



Newsletter December 2023

S.A.G.E. CENTRE



SUSTAINABLE ADAPTATION TO GLOBAL CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DAAD Global Centres
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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Year in Review

SAGE-Events

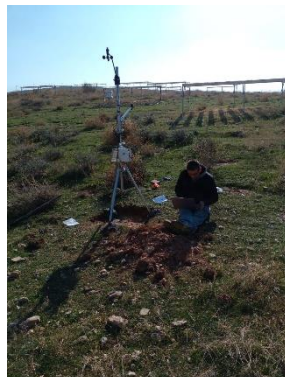
- March 12-14, 2023, Amman Jordan: Stakeholder and Second Annual PhD meeting

Students' conferences and workshops

- 7-8 November 2023 Karak, Jordan: Second International Conference on Climate Change at Mutah University, Jordan. Student: Majd Allouzi
- June 27-29, 2023, Berlin, Germany: The World Congress on Green Buildings. Students: Razan Al-Hmoud and Sami Mujahed
- June 21-23, 2023, Halle, Germany: IAMO Forum entitled "Trade, Geopolitics, and Food Security" hosted by the Leibniz Institute of Agriculture Development in Transition Economies. Student: Sara Ashour
- March 15, 2023, Al-Mafraq, Jordan, field trip to Al-Khanasri

Diverse

- Doctoral Seminar Monthly hybrid
- July 27, 2023, hybrid Biodiversity and Sustainability (PIBS) at Bethlehem University. Student: Elias Handal
- July 17 -20, 2023 Bad Buchau, Germany: KomBioTa summer school on the theme of "Practices for Conservation of Nature". Student: Sami Mujahed.
- June 22, 2023, southern Badia, Jordan field visit report. Student: Mai Nusir
- November 2023: Weather station finally reached Jordan and was set up by Sari Shawash and Ayat Hazaymeh



Scientific Brown Bag Seminars:

- 31 January by Prof. Dr. Katja Tielbörger: "Biodiversity loss and climate change - the twin crisis"
- 28 February, by Prof. Dr. Matthias Gassmann: "What borewells tell us about the state of Bengaluru's groundwater system"
- 28 March by Prof. Dr. Jehad Abbadi: "Mechanisms of Nutrient Use Efficiency of Plants grown under nutrient stress situations, towards selecting low input alternative crops"
- 25 April by Dr. Ghader Omar: "A Case Study of the Environmental Impacts of the Gishori Industrial Complex on Plant Diversity in Tulkarem, Palestine"
- 30 May by Prof. Dr. Anan Jayousi: "Field mapping under climate change"
- 27 June by Prof. Dr. Merav Seifan: "On plants, insects and wild asses – examples of plant animal interactions in arid conditions"
- 2 June 2023, by Prof. Dr. Frank Wätzold and Dr. Jonas Luckmann: "Academic Research and Methods"
- 25 July by Dr. Jonas Luckmann: "Water management under climate variability – a stochastic economy-wide modelling approach"
- 29 August by Prof. Dr. Frank Wätzold: "Integrating economics and natural sciences to design cost-effective adaptation measures to cool a landscape"
- 24 October by Prof. Dr. Fuad Al-Rimawi: "Effect of stress conditions (biotic) on secondary metabolites of plants"

- 28 November by Prof. Dr. Emad Al-Karablieh: “Fourth National Communication Report and the “Socio-Economic Climate Change Impact, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment of Jordan”
- 19 December by Prof. Dr. Thomas Potthast: “Practice-oriented thoughts on sustainable research from an ethical perspective”

SAGE Workshop in Amman 2023: A Transformative Confluence of Research, Stakeholder Engagement, and Sustainable Solutions

In an endeavor to foster collaborative research and stakeholder engagement in climate change and natural resources management, the SAGE project successfully hosted its first Annual PhD and Stakeholder Meeting in Amman from 12-14 March 2022. The event brought together a diverse assembly of PhD students, stakeholders, NGOs, academics, and decision-makers from Jordan, Palestine, and the wider region.

Over the course of three days, the workshop facilitated meaningful interactions and engagement between PhD students, Principal Investigators (PIs), and stakeholders. An interactive exercise allowed participants to map and connect various research projects within SAGE, sparking discussions on interconnected issues and shared challenges. This dynamic exchange of ideas and



perspectives created a vibrant atmosphere of collaboration.

The students seized the opportunity to present their research projects to stakeholders, actively seeking feedback to enhance the relevance of their work to the region's most pressing issues. Additionally, they explored avenues to tailor their research outputs for effective policymaking, opening up new horizons for collaboration and providing valuable insights for driving impactful change.



