

SIA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Edition 2
15/07/2020

Message from SIA Alumni Newly Appointed Chairperson : Justin

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to my colleagues appointing me as the Chairperson of the Executive Board of SIA Alumni. 2020 has been an unexpected and challenging year for many. So I wish all our alumni good health during these times. Although COVID19 brought challenges it has also been a great time for innovation, creativity and working on restructuring alumni. If now more than anytime we see world wide the importance of collaboration and networks. Which is why I am honoured to build this network up as acting Chairperson and bring some vision to the network. Take care and we look forward to growing alumni with you.



SIA Alumni Values

The main principles that we follow is to; reconnect with alumni, collaborate together, share information and knowledge and build and make meaningful impact.



CONNECT



COLLABORATE



SHARE



IMPACT

SIA Alumni Announcements

- COVID 19– We want to extend our thoughts and our hope our alumni are safe where ever they are. We also hope this time brings healthy innovations in a post COVID19 world.

APPLY NOW

- **ATTENTION !** Executive Board Positions Available. (*Communications, Financing & Fundraising, Cooperation & Partnerships, Engagement*) —> [CLICK HERE FOR INFO](#)
Please refer to page 3 for more information
>Please RSVP ASAP via sia@alumni.uni-goettingen.de <

APPLY NOW

- **ATTENTION !** SIA Alumni Accolade 2020 Nominations Open. Nominate alumni or yourself if you promote outstanding achievements and contributing to sustainable international agriculture and development.
> Please RSVP via sia@alumni.unigoettingen.de <

JOIN NOW

- SIA Alumni Careers and Opportunities are posted on our LinkedIn Closed Group —> [CLICK HERE TO CONNECT](#)

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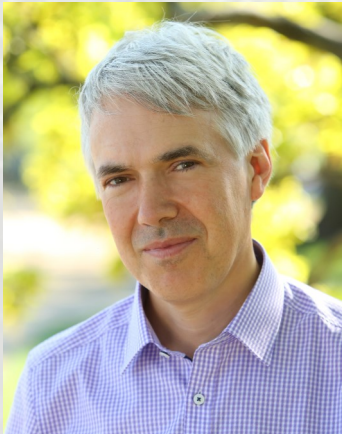
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“Bringing together 25 years of alumni together to build a food secure future for all”

AlumniK Alumni Göttingen



A message from SIA Coordinator



Dear readers,

This year finds us in a very special situation that has deep impacts on all parts of society. Kassel University and Göttingen University have of course also been affected, and we are all missing our campus lives, in particular the close interactions with our students.

At the same time, I find it fascinating to see how much innovation is possible in terms of crisis. Within short time we all became experts in home office work, remote meetings, online teaching, and the like. Nothing can replace personal encounters, but I was surprised how well webinars, web-based discussion fora etc. actually work in my teaching. For research and ongoing master thesis, the Covid-19 crisis also comes with many challenges.

My group had to suspend a number of exciting fieldwork activities in India, Morocco, and Spain – but also in PhD and master thesis research we develop a lot of innovative thinking in coping with this crisis, experimenting with novel internet-based stakeholder workshops, online surveys, remote sensing, and desk-based literature reviews.

From our student advisors, I hear that most of the current SIA students are coping more or less well with the crisis – although the combination of cancelled student jobs, lost incomes, isolation, travel bans, overall uncertainty etc. can be threatening. Fortunately, there is a lot of help and solidarity among the SIA students. A tricky question is how the intake of new students in the upcoming winter semester will look like. Our two universities are currently developing a strategy on how to organize that process, but clear decisions are not yet taken.

I am happy to see that the SIA Alumni Network has consolidated and grateful that so many meaningful alumni events are taking place remotely in this difficult time.

Yours,

Tobias Pliening
(Coordinator of SIA programme)



SIA Alumni Activities: ZOOM Online Series

In May 2020 we had our flag ship online activity where our 5 Guest alumni speakers presented their experiences in Goettingen, gave advice and what they are up to now. The interactive online series had a great response and we would like to again thank our speakers, Elifas, Maame, James, Pamela and Eusan. Thank you to the coordination team Justin & William and Grete for moderating the Q&A .



