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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute



CLIMATE CHANGE CENTER
Berlin Brandenburg

Conference

Up-scaling co-benefits of sustainable consumption for development

Call for Papers

June 13 - June 14, 2022 in Bonn, Germany

Conference

Up-scaling co-benefits of sustainable consumption for development

CONCEPT NOTE

Environmentally sustainable consumption is now high on the agenda of researchers and policymakers in rich countries. In contrast, in developing countries the consuming middle classes are just emerging, mostly in cities, and concerns about the environmental footprint of consumption are only slowly entering the policy agenda. Given the unprecedented fast expansion of middle classes with increased spending capacity especially in emerging economies, however, it is crucial to encourage sustainable consumption here as well, avoiding emulation of unsustainable patterns of the past.

Sustainable consumption is de facto already practiced in various contexts in low and middle income countries, for instance when it comes to energy saving, shared mobility, decentral digital markets, (informal) repair and recycling services or innovative plastic re-use start-ups. Yet, such practices are often realized in settings of poverty, precarious working conditions and environmental hazards.

The challenge is thus to chart a pathway to sustainable consumption that is aligned with the economic aspirations of growing urbanizing middle classes, and at the same time creates economic benefits in terms of viable business innovations, decent work and good health conditions. Put differently: To unleash a virtuous cycle in which sustainable consumption and production reinforce each other and improve well-being.

What is still missing: Research that systematically gathers empirical evidence on sustainable consumption choices in low and middle income countries and that identifies future potentials and policy packages that can foster resource-saving sustainable consumption in a way that is compatible with local economic and development objectives.

This conference will address this gap. It focuses on *individual consumers and households* and their role in economic demand-creation in the formal and informal economies (rather than businesses or public entities as consumers), connecting to the global debate on sustainable lifestyles. We invite both qualitative and quantitative contributions from economics, development studies and marketing/behavioural sciences that focus on the following topics:

- a) identifying direct and indirect economic co-benefits of environmentally sustainable consumption, the adoption of novel (low-carbon) technologies, and their limitations. Direct economic co-benefits may include business development and employment; indirect co-benefits may include individual savings/freed income and economy-wide avoided costs (e.g. on health). Limitations may include affordability and availability of environmentally sustainable choices as well as links to producers' economies of scale;
- b) Identifying non-economic co-benefits of sustainable consumption, specifically those improving wellbeing, decent standards of living, and access to services for all (such as access to health, education; provision of shelter, clean water, sanitation; social cohesion, etc.), in particular also in the context of human settlements;
- c) scrutinizing success factors and policy packages for scaling-up sustainable consumption initiatives with economic co-benefits in low and middle income countries, e.g. start-up success & up-grading of eg sharing initiatives, plastic reuse, market push & pull in green technology diffusion, policy support for social norm & habit creation, acceptance of policy mixes aimed at sustainable consumption;
- d) investigating policies, action, and business models that relate sustainable consumption to sustainable production in the developing country context. Specifically, the role of emerging online shopping patterns and its impact on economic and social benefits and environmental

consequences is of interest. Additionally, empirical studies analysing the potential of sustainable frugal innovations for environmentally sustainable business models are welcome.

- e) Relating research on sustainable consumption with research on human settlements and their carbon footprints, and in particular investigating links between urban form, infrastructure and sustainable consumption.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Debra Roberts, eThekweni Municipality and Co-Chair of the Working Group II “Impacts, adaptation and vulnerabilities to climate change” for the 6th Assessment Report of the International Committee on Climate Change (IPCC)

VENUE

The conference is planned as a physical event at the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) in Bonn. Participants’ vaccination status and current Covid-19 antigen-tests will be checked in line with German regulations applying at the time of the event. Should conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic not allow for a physical meeting, a shift to an online event will be communicated by mid-May 2022. The conference will include both research and policy sessions.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND TARGET JOURNALS

Interested applicants please send their paper title and abstract (max 600 words) to socioeconomic@die-gdi.de with the subject line “Conference co-benefits of sustainable consumption”. Please indicate in your email whether you would prefer a) a physical event, b) an online event c) either/or (both options ok or unable to decide at this stage).

We aim to publish the most interesting papers of the conference in a special issue. Target journals are Ecological Economics, the Journal of Cleaner Production or Global Environmental Change. Editors of the journal will be contacted before the workshop with a preliminary list of papers/authors after abstract selection.

CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS AND DEADLINES

April 7, 2022	Deadline abstract submission (max. 600 words)
April 30, 2022	Notification of acceptance/rejection
May 13, 2022	Final decision physical or online event
September 30, 2022	Final papers due for special issue submission

REVIEW COMMITTEE

Felix Creutzig (MCC/TU Berlin, IPCC)
Babette Never (DIE)
Sascha Kuhn (DIE)

Debra Roberts (Municipality of eThekweni, IPCC)
Hanna Fuhrmann-Riebel (DIE)

CONFERENCE FUNDING & ORGANISERS

There is no conference fee. The organizers cannot offer any reimbursement of travel costs or scholarships for travel and accommodation.

The conference is jointly organized by the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) and the Climate Change Center Berlin Brandenburg. The conference is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).