

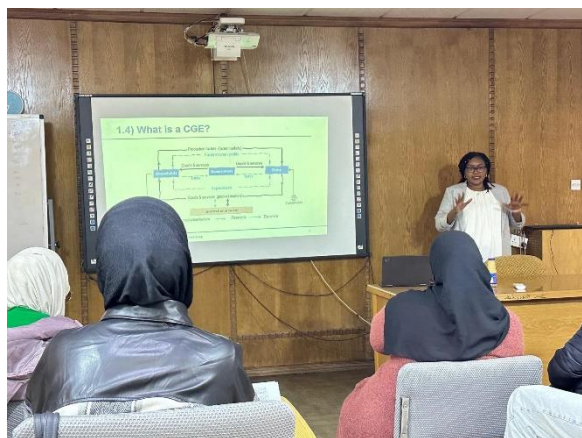
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Spring School, Amman: Education and Exchange

From February 18th to 29th 2024, SAGE hosted a spring school, organized by the International Trade and Development Group at Humboldt University and the Energy, Water, and Food Security Research Center at An-Najah National University in Nablus. The focus of the workshop was on simulation modeling and its applications in analyzing agricultural markets and the impacts of climate change, particularly relevant to the Jordan River region. Simulation modeling serves as a powerful tool for assessing the economy-wide implications of economic policies and external shocks, providing invaluable insights for policymakers.



The teaching and organizing team consisted of faculty members from Humboldt University and An-Najah University, as well as several Principal Investigators (PIs) and PhD students from SAGE. Over the two-week program, 25 participants from Palestine and Jordan, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as researchers, were introduced to the fundamentals of micro- and macroeconomics. Subsequently, they engaged in hands-on simulation modeling using the GAMS software, applying it to various economic challenges on both specific sectoral and broader economic scales. The discussions held during these sessions proved

enlightening for both the teaching staff and the participants.



Beyond the confines of the classroom, the teaching team from Humboldt University provided participants with insights into the cultural and political aspects of German society through a selection of food samples. These enjoyable snacks were savored amidst the beautiful campus of the University of Jordan. Additionally, the program featured public events open to university students and staff members, focusing on research and funding opportunities in Germany, along with two lectures addressing the critical issue of climate change mitigation and implications.

The participating students were the first to receive our new MSc Certificates, accredited by the An-Najah National University's Continuing Education Centre.



Stakeholder Meeting, Amman: A Platform for Collaboration

On 4th and 5th of March we welcomed a number of our PhD Fellows and in total 20 Stakeholders to Amman. The participating stakeholders were from Jordanian and Palestinian governmental and academic institutions, as well as from NGO's. This set the stage for an enlightening exchange of ideas and perspectives. Expert speeches on Governance and Ethics, Climate and Hydrology, and Biodiversity and Land Use followed, offering valuable insights. As the audience engaged, questions sparked dynamic conversations, driving collective exploration. Participants were encouraged to engage directly, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and shared learning. Breaking



into smaller groups, students were seamlessly integrated with specialized stakeholders, creating a dynamic environment for networking and collaboration.

The students and stakeholders exchanged experiences and methods. Topics of discussion ranged from ethical issues caused by limited water resources, innovative methods to conserve water and preserve green cover more effectively to available courses, data resources, systems analysis, and modeling approaches, as well as rangeland habilitation projects and their challenges. The students were able to discuss their specific research and field work, especially the research taking place at Al Khanasri and Qatraneh Station.



The meeting has resulted in new networks and contact opportunities for our students, as well as access to current studies and emerging research results. The engagement with the stakeholders fostered an in-depth understanding of the practical aspects and implications of the student's research. The conversations highlighted the need for collaborative efforts to support regulations and enable NGOs to focus on projects aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change on the environment and biodiversity in the Middle East.

Before ending the workshop with a joint lunch, stakeholders and students collected the main results and advice that resulted from the last two days.

Final Recommendations:

- **Practical Applicability:** Start by addressing current challenges and prioritize cost-effective and easily implementable solutions
- **Focus on translating Output to Outcomes:** Develop strategies to effectively translate project outputs into tangible outcomes, especially targeting farmers as the main beneficiaries
- **Foster Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage collaboration between public and private sectors to leverage resources and expertise
- **Collaborate with NGOs:** Strengthen cooperation with NGOs to improve

access to data and enhance project effectiveness

- **Expand Networking Opportunities:** Foster an open and expansive networking environment to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration
- **Develop Multidisciplinary Glossary:** Create a glossary of terms from different disciplines to enhance communication and understanding among participants
- **Emphasize quantitative work:** Prioritize quantitative research methods to enhance project outcomes and credibility
- **Incorporate the Agriculture Sector:** Ensure active involvement of the agriculture sector in project planning and implementation for comprehensive solutions
- **Triple-Win Approach:** Adopt a triple-win approach focusing on production, adaptation, and mitigation strategies for sustainable results
- **Explore Socio-economic Implications:** Dig deeper into the socioeconomic aspects of technological solutions to ensure their feasibility and sustainability
- **The challenge lies in spreading awareness about the importance of our work in Jordan. Raise Awareness:** Develop strategies to raise awareness about the project's importance and outcomes, considering varying regulatory environments
- **Focus on MENA Region:** Direct research efforts towards addressing climate change challenges in the MENA region, emphasizing policy research and advocacy

The participants were eager to stay in contact and for SAGE to foster continuing exchange and provide updates about our work.

In conclusion, this workshop provided a unique chance for students to gather data, seek expert advice, and establish connections. Overall, it was a valuable platform for collaboration, empowering individuals to address pressing challenges together.



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](#)

Or visit our website: www.sage-centre.org

Look ahead

DAAD Climate Lecture Series

The DAAD's online lecture series features renowned scientists discussing emerging topics in climate research. Open to the public, these lectures promise insightful perspectives. Register here: [DAAD Climate lecture series](#)

Upcoming lectures:

18. April, 3pm CEST: Prof. Alberto Acosta on "Transition studies and post-development"

03. June, 3pm CEST: Dr. Tamara Avellan on "Do nature-based solutions allow for sustainable water management?"

Scientific 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. The Brown Bag Seminar is open for all, if you would like to join us, please contact us for the zoomlink.

Upcoming seminars:

- 25. June: Dr. Max Schmid (University of Tübingen)
- 30. July: Prof. Dr. Harald Grethe (Humboldt University Berlin)
- 27. August: Timothy Downing (African Climate and Environment Centre)
- 27. September: Prof. Dr. Jens Lange (University Freiburg)
- 29. October: Eng. Sudki Hamdan (Department of Statistics, Jordan)
- 26. November: Dr. Charlotte Gerling (BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg)
- 17. December: Dr. Abeer Al Balawneh (NARC)



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Impressum

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