SIA ALUMNI  **SERIES**

28th APRIL
Feat. *Grete & Mr Elifas Yusufadisyukur (Alumni 2017)*

5th MAY
Feat. *Ms. Maame Addo (Alumni 2012)*

12th MAY
Feat. *Mr. James Ellison (Alumni 2013)*

19th MAY
Feat. *Ms. Pamela Sangoluisa (2010)*

27th MAY
Feat. *Mr Eusun Han (Alumni 2009)*

Access to join will be send privately by code to your personal email you registered for SIA Alumni.

Join . Listen . Ask 

Due to COVID 19 and the positive response from the attendees we hope to host more alumni series in the future. With over 30-50 participants in each talk we thought this was a great success. Students also gave feedback saying that listening to past alumni is helpful. Also alumni said it was great to reconnect (which is one of our values).

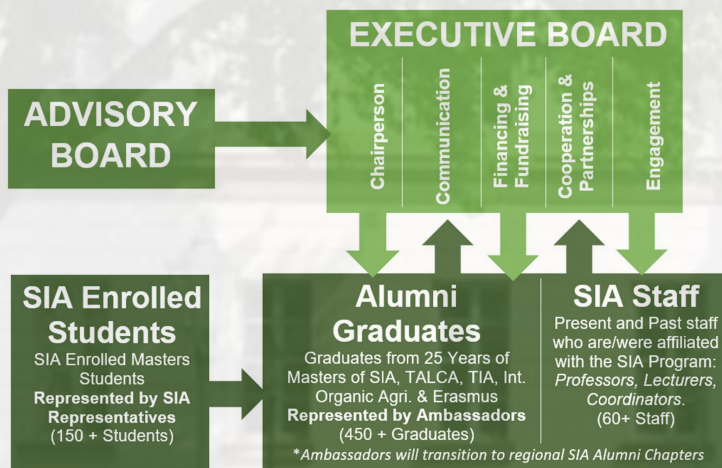
In future we would like to have more personalised workshops on our alumni's skills and have online debates. If your interested to participate or have some suggestions— please get in contact with SIA Alumni online.

SIA Alumni: Merging programs

SIA Alumni has now restructured to include pre- programs to the SIA course including the programs since 2002: Masters in International Organic Agriculture (IOA), Masters in Tropical and International Agriculture (TIA) and the Masters of International Agribusiness and Rural Development (IARD). These courses were merged into the SIA program what it is today and we look forward to reconnecting to our Alumni graduates.

SIA Alumni: Executive Board (EB) Positions now open!

To make alumni sustainable and inclusive the alumni has been under review for 6 months. The current stakeholders and partners have proposed the set up below.



We are happy to announce 4 voluntary positions open now to apply include;

1. Communications
2. Financing and Fundraising
3. Cooperation and Partnerships
4. Engagement

**APPLY
NOW**

The 5 board members will help build the strategic plan and coordinate activities of the SIA Alumni to build greater collaboration, connectiveness, information and impact. We hope those interested can bring new insights and ideas for the network.

If you are interested in joining the executive board please check out the document for more information —> [HERE](#).

Please RSVP ASAP via email with short description* of you and 50-200 words why you are interested to join the EB.

**Please indicate if you want to lead the section or supporter of board sections.*

SIA Alumni: 2020 Accolade Nominations now open !

The 2020 SIA Alumni Accolade is now open. Last year recipient Mr. Sagemüller (SIA 2010) received it for his dedication for socio entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable agriculture in Cambodia. If you are doing an outstanding achievement and contributing to sustainable international agriculture and development get in touch with us or nominate someone today. Send an email with 50-200 words why you think you are or someone you nominate is deserving.



Please remember that **Nominations close 1st September.**

SIA Alumni: IMPACT Project !