To conclude this impactful gathering, a field trip to the Khanasri Livestock Research and Rangelands Department of the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Mafrq Governorate was organized. This visit offered practical exposure and firsthand insights into the department's activities. SAGE students showcased their work on rainout shelters, providing valuable data on plant biodiversity under different climate scenarios and the effects of grazing timing on biodiversity. The visit concluded with an interactive discussion, creating a holistic experience that combined scientific inquiry with appreciation for local flora and fauna.

Reflecting on the meeting, Elias Handal praised the productive collaboration between students and attendees, emphasizing the alignment of research questions with stakeholder needs. Razan Al-Hmoud, focusing

on GIS mapping of urban biodiversity on Amman's green roofs, received valuable



feedback and recommendations from stakeholders, notably Dr. Maher Jamal Tadros and Mr. Sudki Hamdan, leading to useful mapping websites. Discussions with Mrs. Rudaina Haddad highlighted challenges in obtaining rooftop data, primarily stemming from cultural and privacy concerns.

Both Amaël Daval and Isra Alkharabsheh, who are recent PhD initiates, highlighted the global scale of the SAGE project and the supportive atmosphere within the student group. Isra, who works on Agricultural water demand under climate change in Alkhanasri Station stressed the importance of the collective field visit in comparing views.

Sami Mujahed, one of our researchers from Palestine, discussed his green rooftops project and the benefits of connecting with stakeholders. Participants further explored the positive impacts of the workshop, including collaboration promotion, networking opportunities, improved understanding of research, and valuable input from experts. Sara Ashour, focusing on food security and trade policies in Jordan, underscored the value of engaging in interviews with experts, validating assumptions, and expanding her network.

Ahmed Shaqfa, working on rangeland restoration using contour ridges rainwater

harvesting method in Jordan, expressed interest in deeper exploration of topics and ensuring equal participation for all students in future workshops. Mai Nusir, researching institutional change and community-based resource management in Jordan, emphasized the importance of establishing connections and gaining new perspectives.

The workshop also featured presentations from three researchers of the climate and hydrology research group. Maram Zaid, working on the water footprint as a valuable methodology for discerning sustainable water management solutions, emphasized the significance of stakeholders in endorsing this concept, particularly in nations facing water scarcity, such as Jordan.

The success of the annual meeting owes much to the invaluable contributions of stakeholders. SAGE expresses sincere appreciation and looks forward to continuing collaborative efforts in pursuit of innovative solutions for sustainability in the region. Together, the SAGE community is making strides toward addressing the challenges of climate change and natural resources management.



Impressions

You can follow regular updates on our work, conferences and field visits on our LinkedIn page.

[SAGE Centre - Regional Centre for Sustainable Adaptation to Global Change in the Middle East: Company Page Admin | LinkedIn](#)

Look ahead: SAGE in 2024

1. Newsletter Spotlight: Meet Our Brilliant Minds

Get ready for a steady flow of inspiration! Our newsletters in April, September, and December will showcase the incredible work of our PhDs, PIs, and projects. Dive into the motivation and aspirations of our diverse community spread across over 15 institutions in Germany and the Middle East. Stay tuned for exciting updates from over 30 PhD students and PIs working on innovative evidence-based analyses and solutions to climate change challenges in the region.

2. Highlight: DAAD Climate Lecture Series

Mark your calendars! The DAAD's groundbreaking online lecture series kicked off this December and features renowned scientists discussing emerging topics in climate research. Open to the public, these lectures promise insightful perspectives. Register here: [DAAD Climate lecture series](#)

3. Mini Stakeholder-Event in Amman: Save the Date!

Engaging with stakeholders is integral to SAGE. In March 2024 we will organize a small-scale event in Amman, where our students will showcase research projects, discuss challenges, and collaborate with stakeholders.

4. PhD Retreat in Brandenburg: Scenic Progress & Activities

Escape to the picturesque suburbs of Brandenburg in September 2024! For 5 days, our SAGE Centre will gather to share progress on PhD projects, engage in group activities, and attend insightful seminars. Get ready for a blend of work and play in this beautiful setting!

5. DAAD Climate Conference in Berlin: Connecting Minds, Sharing Knowledge

In September 2024, join us in Berlin for the Mid-Term conference of the DAAD Global Centres. Dive into a global exchange of knowledge in climate and environment, featuring presentations from several of our PhDs.

6. Brown Bag Seminar: Monthly Insights

Stay curious! Our monthly Brown Bag Seminars continue with riveting topics and speakers covering a wide range of subjects. From overviews to deep dives, be prepared for engaging discussions that feed your intellectual curiosity.

7. Website Launch: Explore SAGE Online

Exciting news! Our website is launching soon, offering a glimpse into the heart of SAGE. Discover more about our centre, the people behind it, and our dynamic research. We're building this platform to better connect with everyone interested in our work and mission.



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Impressum

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