

## **IAPN in Dialogue: “Potato potentials in Africa”**

*on 28 June 2016 at 10.30 p.m.*

*at the University of Göttingen  
Aula am Waldweg, Waldweg 26*

### **Why care about potato potentials in African countries?**

Potatoes are satisfying, nourishing and healthy. The history of potatoes as a food dates back more than 8000 years, beginning in the South American Andes. Now at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, potatoes have become the fourth most important staple food worldwide, after rice, wheat and maize. While in many industrialised nations potato consumption has reached its maximum, there is much dynamics in potato growth and consumption in many developing countries. Wherever it is grown, it helps combatting hunger and poverty. Therefore, it is worthwhile to tap the potential of potatoes as a food and income security in African countries.

### **From lab to field and the food value chain in focus**

But how can this be done? What are the challenges in research, advisory and the practice of growing potatoes in smallholder farming systems? Where are the bottlenecks for making best use of its potentials, and what is needed for a functioning cultivation infrastructure?



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As often, there is no single answer. Successful solutions must take the specific situations of the countries, the regions and certainly the people into account. Examples how this can be done is what we want to discuss within the frame of “IAPN in Dialogue”. You are welcome to join our meeting and discuss with experienced speakers from science, advisory services and agribusiness sector.

The meeting will be held in English.

## Program

- 10.30 Welcome  
*Prof. Dr. Klaus Dittert, IAPN*
- 10.45 Glimpses of a potato globetrotter  
*Florian Dieker*
- 11.15 Importance of the potato in Africa – especially for smallholders  
*Dr. Elmar Schulte-Geldermann, CIP*
- 11.45 Contribution of German Development Cooperation for strengthening the potato sector in Kenya  
*Dominik Fortenbacher, GIZ*
- 12.15 Lunch
- 13.15 The role of nutrient management for tapping potato production potential in Africa  
*Prof. Dr. Andreas Gransee, K+S KALI GmbH*
- 13.45 The role of knowledge transfer for tapping potato production potential in Africa  
*Dr. Shamie Zingore, IPNI*
- 14.15 Panel discussion with the speakers  
*Chaired by Prof. Dr. Klaus Dittert, IAPN, and Elisabeth Morgen, K+S KALI GmbH*
- 15.15 Summary, Outlook, Farewell  
*Prof. Dr. Klaus Dittert, IAPN*
- 15.30 End

## Registration

Please register to “IAPN in Dialogue“ **until 17 June 2016**:

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Registration is required for organizational reasons. The participation is free of charge.

## The speakers

**Prof. Dr. Klaus Dittert** is scientific head of the IAPN and the Section of Plant Nutrition and Crop Physiology at the Department of Crop Sciences at the Georg-August-University Göttingen. He started his work in Göttingen in 2011 and together with the IAPN team he built up the Institute of Applied Plant Nutrition. His research, development and knowledge transfer projects aim at a more sustainable and environment-friendly production of food.

**Florian Dieker** did his Bachelor and Master studies in Crop Science at Göttingen University. Right after his graduation in August 2013 he started a world potato tour to become more familiar with the challenges in growing potatoes in different countries with changing production conditions and to understand the numerous approaches to cope with local problems. So far, his trips mainly covered Canada, USA, Chile, Ethiopia, Zambia and Kenya.

**Dr. Elmar Schulte-Geldermann** works for the International Potato Center (CIP). He is the leader of CIP's Seed Potato for Africa Program, based at the sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. He holds a PhD in Agronomy from the Faculty of Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Systems at Kassel University, Germany. For details on CIP's Seed Potato for Africa Program see <http://cipotato.org/seed-potato-for-africa/>

**Dominik Fortenbacher** works in development cooperation for the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ). He has several years of experience working on food value chains in Asia and Africa. Currently he is heading a new project on nutrition-sensitive potato value chains in East Africa, funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). More about the GIZ: [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

**Dr. Shamie Zingore** works at the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) as Regional Director for the Sub-Saharan Africa Program. In the past years he worked extensively with farmer groups, input suppliers and other stakeholders to develop innovations, build capacity, and promote information exchange on soil fertility management practices for enhancing productivity of agriculture in Africa. More about the IPNI: <http://ssa.ipni.net>

**Prof. Dr. Andreas Gransee** is Head of Research & Advisory of the K+S KALI GmbH. He leads the project "Growth for Uganda" which is run by K+S KALI GmbH and the non-governmental organization Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) to improve the smallholders' situation. The project started in April 2013, for details see <http://www.kali-gmbh.com/uken/company/cooperation/uganda/index.html>

## The IAPN

The Institute of Applied Plant Nutrition (IAPN) is a research and academic teaching cooperation of the University of Göttingen and K+S KALI GmbH, a company headquartered in Kassel, Germany. IAPN, founded in November 2010, has been set up as a center of competence on plant nutrition and fertilization issues, and contributes to sustainable agriculture worldwide. It serves as an intersection between science and industry by pooling existing knowledge, by closing knowledge gaps with its own research and by transferring new findings to agricultural practitioners. The IAPN is affiliated with the Division of Plant Nutrition and Crop Physiology at the Department of Crop Sciences of Göttingen University. More information on the IAPN: [www.iapn-goettingen.de](http://www.iapn-goettingen.de)