As part of our alumni impact values we want create meaningful and sustainable impact. That is why SIA Alumni Selina Bruns (SIA 2016) head of the working group *Poverty Alleviations* leading the agriculture socio-entrepreneur program with SIA Alumni .

We plan to link student and alumni innovative ideas and work together to transform ideas into meaningful impact. If you are interested to join this project , be a mentor or interested to start a project (which is still in the idea stage) send us an expression of interest with **100 words ASAP.** **The socio- entrepreneur program will begin in Sep.**

SIA Alumni: Schrebergarten Garden

Collaborating with Goettingen Alumni and Foyer International in Goettingen SIA Alumni has been invited to join this collaborative project. Although still in the drafting stages we are excited to announce this. It will be a space for knowledge exchange and collaboration. If your interested for more information. Reach out today.

SIA Alumni: 2021 DAAD SDG 2 Summer School in Goettingen

Goettingen Alumni and other alumni programs have been busy putting a proposal for a DAAD funded summer school program with SIA Alumni. It wil be on SDG 2 : Zero Hunger. We will keep you updated on more information.

SIA Alumni—Tropical International Agriculture : Sann Vathana

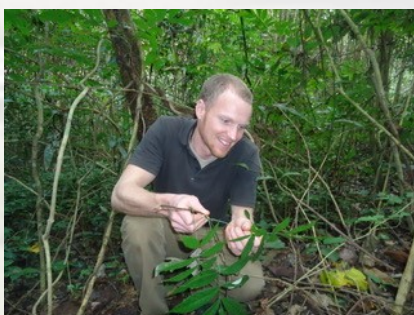
It was not only the journey to enjoy the best of Goettingen as a Cambodian, but also to represent Cambodia in Goettingen. The best part of it is that I started with one German sentence: “Wo ist der Bahnhof?”. I found Goettingen as my second home from all my great colleagues and friends. I was in Goettingen in 2000 and then 2002-2006, from pre-BSc, then MSc to PhD. I really appreciate the diversity of programs.

Since TIA I was the president of a social movement in Cambodia “GoGoCambodia” that galvanized 0.3 million people from 55 countries to break the Guinness World Record “The world longest hand woven scarf”. Currently, I am working under the Secretary of State in charge of introducing and implementing the Digital Education Policy to the Ministry of Education. Moreover, I am responsible as well for the newly established “Research Creativity and Innovation Fund” of the ministry. It is really concurrent and enjoyable. I love Goettingen and I really encourage the other to go there. ~ *Dr. Sann Vathana*.



Cory Whitney (SIA 2009)

I was lucky enough to be the first of the College of the Atlantic (COA) alumni to join the SIA program. I was funded by the Partridge Foundation’s ‘Trans Atlantic Partnership in Sustainable Food Systems’ to be COA’s SIA ambassador. After SIA I went with fellow SIA alum Dr. Eu Sun Han to help organize the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress in South Korea. I spent the next few years in Vietnam and Laos, mainly doing ethnobotany research with indigenous communities.



Eventually, I came back to do my PhD at Uni-Kassel on the agrobiodiversity and nutritional contribution of homegardens in Uganda, within a large project funded by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) called ‘Globale Ernährungssicherung’ (GlobE). Now I am extremely fortunate to be working with Prof. Dr. Eike Luedeling’s group at the University of Bonn.

Continued : Cory (SIA 2009)

We work in agricultural development contexts, together with communities and decision makers to address issues of direct relevance to them and with the aim to support decision making under uncertainty. We use holistic analysis approaches to describe systems and model decision impact pathways with diverse groups including researchers, food activists, small-scale farmers and indigenous communities. If this sounds intriguing please check out some of our work and feel free to get in touch. I always love to hear from fellow SIA alumni.

Feel free to follow me on Twitter @human_ecologist, have a look at my [website](#) , and read my papers [orcid](#) . ~ *Corey Whitney*



Mercedes Montero (SIA 2010)



I did my master’s degree in 2010-2012; which is now 10 years ago. However, that experience changed my life in more ways that I thought possible. However, if I am to describe my experience in a few words, I would divide it in two sections: personal and academic, but I’ll start by the later. After I finished my degree I went back to Costa Rica and 1,5 years later I started my PhD in CATIE which I completed in 2016. This was a joint program that allowed me to study as well.

