



MSc thesis topic

Cost-benefit analysis of the labelling of an African forest honey with Geographical Indication

Introduction

In 2013, Oku white honey from Cameroon was one of the first African food products to become labelled with Protected Geographical Indication (PGI). Perhaps best known from Italian Parma ham, Mexican Tequila and Danish Lammefjords carrots, the PGI label links the quality of a product with the local natural environment and local traditional knowledge and production systems. Oku white honey is produced in a unique mountain forest ecosystem, where local beekeepers move traditional beehives colonized by wild honey bees from the valley to the mountain forests. Here, the bees collect nectar from the local flora and creates an exceedingly rare and sweet, white, creamy honey. Several international organizations drove the development of the Cameroonian PGI system and supported the Oku beekeepers. With the PGI in place, only farmers, producers, and cooperatives working in the Oku region are allowed to produce and market their honey as official Oku white honey.

The thesis

The MSc thesis will take departure in the above context and analyze the costs and benefits of the PGI registration. The student is allowed to develop his/her own thesis proposal, but the thesis work should include a description of the process towards GI labeling and cost benefit analyses of the transition to PGI labeled production for i) the individual beekeepers, ii) the honey cooperative, and iii) other actors.

While the study will focus on economic CBA, the student should expect to take an interdisciplinary approach and make use of e.g. producer surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews with key stakeholders. Field work in Cameroon of at least 3 months is expected. The student must secure funds for the fieldwork her/himself, but will receive guidance and suggestion for grants from the supervisors. Contact is established with local partners in Cameroon, who can be of assistance with practicalities during fieldwork.

Supervision

The student will be supervised by Aske S. Bosselmann, assistant professor at IFRO, University of Copenhagen, and Verina Ingram, assistant professor at Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group, Wageningen UR. The student should be willing to publish the thesis work as a scientific article in collaboration with the supervisors.

Contact

Interested students should contact both Aske (ab@ifro.ku.dk) and Verina (verina.ingram@wur.nl).

3 MARCH 2016

ROLIGHEDSVEJ 25
1958 FREDERIKSBERG C
DENMARK

TEL 45 35366800
DIR 45 35336889

ab@ifro.ku.dk
www.ifro.ku.dk/eng

REF: ASB