



Georg-August-Universität
Göttingen

RTG 2654

“Sustainable Food Systems”

(to be launched in 2021)



November 2020

New Research Training Group “Sustainable Food Systems” approved

DFG supports new Program at University of Göttingen with 5 million Euros

The German Research Foundation (DFG) recently approved the new Research Training Group (RTG) “Sustainable Food Systems” at the University of Göttingen for funding. The first Program phase of four-and-a-half years will start in 2021 and will be funded with 5 million Euros. The overall goal of the new RTG is to combine excellent interdisciplinary research and graduate training related to the sustainability of food systems. Director of the new program is Prof. Dr. Matin Qaim from the Göttingen Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development.

Food and agriculture are playing key roles for many of the global challenges such as poverty, undernutrition, overweight and obesity, climate change, and biodiversity loss. It is obvious that the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without major changes in food production and consumption. But what types of changes are useful at what level and how these changes can be implemented politically, economically, and socially are open questions that will be addressed by the new RTG, focusing on both rich and poor countries.

Apart from food and agricultural scientists, economists, and social scientists from the University of Göttingen, various international partners are also involved in this new RTG, including the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington DC and KU Leuven in Belgium. One of the main objectives is also to train new generations of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers on food systems related issues. “Junior researchers in the RTG will analyze, for instance, how globalized food markets affect human health and the environment and what type of policies can help increase the sustainability of food production and consumption”, says Qaim.

The new RTG will launch in September 2021. In early 2021, positions for 15 doctoral researchers and one postdoc will be announced internationally.

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