In 2017 I started my current job at the University of Costa Rica in the Agricultural Economics Department. My master’s degree opened the doors of Academia for me: first of all because I realized that I needed to complete a PhD and then because I started to realize the importance of research in our field in a developing country. My current research topics are “Food waste”, “Bioeconomy” and “Supply chains” which have all derived from my experiences abroad. These topics would have never been in my range if I had not had the experience of studying abroad. On the other hand, I consider these topics fundamental for development in my country and in my area of expertise.

Continued: Montero (SIA 2010)



In the area of lecturing, we are currently going through a “virtual Covid-19 phase”, this has been part of a process of learning how to re-arrange lectures to a more dynamic system. I started my teaching-experience in 2017, however in these 3,5 years, I believe I have improved in how to approach students, since it has been a (huge) challenge for me. I think it is fundamental for students to become critical thinkers and advocates of new ways of approaching a problem, therefore I try my best to motivate them to do so. In this regard, I have started to change my classroom dynamics a little bit: I try to include those which I consider “the best practices” from many of my professors abroad. I can only do this because I had the experience of not only acquiring knowledge from many great professors, but also their approach to teaching. Studying abroad also made me realize how teaching and research should go hand in hand. Currently, I try to transmit not only what the syllabus of my lecture includes but also all of these other experiences I have lived.

Finally, I would say that the most relevant input studying abroad gave me, is in a personal transformation: I think I have learned from different cultures, different background and therefore different ways of approaching live. The experience of getting to know people from other sides of the world opened my eyes and my heart to be (or at least try) a more accepting, curious and open-minded person. I am certainly not the same person I was in 2010 and for that, I am forever thankful. ~ Mercedes Montero

Duong Xuan Lam (SIA 2011)



Straight after finishing the SIA Master program specialized in International Agribusiness and Rural Development Economics, I came back to Vietnam and worked as a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF). I joint a pilot consulting group under the so-called “One Commune One Product” (OCOP) movement, aimed at promoting agriculture and local products. As a lecturer, I started to inspire and share what I acquired from my previous studies to my students. I encouraged them to think and criticize things from different perspectives to understand given farm management and business practices to the fullest. In 2018, I received financial support from the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) for my PhD degree at the Department of Tropical Agriculture and International Cooperation (Pingtung, Taiwan).



Continued: Duong (SIA 2011)



For me, time spent in Goettingen was a lifetime memory that enabled me to get a broad knowledge of agribusiness and rural development from both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Over the last ten years, SIA program made a remarkable achievement with a large number of success stories shared by its alumni and I am so proud to be a member of that great community. ~ Duong Lam

Samuel Balleiro (SIA 2011)



My name is Samuel and I am originally from Brazil. I joined the SIA program in 2012 and was thrilled to meet so many interesting people from all over the world. In the first months, we spent a lot of evenings “networking” so that the time flew by quickly. My focus was International Agribusiness so that the first shock was econometrics. We studied a lot for the exam which was quite fun doing it together in the library .

During my time in Göttingen, I met people from the Thünen Institute in Braunschweig and was fortunate to start a student assistant



position right from the beginning. After writing my M.Sc. Thesis with them, I was happy to get a full position as a research assistant working on the international competitiveness of different production systems under the agri benchmark project. I had the opportunity of traveling all continents and experiencing first-hand different farming systems, mainly focused on sugarcane production. In 2017, I started my Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics in Göttingen was happy to have the chance to go back and seeing some familiar faces – hopefully, I will be able to handle in my thesis next semester.

