

## Press release

### **The German Research Foundation (DFG) funds new Research Training Group at the University of Göttingen**

#### **Scientists research the increasing importance of renewable resources for industry**

The scientists of the Research Training Group (RTG) 1703 “Resource Efficiency in Corporate Networks – Methods for Enterprise and Corporate Level Planning to Utilize Renewable Resources” research the increasing importance of renewable resources for industrial utilization. Both economists and researchers from the forestry and agricultural sciences, mathematics, and business informatics disciplines at the University of Göttingen participate in this endeavor. The training group is located in the Faculty of Economic Sciences at Prof. Dr. Jutta Geldermann’s Chair of Production and Logistics. From April 2012 to September 2016, the German Research Foundation (DFG) funds the RTG 1703 with more than 4 Mio. Euro, allowing for 12 doctoral positions (75%-TVL 13).

Renewable raw materials are currently not only important for energy generation, but are also becoming increasingly relevant as an alternative resource base for petroleum-based products. Scientists at the Research Training Group endeavor to develop methods to improve renewable resources’ efficient application in by-product production processes, which simultaneously lead to multiple products. The Göttingen researchers specifically investigate wood and wood materials used in the manufacturing and process industry. The aim is cascade utilization – the multiple utilization of a raw material before its conversion into energy.

“The Research Training Group presents a unique opportunity to develop quantitative methods for the planning and control of resource efficiency on an interdisciplinary basis. These methods support decision making and enable production processes’ operational control – a relevant issue that currently confronts many companies,” according to Prof. Geldermann, the spokesperson of the RTG. The following are some of the issues on which the scientist are working on an interdisciplinary basis: How can the studied raw materials and by-products from the agricultural and the forestry sectors be characterized in respect of their utilization possibilities? What demands are made on companies’ production planning and information processing? What consequences will the more efficient utilization of renewable resources have for raw-material suppliers, commerce, and consumers? In particular, models and methods of Operations Research, that is, of mathematical business planning, are being employed to address these issues.

Additional information is available at [www.resource-efficiency.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.resource-efficiency.uni-goettingen.de).