

Master's thesis

The Chair of Agricultural Market Analysis offers the opportunity for a master student in Agricultural Economics or related fields to write a master's thesis on the trade costs in the rubber and palm oil sectors in Jambi province, Indonesia.

The Transaction Costs of doing Business in Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia

Background:

The impacts of the transformation of lowland rainforests in Jambi province towards palm oil and rubber on selected stakeholders along the value chain are of growing importance. In particular, the implications of changes in the production systems for smallholders are essential for the functioning of local and export markets at the regional scale, and with respect to the linkages of local and international markets at the global scale.

Target of the thesis:

The costs of doing trade – in particular (but not exclusively) transaction costs – do have a significant impact on trade flows. It is the target of this thesis to quantitatively evaluate the impacts of transport costs on the amount of produced and traded goods on a disaggregated, local level.

Methodology:

The target is to be achieved by participating in a survey with all traders in 40 randomly selected villages in Jambi province. The survey is conducted within the DFG Collaborative Research Centre 990, Subproject C01. The student's questions will be included into this questionnaire.

Your profile:

- Hold a bachelor degree in Agricultural Economics or related fields
- Experience with empirical work, especially field experience in the tropics
- Willingness and ability to work independently
- Proficient English skills
- Knowledge of Bahasa Indonesia would be of advantage

Incentives:

- Working on an interesting topic that is of local relevance
- Getting more field-experience in data collection
- Prospect of publication

Organisational issues:

- The successful candidate will be expected to support the field-work of the supervising Ph.D. student while being in Jambi. This support will mainly consist of co-facilitating the survey.
- The data collection will take place between mid September and end of December 2012.
- The working time will be compensated via a contract as student assistant at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development (60 hours/month).
- There won't be any funds available for travelling to Indonesia or accommodation in the region. However, the student's own fundraising, e.g. applications at DAAD will be supported by all means.

Interested students please contact thomas.kopp@agr.uni-goettingen.de.