At the beginning of this year, I left the institute and joined the Nordzucker group here in Braunschweig, working on the economics of raw material production – mainly sugarcane in Australia and beets in Europa. SIA was not only a great masters’ program but for me, it was an amazing experience. Having people from all over the world exchanging ideas and making great friends was just incredible. I am glad that Justin and the other ambassadors were able to put this group together and I am looking forward to meeting many more SIA alumni in the future. ~ Samuel

Pramila Thapa

(SIA 2013)



We live in the most urban era ever. The rate of urbanization is increasing, more so in the Global South, mainly in densely populated countries such as India and Nigeria. Urbanization is multifaceted. Tertiary economic development, demographic growth in size and composition, and spatial coverage by more built-up areas are its major indicators.

Urbanization brings changes into people's livelihood, lifestyle, connectivity and place. More and more people give-up farming and rely on working in industries or other sectors such as services. This often decreases the direct contact between people and nature. Trade and business grow. People often depend on non-locally products and promote trade. Also, the type of food consumed often changes. People tend to eat more animal products, which might have negative consequences in chronic diseases. On the other hand, more people become mobile and connected due to development in infrastructures for example roads and communication technologies. However, increase areas of built

up areas such as roads mostly has negative consequences ecological resources and regulations. Conservation and uses of natural resources, and the human wellbeing are often challenged.



With the above ground, my doctoral research aims to explore the social-ecological dynamics and ecosystem services uses of greenspaces in rural-urban interface of Bengaluru, India. It has three main parts. Firstly, I do systematic review on social-ecological outcome of urbanization in agricultural system. Secondly, I investigate different drives of shaping greenspaces along rural-urban interface of Bengaluru. Finally, I assess the ecosystem uses around the greenspaces of in the interface.

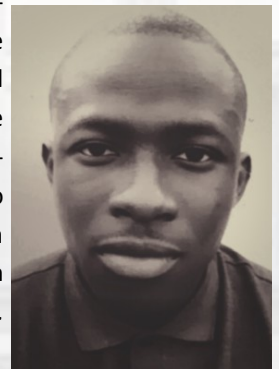
I hope my study will contribute in understanding social-ecological systems in urbanizing context and recommend suitable policy actions. ~ *Pramila Thapa*

Oyeyemi Afolabi (SIA 2014)



Coming to Germany and partaking in the SIA program from the prestigious University of Göttingen has been nothing but a great experience for me. During my stay in Göttingen, I was able to not just study but learn about different cultures around the world due to the wealth of international students in the city. The program SIA helped open my eyes to the need to be conscious with our agricultural needs which impacts the environment and the world at large. The program gave me the right blend of knowledge and experience. Thus, creating a platform for me to be employed in my current occupation with one of the topmost agricultural disruptive company in the world called INFARM. We at INFARM are tasked with supplying nutritious, healthy food to the cities while growing sustainably. This is what we find pride at doing till date. I have been able to adapt the knowledge gained throughout my stay in Göttingen to my day to day work. Therefore, I can only say I am grateful for the chance given to be an Alumnus of this prestigious University.

~ *Oyeyemi Afolabi*



Annelise Große (SIA 2015)



So the last time I wrote something for the SIA alumni or students was January 2019 and I was working on a PhD at the University in Göttingen. Over the last 18 months many things have changed in my life, especially on the career side of things. After a lot of inner reflection, I decided to leave my PhD position, as I felt that this was not the correct move for myself and this was beginning to take a severe impact on my mental health, and consequently on my overall health. It was a very difficult decision to make, but reflecting back over the last 18 months, it was the correct decision for myself. Since leaving my PhD, I have stayed in Göttingen and got married to a wonderful German man, who is from Göttingen. We met just after I started my PhD in 2018 and had a wonderful small wedding in the Göttingen old town hall last December.



Continued: Annelise (SIA 2015)



In terms of my career and where my SIA Master will take me, I am not yet sure as I am still doing some soul searching and taking my time to figure that out. Even though I have nothing very exciting to share in terms of career advancement etc, I thought it was still a good idea for me to write something after I was asked, as we are often all caught up in a busy life and forget or neglect to look after ourselves and our mental health. I pushed mine aside for quite a while, in the hopes that if I just worked a bit harder then everything would be ok. So I hope with my brief dialogue here, sharing my stop and break in my career, to look after my mental health, and not being ashamed of it, will encourage others to take a moment and look after their mental wellbeing too, especially going through what we have all been experiencing this year with Corona and countless other issues.

