



## Editorial

*The first edition of this newsletter that you are holding in your hands is a part of Germany - Egypt - Arab Region - Inter - Alumni Programme supported by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) and executed in close co-operation with the Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry (CeTSAF), University of Göttingen and the Centre for International Rural Development, University of Kassel, Witzenhausen. The NEWSLETTER should make possible an intensive Communication between German Universities and Universities in Egypt and between the members of the scientific community in agricultural sciences in the Region.*

*The first edition of the NEWSLETTER is intended to give graduates of the two universities information about the kind of co-operation designed to improve mutual learning, and it is hoped that future editions will include contributions that cover the scientific and staff development strategies evolved by scientists from the Arab region*

*(Editors)*

## Impressum

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## Germany - Egypt - Arab Region-Inter-Alumni-Net

The Centres for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry in the University of Göttingen, and for International Rural Development in the University of Kassel - Witzenhausen and the corresponding Agricultural Faculties in both Universities have enjoyed scientific co-operation for many years. They have established an Alumni-follow-up working group with the objective of an efficient service for the numerous former graduates from both Universities. Both Universities acknowledge the need for a networking in Egypt and the Arabic cultural area. In this networking, graduates from German Universities with an agricultural background, incl. irrigational, biological, nutritional, forestry, horticultural and veterinary Sciences will be included, and the following will be the principal facets of the networking:

- High number of Egyptian graduates in Agricultural Sciences
  - The lack of a network of Egyptian alumni in German Universities
  - High number of Egyptian graduates from German Universities without any kind of support by German Government (scholarships etc.)
  - High number of highly qualified graduates returning home after education in Germany
  - The need for an efficient network and information system between German and Egyptian Universities
  - The need for mutual improving of learning, teaching, research and extra-mural activities like management and organisation skills
- 81 Egyptian students have been awarded a PhD at the University of

Göttingen in recent years. 129 graduates with PhD from German Universities participated in one of the 33 professional courses on Higher Education in Witzenhausen between 1973 and 1999.

There are fair connections existing between Egyptian Universities and Universities of Göttingen and Kassel. A follow-up meeting with 50 - 60 participants has been planned at Cairo University in November 1999. During this follow-up meeting the establishment of an alumni-network is planned as well. In the next two years, two further follow-up meetings have been planned to take place in Egypt. The aim is to stabilise scientific conferences, to improve a regional networking and a sustainable communication system. Simultaneously, more and more German Universities should be integrated in the whole programme to enable an efficient scientific service system to develop and enlarge the possibilities of a broad usage of a variety special scientific fields in Agriculture and corresponding scientific areas.

In this edition of the newsletter, further detailed information is given to the nature of the follow-up meeting.

*(S. Amini, ISOS)*

### Do you want to contribute to Newsletter?

- contributions should not exceed 1,5 pages
- information should be of general interest
- the editorial team must reserve the right to select or condense contributions for publication
- contributions which relate to a particular topic of the previous newsletter are particularly welcome
- please add full name and address

# Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry in the University of Göttingen

The Centre for Tropical Studies is a joint scientific institution of both the Faculties of Agriculture and Forestry of Georg-August-University Göttingen.

There are presently 14 full-time professors in our centre from the Faculties of Agriculture, Forestry, Geo-Sciences and Biology. The Institutes of Agronomy and Animal Sciences in the Tropics and Rural Development are represented by 7 professors and 15 academic staff members. The libraries of these institutes include some 320.000 volumes and 400 periodicals. These institutes publish their own periodical.

The Centre promotes and co-ordinates interdisciplinary co-operation in teaching and research in the fields of tropical and subtropical agriculture and forestry. This includes (among others) the organization and co-ordination of courses, guest lectures, international seminars and symposia.

The centre is also responsible for developing curricula for teaching projects and study programs. It conducts three M.Sc. courses: "Tropical and Subtropical

Agricultural Sciences", "Integrated Tropical Agriculture and Forestry Sciences", and "Agribusiness in Asia". The two latter using English as a teaching medium are provided in close co-operation with international Universities. So far 120 graduates from 12 developing countries participated in the Centre's MSc-courses. The Centre closely co-operates with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), political and religious foundations and with national and international development organizations (DED, GTZ, KfW, etc.).

In addition, the Centre organizes work-study programs and academic exchanges abroad for undergraduate or postgraduate or PhD students. More than 40 professors from the Faculties of Agriculture, Forestry, Geography and Biology are engaged in international research projects and postgraduate programs.

