematic discussions:
Working groups to the panels 2 and 3 (ca. 10 members per group, discussants)

Presentation and discussion of the results of the single working groups in the plenary

19:00 Dinner

4. Day

Morning

09:00 – 10:00

Comments and remarks of discussants on the development of the workshop from their point of view and summary of the main results

10:00 – 12:00 Final discussion

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon

From 14:00

Field trip (optional)

19:00 Final joint dinner

5. Day

Departure after breakfast

Parallel Program: Poster session

(* participation inquired)