Kia Kaha (its Maori, look it up for the meaning) ~ *Annelise*

Aiden Holley (SIA 2017)



Of all the amazing experiences I have had at the University of Göttingen in the SIA program, the process of data collection, analysis and writing for my master's thesis was certainly one of the most challenging and also rewarding. Last summer (2019) I spent three months in Jambi, Indonesia helping to conduct field research with oil palm smallholders primarily on the topic of their environmental perceptions. Moreover, I also had the opportunity to conduct my own semi-structured interviews in order to collect qualitative data on the agricultural advisory services in Jambi. Ultimately, given the quantitative and qualitative data at hand, I wrote a mixed-methods thesis concerning the potential of Jambi's advisory services to promote sustainable land management in oil palm production.

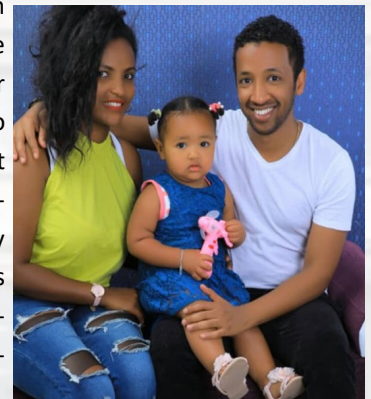
Now that I have completed my thesis, I am actively searching for jobs and planning to spend a few months this summer in Spain to improve my Spanish. I would love to work for a non-profit or agribusiness that works towards a more environmentally and socially sustainable agricultural production, perhaps even working with cash crop smallholders, such as coffee, cacao or oil palm producers ! ~ *Aiden Holley*



Michael Worku (SIA 2018)



Since my time in Goettingen, I really saw first hand the kindness and generosity of the SIA community. Since I arrived in Germany my first born baby Afomiya was born which I hadn't met in person yet. It was October 29, 2019, the only day I felt emotional and shed TEARS OF JOY since my travel to Germany. Maggie, Alina and I met, for a discussion on something I knew less about. The unexpected meeting took place in Turm Mensa and I remember the shocking message they had for me that day, that, "it's time to meet MY DAUGHTER" and that they already organized the financial aid needed through my fellow SIA colleagues. I felt chills run over me as I had never expected to see my baby girl before finishing my studies.



Surely, it was God's merciful plan that turned the incredible idea into reality. I went ahead and chose a date of my departure under the all catered for return trip. As soon as Maggie booked the ticket, I become more anxious, days past and they felt like weeks, weeks like Months and Months felt like years leaving me more broken and yearning for my anticipated date of departure. I could no longer concentrate on tasks and smiles of joy could hardly be missed off my face, it was obvious, I was in love again, in love with the idea of holding my BABY AFOMIYA for the first time ever.

After waiting for more than 4 months, the day came, and before boarding my train to Frankfurt. Every single minute more and more countries adopted travel restrictions due to then newly discovered World pandemic of COVID19. I said to myself, "flights might even be cancelled at any time" but I crossed my fingers and HOPED.

Nevertheless, I took my chances and on the 18th of March 2020, early in the morning, we landed safely in Ethiopia. Joyful and Impatient I rushed through airport control to get home.



On arrival, my dad presented to me the JOY OF MY LIFE, laid her in my arms and said, "look at your princess, enjoy your break with her". I had never seen such beauty, waking up beside you my daughter and our plays each day kept me going. Our sweet memories from my visit keep me going even though I miss you every day. ~ *Michael Worku*

Johannes Drewer (SIA 2019)

Hi There, my name is Johannes Meyer zu Drewer. I am a graduate student from the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (HSRW) in Kleve, Germany. I am currently pursuing my 2nd semester in the joint. M.Sc. Sustainable International Agriculture - Tropical Agriculture and Agroecosystem sciences and working as a student assistance with the division for Tropical Plant Production and Agroecosystem Modelling of the University of Göttingen.