For more than 30 years, CeTSAF has developed close links with educational and research institutions in developing countries such as Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico,

Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey, etc. (joint research projects, academic exchange of staff and students). Scientists from developing countries receive care and support during their research periods in Göttingen.

The Centre regularly sponsors and organizes symposia on interdisciplinary aspects of research and development topics in co-operation with the Universities of Kassel, Hohenheim and Berlin.

The Centre is closely linked with European institutions of higher learning and research in agriculture (member of NATURA, EADI). The Centre also manages ERASMUS/SOKRATES programs of the Agricultural Faculty, which carries out exchanges among European Universities (Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom).

(Centre for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture and Forestry, University of Göttingen)

# Centre for International Rural Development (CIRD) in the University of Kassel-Witzenhausen

The Centre for International Rural Development (CIRD) is a scientific organizational unit of the University of Kassel based at Witzenhausen. Its purpose is to develop, update and implement strategies and programmes in research and teaching, to offer logistical and technical support for the international activities of its member departments, to support foreign students in shaping their study programme and to help students in conceptualizing and preparing activities abroad, e.g. practica or theses.

As an institute of the Faculty 11 the CIRD is responsible for representing and developing the international agricultural profile of this Faculty. It is also an information and documentation centre for rural development in the Tropics and Subtropics. Together with the Department of Vocational Studies (BPS), the CIRD is responsible for handling the European Student Mobility Programmes (ERASMUS, SOKRATES).

On behalf of the Faculty, the CIRD publishes the bi-annual Journal of Agriculture

in the Tropics and Subtropics and the supplement to the Journal. It also co-operates with the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL), with the Ethnological Museum and the German Training Institute for Applied Technology (DEULA), all based at Witzenhausen.

Members of the CIRD are *Institute for Crop Science (INK)* with the Departments:

Plant Nutrition; Crop Agronomy; Perennial Crops of the Tropics and Subtropics; Field Crops of the Tropics and Subtropics *Institute for Socio-Cultural Studies (ISOS)* with the Departments:

Rural Education and Social Ecology; Agricultural Development Economics and Marketing in Developing Countries; Farm Management and Production Economics of the Tropics and Subtropics; Development Economics and Agricultural Policy *and the Department*

Ecological Agriculture; Animal Breeding and Husbandry in the Tropics and Subtropics

Animal Nutrition in the Tropics and Subtropics; Agricultural Engineering in the Tropics and Subtropics; Rural Engineering and Natural Resource Protection.

The Departments belonging to the CIRD pursue a variety of objectives. The research conducted by them is, accordingly, of great diversity. The Centre strives for inter-disciplinary integration of its research programmes along with its mandate. Priority is given to research on sustainable resource use in rural tropical and subtropical areas. The Centre primarily supports inter-disciplinary research projects.

The CIRD has been founded in 1994, although for more than 100 years Witzenhausen has been a centre for education and training in the field of tropical & subtropical agriculture and rural development.

(Centre for International Rural Development CIRD in the University of Kassel - Witzenhausen)

# University Staff Development

Universities need to transform themselves into learning organisations, if they are to survive in the „age of knowledge“. This is not possible without a concrete awareness of the systemic interaction within institutions of higher education: scholars, students, curricula, institutional structure and cultures, and -last, but not least - the context.

Every programme for improving this kind of interaction should focus on competencies of the staff members as the most influential institutions and to be geared towards cognitive development and towards the strengthening of academic key competencies, including emotional and social qualifications. This is probably to be realised efficiently by training courses with an orientation towards practical work, which beyond dialogue and training, give the participating staff members the opportunity to identify an essential challenge within their institutions and to focus their energy on preparing practical and solution oriented project-work. Training courses

for this purpose focus mainly on three relevant activities of the faculties: Organisational development, teaching and learning and research management, which cover consistently intensive dialogue and training in university structures, change management and communication; curriculum development, quality assurance and evaluation; co-operative disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.

The University Staff Development Programme Witzenhausen was established at the Institute for Socio-cultural and Socio-economic Studies in close co-operation with the DAAD and the DSE in 1994. Since this time 108 faculties from Asian, African and Latin-American countries have participated in these programmes, which take place once a year for two months of training in Witzenhausen.

