

Master thesis on GLOBALGAP adoption by small-scale fruit and vegetable farmer groups in Thailand

The Chair of International Agricultural Economics offers the opportunity for a Master student in Agricultural Economics or related fields to write a master thesis on GLOBALGAP adoption by small-scale fruit and vegetable farmer groups in Thailand. The Master thesis will involve some primary data collection in Thailand from February/March 2011 to May/June 2011 (2-3 months). Data collection will take place within the project *“The impact of food safety and quality standards on small-scale fruit and vegetable producers in Thailand: an analysis at the household and producer group levels”*.

The research project is funded by fiat panis foundation and carried out in cooperation with GTZ Thailand. GTZ Thailand currently implements the project *“Food Safety in Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (FS in FFV)”* with the aim to certify 167 small-scale farmers in ten farmer groups with the GLOBALGAP standard. During a first round of interviews in the beginning of 2010, 140 GTZ project participants and 150 control group farmers have already been interviewed. The objective of the survey is to identify the factors influencing standard adoption at individual household level and to assess the impact of standard adoption on farmers' resource use and household income.

There are different topics to consider for the Master Thesis, such as:

- the group structure of GLOBALGAP certified farmer groups in Thailand and their linkages to exporters
- the factors influencing standard adoption by farmer groups
- the impacts of GLOBALGAP adoption on the groups' performance
- a value-chain analysis of the Thai fruit and vegetable sector

Applicants should have a Bachelor Degree in Agricultural Economics or related fields, a proven interest in quantitative research methods and a good command of the English language.

A lump sum of 1350€ will be paid from which the student has to cover the flight to and from Thailand as well as accommodation and living expenses in Thailand. Accommodation costs in Thailand are about 150€ per month. In addition, traveling costs for data collection will be covered by the project.

Please send your applications which should include a cover letter, a curriculum vitae and academic certificates to Sarah Kersting (skersti@gwdg.de, Tel: 0551-394835). Applications are accepted until December 15th, 2010.