I am passionate about Forest Gardens for Closing the Global Carbon Cycle. In the past I was working on a project base with several Institutions as the Smithsonian Institute for Tropical Research (Panama), The HSRW Soil Science division (Germany) or the World Agroforestry Centre (Kyrgyzstan). Some of those Institutions are well established and quite familiar to members of the scientific community. However, what often drives the change in this world are the small, bottom-up initiatives and grassroots organisations. ~ Johannes Drewer



SIA News: BioFach Excursion 2020

Biofach is the world's largest trade fair for organic food and agriculture, held each year in the month of February, in Nuremberg, Germany. It was held this year in February 12th – 13th 2020. It brings together



exhibitors and approximately trade visitors from all over the world. The University organises special free transport and participation tickets for interested students which I find to be encouraging and giving everyone a fair chance. It is an opportunity for students to meet and have direct contact with company owners and Institutions that will help them grow and become future Entrepreneurs.

SIA News: BioFach Excursion 2020

For me it was a wonderful experience, seeing so many young entrepreneurs and listening to their intriguing stories of how they all got started. I was amazed to see how value could be added to series of products to increase shelf lives and storage capacity, and I was also given an opportunity to try some of these exhibited products as well. I could not have asked for a better way to get inspired and motivated as I also intend to start up an Agri- business more likely an organic one. Interestingly, I observed most of the businesses were family businesses and their success stories of how they were handed over from one generation to the other and of course how some of them were able to convert from the normal conventional farming into organic farming was fascinating to me. Hopefully, I see myself participating in the next Biofach, not as a student this time but as an exhibitor!! ~ Chinwe Odiaka (SIA 2018)

SIA News: Prague Excursion 2020

In high spirits, ready for an educational, inspiring and a fun trip, we all set out on the 1st of March to travel to Prague, Czech Republic for the blocked course I02 – Management of (Sub-) Tropical Land-Use System. The course was scheduled for 2 weeks evenly divided between the lecturers from Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague who taught Agrobiodiversity, Agroforestry, Waste management, Farming systems and Household economy in the 1st week and the lecturers from the University of Kassel, Witzenhausen taught Livestock systems, Mixed systems, Crop systems, Tenure and non-food crops during the 2nd week.

Of course, it wasn't just lectures we had, we had some fun too. We had a class dinner with our Professor at an Indian restaurant – Lal Qila, a couple of hang outs and went into the city for sightseeing to see the famous Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, National Museum, Old Town Square, Charles Bridge, amongst others.



SIA News: Prague Excursion 2020

And did I mention the hostel we stayed, it was really cool, very comfortable for a pair (I got to stay alone in my room which makes it way cooler for me-lol) and a very short distance to the lecture rooms and bus-stop. Just when we thought we can't have enough of this beautiful city, the Corona virus pandemic heightened with even a patient in the university, this turn of events lead to the closing of borders and prompted us to have the first examination on Friday 13th of March and also travel back to Goettingen the same day.

Overall, it was an amazing educating trip, none of us caught the virus and the course results came out good too so, it is an highly recommended course for any SIA student!

Thanks for reading!! ~ *Oluwafunmibi Fayemi (SIA 2019)*

SIA News: Permakultur Raum Garden— North Campus

I'm writing to you from a small green oasis just uphill the North-Campus. There, if you walk with open and awake eyes, You can find an old Orchard garden which has now been turned into a small Permaculture project - the "PermakulturRaum Göttingen". It all grew out of the idea of

a handful people who were interested in developing and experiencing new ways of how to live together in a sustainable way (to



make a long story short ;). Together with some motivated Professors they started to design and revive this piece of land in 2011 – since then it is evolving as a space to experiment (with) permaculture.