The need for establishing similar courses at local level is growing rapidly. It is now time to prove that such courses can be organised also in Egypt-Arab region for improving the skills required to manage the necessary changes in

universities and contributing to the generation of a community of scholars committed to scientific quality as well as to social and environmental responsiveness.

(Institute for Socio-cultural and Socio-economic Studies, Witzenhausen, University of Kassel)

## Partnership: Witzenhausen/El Minia Egypt

An agreement not only between Governments in Cairo and Bonn but also between the Universities of Minia and Kassel has been made on scientific co-operation. The official agreement between the two universities was made in 1982. The objective of the agreement between both universities is to intensify the scientific activities within the fields of teaching and research. Since the agreement was made there have been various activities, e.g. seminars, workshops, supervision of post-graduate students and Ph.D. students. There has also been the possibility of German students to do a term of study at the University in Minia in their particular field of work.

The co-supervision of Ph.D. students is an important part of the agreement. Scientific work is carried out in at the University of Kassel or at the University in El-Minia.

An important part of the agreement are the joint seminars and workshops which are held in Kassel and in El-Minia. The first seminar was held in 1979 in El-Minia, and they are now held according to the agreement every two years alternatively in Kassel or El-Minia. Egyptian and German university staff, scientists and Ph.D students take part in these meetings. All lectures from these seminars are published after the seminar has been held.

(Dept. of International Animal Husbandry,  
University of Kassel - Witzenhausen)



## Follow-up meeting in University of Cairo, November 1999

The Symposium has two main objectives: Firstly, new approaches and findings in the field of agriculture, forestry and veterinary sciences will be presented and it will provide a forum for the exchange of experiences. Secondly, the establishment of a long-term and sustainable alumni network will be discussed together with Egyptian graduates. In the field of sciences, plenary sessions or working groups will be organised where Egyptian and German Scientists will present papers and contribute professional experience. Four Working Groups are envisaged: Animal Production, Plant Production, Socio-economics and University Planning.

Our Egyptian colleagues are kindly invited to contribute papers in order to make success of this event. An editorial committee has been set up headed by Prof. Hala Aref, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt 12211 Tel: 202 5720 478 /799 /399 Fax 202 5725240 Priv. 012 318 9465 Fax 02 4042937

A one page summary of your paper is required before mid October.

Time allocated for the presentation of papers will be 20 minutes 10 minute period for discussion. Papers are intended for publication.

Special excursions to El Fayoum and several agricultural enterprises are planned in order

to gain practical insights. The German counterparts include scientists and co-workers of the University of Göttingen, Kassel-Witzenhausen, as well as representatives of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Embassy. Prof. Hala Aref will make the necessary preparation for the establishment of a systematic alumni network. The personal links which have existed up to now between Egyptian graduates and their German host institutions shall be intensified and regular contacts established.

An independent office and databank will be implemented in Cairo in order to distribute information to those interested.

This Symposium is being seen as the first of a series of further Symposia. If our Symposium meets with success and if the network functions well, we believe that funding institutions such as DAAD will contribute to further support such seminars and workshops of Egyptian graduates of German Universities.

We are also planning to second symposium next year in Egypt and would like to ask for ideas and suggestions for its implementation. We need your support and co-operation. We look forward to visiting Egypt again and hope to meet many old friends and colleagues.

(Diethard Mai, CeTSAF)

# Actual Development Policy Topics in the Era of Globalisation

Globalisation has become the catchword of our decade. Economically the world gets closer together, as can be seen from the increasing flow of goods, services and capital and from decreasing trade barriers. The flow of information is expanding world-wide, and it is widely available within shorter and shorter times. Within seconds, data proceed from one end of the world to another.

At the same time, the expectations on researchers by policy-makers and the public are growing. They are expected to give their answers more rapidly, based on a broader basis of information, and more precise regarding the prediction of future developments. Due to the improved means of communication, international and interdisciplinary networks of researchers spread fast and allow more profound analyses.

At the same time, however, competition becomes stiffer, and many, who are unable to compete are left behind. Hence, the gap between those who are in a position to make use of the international liberalisation and of the new technologies of communication and those are not is growing from day to day. Those who, for financial, political or social reasons are out of the international network are delinked from a great part of the inter-

national progress.

Against that background, international co-operation with partners in countries which are economically less well-off first of all has the task to intensify their networks, technically as well as socially, in order to allow them to participate in the international flow of information. This will lay the basis for future joint work.

