



POLICY DIALOGUE AND ADVICE

ZEF provides advice to policy-makers, business, institutions and non-governmental organizations on issues of development policy.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ZEF's main funders are: The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Research Council (DFG), the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the European Commission (EU), the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Volkswagen Foundation, Foundation fiat panis, the Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation and many more organizations as well as various governments through support for some of our doctoral students.

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Center for
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INFORMATION IN BRIEF





ZEF is an international and trans-disciplinary scientific research institute at the University of Bonn which started its research activities in 1997.

ZEF's overall goal is to contribute with its research and education to enhancing sustainable human development and combating poverty in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. ZEF also strives to strengthen international development research and therefore cooperates closely with researchers and experts in the fields of development policy and cooperation from all over the world.

ZEF'S RESEARCH AREAS ARE:

- Agriculture, land use, climate change
- Water resources (management)
- Biodiversity
- Food and nutrition
- Health
- Gender
- Migration, mobility and urbanization
- Governance and conflict
- Markets and services
- Innovation and science policy

RESEARCH

ZEF has three research departments focusing on:

- Political and cultural change
- Economic and technological change
- Ecology and natural resources management.

The three departments are interconnected by crosscutting research themes: Land, water, food and energy; Health, nutrition and ecosystems; Governance, conflicts, and natural resources; Mobility, migration and urbanization; Markets and public services; Innovation, knowledge and science policy. Disciplinary research is conducted within our departments and projects. New research projects and proposals for doctoral theses have to fit into ZEF's research agenda.

ZEF applies an integrative and trans-disciplinary research approach. Natural and social scientists devise research questions and solutions together with economists and in close cooperation with local partners.

Trans-disciplinary research bridges the gaps between:

- Disciplinary research fields
- Research and politics
- Research and practice

ZEF is running research projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



CAPACITY BUILDING

ZEF has a strong focus on human, academic, and institutional capacity building. Following up on its long-term research activities, ZEF has been establishing capacity development partnerships with academic institutions and networks in its world-wide research regions over the years.

With its doctoral program "Bonn International Graduate School for Development Research" (BIGS-DR), ZEF educates new generations of academics as well as decision makers for international development policy. Its international and interdisciplinary set-up and its size make this program unique in Germany and Europe.

Doctoral students at ZEF complete their theses in 3.5 years on average. Around 140 doctoral students participate in the program at any time, with an intake of 20-30 new students per year. More than 700 students from around 100 countries have taken part in the program since its inception in 1999, forming a world-wide network of alumni.