How comes I spend most of my time in Göttingen here? Well – I think it's curiosity and consistency. The global challenges (Climate change and consequently climate justice as well as food security issues and biodiversity loss and so on) already during my Bachelor draw the attention to approaches for solutions that do not solely, build up on answers of single perspectives but rather try to see systems and mechanisms at work. So the idea of experiencing and living "Permaculture", as one of these approaches, was attracting me to this place. At the same time I'm studying SIA.

SIA News: Permakultur Raum Garden— North Campus

It's representing the other side of my curiosity and the will to be part of the solution when it comes to facing the mentioned global challenges. This is at the same time living and finding the way. One thing I really like about Permaculture and also the PermakulturRaum Göttingen is, that it lives from people's ideas and creativity in the sense, that it becomes what people are able to imagine and then to pursue. Here, we have a place where everybody – also You – is invited to share ideas and has the space to try them. Feel free to pass by to do both, imagining solutions or implementing ideas, to discuss global food security or get your hands dirty, planting some cabbage. If you want to be updated or connect with us, you can use the platform "Wechange" (wechange.de – look for permakulturraum-projektgruppe), the "Telegram" messenger or send an E-Mail (gartengruppe@permakulturraum.de). We will let you know about coming workshops, meetings or events. Otherwise you can also just pass by and have a coffee.

For my side, when the time in Göttingen ends, I will look for a place where I can have both – the intellectual/scientific discussions as well as space to implement and live the solutions. ~ *Fridtjof Hansen (SIA 2018)*

SIA News: Alumni Goettingen Association SGD Agenda

Alumni Goettingen is developing a new concept includes a business plan as well as a communications campaign based on the UN goals for sustainable development (SDG's). The SDG's provide a more modern interpretation to the University's motto, "for the good of all" as a basis for future activities of alumni groups. A great deal is being done at the University to support the implementation of the sustainability goals - whether through research projects or student initiatives. Through our project we would like to create, among other things, a communication platform that tells the world about Göttingen's contribution to Agenda 2030. My message to alumni is to be proud of your University and your Alumni Association! Make use of the network that your University and the Alumni Association offer you after your studies! This is your campus. For your entire life. ~ *Asmik Kostandyan (Alumni Goettingen)*



SIA News: Insect Farming Startup

I am Nicolò Brugnara, I am 24 years old and like everybody here is the SIA community I decided to put my efforts to try to reduce the impact of agriculture on our wonderful only planet. I came here with a background in Environmental Science, a passion for ecology, food, animals and plants. SIA is giving me and understanding of the importance of the social and economical and point of view that I lacked. But what even more important are the unique experiences by sharing stories, food and ideas with friends from everywhere in the world.



One of the ways to reach more sustainable agriculture I believe is by rethinking our diets and the way we produce food. Insects and entomophagy can be a small step towards a reduction of the footprint of the Food industry. Moreover, it can have an impact on developing countries, by increase economical independency and improve food nutrition. I joined a startup that wants to act to make this happen. I am very excited about this topic and if anybody in the SIA program is curious about it, I invite you to contact me.

Lastly, if you want to learn a bit more about entomophagy, I share with you the link of the crowdfunding that I have organized, where you can find at the end of the description some interesting links. If you like the project please share it with your contacts, it will make the difference!

Thank you, SIA friends, you give me a bit of hope that together we can make the change. Check out my project here < <https://gf.me/u/x3rjaz> > ~ Nicolò Brugnara(SIA 2019)

SIA News: Congratulations Eusun Han becoming Assistant Professor



We would like to share with you Dr. Eusun Han (SIA 2009) recently was appointed Assistant Professor at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences of University of Copenhagen. A great honour and achievement. We wish him and his family all the success and look forward to seeing great things.

Acknowledgements

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Mr Justin Whittle , Mr William Nelson, Ms. Grete Thinggaard. Thankyou for your ongoing contribution to SIA. Thankyou to Alumni Ambassadors for also contributing stories.

Likewise our key partners ; *Alumni Goettingen.*

How to get in contact?

The best way to contact SIA Alumni is through;

Email:

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<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/alumni/621873.html>



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