



Ulm, September 16, 2019/ AF-gd

The Foundation fiat panis grants the Hans H. Ruthenberg Graduate Award 2019

Since 2010, the Foundation fiat panis has been granting the Hans Hartwig Ruthenberg Graduate Award for outstanding diploma or master theses, which deal intensively with the development of agriculture and the improvement of the nutritional situation in underdeveloped countries. It is endowed with 7,500 euros and can be divided to a maximum of three award winners. On the occasion of the Tropentag 2019, the following two excellent works will be awarded at the University of Kassel on September 18, 2019:

- “Rice wild relatives under different iron stress regimes – growth parameters, yield and grain quality factors” by
Ms. Birgit Bierschenk, University of Bonn, supervised by
Prof. Dr. Michael Frei

The jury's reasoning: Ms Birgit Bierschenk receives the award for her excellent research on the genetic tolerance to iron toxicity of wild rice species compared to cultivated rice varieties. With her innovative master thesis, she lays the foundation for the use of natural diversity from wild species. This is a key challenge for producing high quality food in many malnourished regions of the world.

- “A double hurdle model of the impacts of improved chickpea adoption on smallholder commercialization in Ethiopia (panel analysis)” by Mr. Martin Paul Tabe-Ojong,
University of Bonn, supervised by
Prof. Dr. Thomas Heckelei

The jury's reasoning: Mr. Martin Paul Jr. Tabe-Ojong receives the award for his excellent research in the field of adoption and marketing of legumes. Using advanced econometric models, he analyzed a comprehensive data set that was collected in Ethiopia. His innovative approach led to new insights regarding the conditions under which the adoption of improved legume varieties will also increase the market integration of smallholder households.

Both works are characterized by their innovative research approach and their application relevance for the improvement of food security. Implementing these works can contribute to improving food security and reducing the effects of hunger.

This year the jury members of the Hans H. Ruthenberg Graduate Award were as follows: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Grote, University of Hannover, Prof. Dr. Regina Birner, University of Hohenheim and Prof. Dr. Jochen C. Reif, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben. Since the first award in 1999 (from 1999 to 2009, the prize was awarded by the Eiselen-Foundation), 54 Ruthenberg Prize winners have received a prize money at the amount of 135,000 euros.