



12. Dezember 2006

Pre-announcement of an upcoming recruitment phase for the Research Project

**"Making Rural Services Work for the Poor - The Role of Rural Institutions and their Governance for Agriculture-Led Development"**

The Project will be funded by the German Ministry for Development Cooperation (BMZ). Project applicants are the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and various consortium partners working in particular thematic project areas. The Project will be jointly managed by IFPRI (Washington, DC) and Humboldt University Berlin. The Division of Resource Economics of Humboldt University together with the Berlin Institute for Cooperative Studies will be responsible for research activities in the areas of Resource Management, Political Economy and Cooperative Studies.

This announcement intends to pre-inform potential candidates about the upcoming recruitment for the Project. The job opening will be officially announced in February/March 2007. The Division of Resource Economics and the Institute for Cooperative Studies at Humboldt University invite young researchers with experiences from research areas related the subjects of the Project (see Project description below) to express their interest and to request information on tasks and profiles of up to

**4 PhD Positions** (each PhD student will support research in one of the selected countries: India, Kyrgyzstan, Guatemala, Uganda).

**1 Research Coordinator** (doctoral or post-doctoral candidate).

Please direct your requests and send your letter of interest not later than **January 20, 2007** to:

Humboldt University Berlin  
Department of Resource Economics  
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Konrad Hagedorn  
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**Project Description**

There is ample empirical evidence that improving the agricultural productivity of smallholder farms and integrating them into markets is a very promising strategy for a broad-based alleviation of rural poverty, and for using agriculture as an engine of growth on the road towards industrialization. While this strategy has been very successful in regions with high agricultural potential in Asia, there have been major challenges for using this strategy in large parts of Africa as well as in the less-favored areas of Asia and Latin America – regions that continue to exhibit high levels of rural poverty and food insecurity. In recent years, important governance reforms have been made aiming at improving rural service provision by empowering the rural poor to demand rural services. Among other intended changes, these reforms involved decentralization as well as increasing the capacity of service providers from the public, private and third sectors, e.g. by public sector management reforms and outsourcing. However, the empirical evidence regarding these governance reforms is rather vague, and there are major knowledge gaps regarding the question of what makes rural services “work for the poor”, or in other words, how rural communities can make rural services work for them. In view of an inherent tendency to promote “one-size-fits-all” models, empirical research is essential to identify options for reforming rural service provision by improving our understanding of *what works where and why?*

Verkehrsverbindungen