At the same time, specialisation as well as interdisciplinary work on a global scale is required for contributing to cope with the problems of the future. The major challenges in this respect are referring to the environment and to the natural resources. Among them, one of the most - maybe the most - pressing issue is the globally increasing desertification which is not only an ecological problem, but entails (and partly is also a consequence of) a host of economic, social and political problems. The urgent need to action is expressed in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. This issue will be a focal point of our network. Our meeting in November is hoped to give an initial spark not only to an intensified mutual flow of information but also to joint work, with relevance for the MENA region as well as for other parts of the world.

(Beatrice Knerl)

## The Establishment of „GEAR“: a Professional Network in the INTERNET

Since the beginning of June intensive work has been conducted on the establishment of *GEAR*, the international German Egypt-Arab Region Inter-Alumni-Net in the Internet. This network is focused on the dissemination of professional information as well as it shall provide a platform for discussion and information exchange for

the “green” sector once fully established. The structure of *GEAR* is mainly based on distributed professional information systems maintained on local and external servers but all made accessible through one local database. This *GEAR*-Database will allow to search all sources through one access point and then to move on to a distinct and comprehensive source selected. Through the nature of this distributed information system mutual efforts will be necessary for the successful establishment and maintenance of *GEAR*. Once completed the *GEAR*-Network will be available through the following URL: <[http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/kww/gear\\_i.html](http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/kww/gear_i.html)>. Enquiries and professional contributions are welcome and may be addressed to <[gear@wiz.uni-kassel.de](mailto:gear@wiz.uni-kassel.de)>. A screenshot of the preliminary *GEAR*-Home Page may be viewed in the Figure below.



Screenshot of the GEAR Home Page (preliminary version)

(Thomas-M. Stein, GEAR)

## Statistical Figures of Egyptian Graduates from University of Göttingen and University of Kassel

| Nr. | Criteria  | tot   | %   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1   | PhD-Graduates   | 81  | 100   |
| 2   | Gender:<br>Women<br>Men   | 11<br>70  | 14<br>86  |
| 3   | Discipline:<br>Plant Production (incl. Pl. Genetics; Pl. Breeding; Pl. Nutrition; Pl. Protection; Phytomedicine)<br>Animal Production (incl. An. Genetics; Ani. Breeding.; Ani. Nutrition; Ani. Hygiene & health)<br>Agricultural Economics & Social Sciences (incl. Rural Sociology; Rural Policy; Rural Development)  | 48<br>28<br>5                                       | 59<br>34<br>7   |
| 4   | Number of PhDs:<br>till 1970<br>1971 - 1980<br>1981 - 1990<br>since 1991  | 1<br>40<br>37<br>3                                  | 1<br>49<br>46<br>4                                    |
| 5   | Enrolment Standard:<br>Master from the University in Egypt:<br>Ain Shams University, Cairo<br>Alexandria University<br>Cairo University<br>Kafr El-Sheikh<br>Mansourah<br>Assiut/Mushtohor/Shebin El-Kom/El Azhar 2 each<br>others<br>Germany<br>Göttingen  | 74<br>22<br>16<br>12<br>8<br>4<br>10<br>9<br>7<br>5 | 91<br>27<br>20<br>15<br>10<br>5<br>12<br>11<br>9<br>6 |
| 1   | University of Kassel  | 123   | 100   |
| 2   | Participants<br>gender:<br>Women<br>Men   | 15<br>108   | 12<br>88  |
| 3   | Discipline of Participants in training Courses:<br>Plant Production (incl. Pl. Genetics; Pl. Breeding; Pl. Nutrition; Pl. Protection; Phytomedicine)<br>Animal Production (incl. An. Genetics; Ani. Breeding.; Ani. Nutrition; Ani. Hygiene & health)<br>Agricultural Economics & Social Sciences (incl. Rural Sociology; Rural Policy; Rural Development<br>Biology; Nutrition<br>Unistaff | 46<br>29<br>13<br>7<br>6                            | 58<br>33<br>16<br>9<br>8                              |

## Supporting Persons and Institutions:

Presidents of the Universities Cairo, Göttingen and Kassel; Vice President of the University of Cairo; Egyptian Embassy in Bonn; German Academic Service in Cairo, German Embassy in Cairo; Prof. Aref, University of Cairo and of course the deans of the corresponding agricultural faculties and directors of both centres in Göttingen and Kassel.