

# Curriculum Vitae

## Professor Regina Birner

Chair of Social and Institutional Change in Agricultural Development  
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## Employment

- Since Oct. 2010: Chair of Social and Institutional Change in Agricultural Development at the University of Hohenheim, Germany
- 2004 - 2010 Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Leader of IFPRI's Research Program on "Governance for Agricultural and Rural Development"
- 1997 - 2004 Assistant Professor at the Institute of Rural Development, University of Göttingen, Germany
- 01/03 to 09/03 Visiting Research Fellow at IFPRI

## Advisory Functions

- Since 2023 Member of the "Future Commission Agriculture" (Zukunftskommission Landwirtschaft ZKL) of the German Federal Ministry of Nutrition and Agriculture (BMEL); since 2024 co-speaker of the ZKL
- Since 2020 Member of the Bioeconomy Advisory Council of the State Government of Baden-Württemberg, Germany
- Since 2012 Member of the Scientific Advisory Council on Agricultural Policy, Nutrition and Consumer Protection of BMEL
- 2012-2023 Member of the Bio-Economy Council of the German Federal Government

## Education

- July 2003 *Habilitation* (Post-doctoral degree for University professor careers)  
Title of the *Habilitation* thesis: "Devolution and Collaborative Governance in Natural Resource Management – Theory and Empirical Evidence from Developing Countries"
- 1993-1997 PhD Studies at the Institute of Rural Development, Göttingen  
Dissertation on "The Role of Livestock in Economic Development – Theory and Empirical Evidence: The Case of Sri Lanka"  
Major Subject: Socio-Economics of Agricultural Development  
Additional Subjects: Rural Sociology, Development Economics

- 1986-92            Studies of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Munich, Germany  
(Technische Universität München-Weihenstephan)  
Degree: Dipl.-Ing. agr. (Univ.) - German equivalent of M.Sc.
- 1984-86            Apprenticeship in Farming

## **Scholarships**

- 1989-92 and  
1995-96:            German National Scholarship Foundation (*Studienstiftung des deutschen  
Volkes*)
- 1993-94:            German Academic Exchange Service DAAD (*Deutscher Akademischer  
Austauschdienst*)
- 2003                German Research Foundation DFG (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*)

## **Awards**

- 2021                Tilo Freiherr von Wilmowsky-Award
- 2003                Award of the “Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft” for the DFG-  
funded project “Collaborative Governance in Biodiversity Management”

## **Research Projects**

- Since 2019:        “Reaching Smallholder Women with Information Services and Resilience  
Strategies to Respond to Climate Change”, joint project with IFPRI and  
partners in India, Kenya and Uganda, funded by the German Federal Ministry  
of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Since 2015:        “Program of Accompanying Research for Agricultural Innovation” (PARI),  
joint project with the Center for Development Research (ZEF), the University  
of Bonn and the TU München-Weihenstephan, and African Partners, funded  
by BMZ
- 2016-2019:        “Underutilized or unprotected – New methods for analyzing diverging  
perspectives on the large-scale conversion of tropical grassland ecosystems”,  
project implemented in Kenya and Ethiopia, funded by the Ellrichshausen  
Foundation
- 2013-2018:        “Improving Food Security in Africa through Increased System Productivity of  
Biomass-based Value Webs (BiomassWeb), Sub-Project “Governance”;  
funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)
- 2012-2016:        “Promoting Participatory and Evidence-Based Agricultural Policy Processes  
in Africa”, joint project with IFPRI, University of Kiel, University of Ghana,  
Legon, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Industries, Uganda,  
funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
Development BMZ.
- 2011-2014:        “Enhancing Women’s Assets to Manage Risk under Climate Change:  
Potential for Group-Based Approaches; joint project with IFPRI and local  
partner organizations, funded by BMZ

- 2009 - 2013: “Making Rural Services Work for the Poor – The Role of Rural Institutions and Their Governance for Agriculture-Led Development”, research project implemented in India, Uganda, Kyrgyzstan and Guatemala, funded by BMZ.
- 2009 - 2010: “Reconstructing Agricultural Livelihoods in Post-Conflict Situations: The Case of Northern Uganda”, Research project funded by BMZ
- 2007-2009: “Gender and Governance in Rural Services”, Research project in India, Ghana, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka, funded by the World Bank.
- 2006 – 2008: “Development of a Benchmarking Tool for Agricultural Innovation Systems: Pilot Study in Ethiopia and Vietnam” Research project funded by the World Bank.
- 2005 – 2007: “Making Rural Services Work for the Poor – The Case of Karnataka, India”, research project funded by IFPRI.
- 2006 – 2007 “The Political Economy of Electricity Supply to Agriculture in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, India”, funded by the South-Asia Program, research project funded by IFPRI.
- 2004-2008 “Integrating Knowledge from Computational Modeling with Multi-stakeholder Governance Structures for Watershed Management in Chile and Ghana”, funded by the CGIAR Water Challenge Program.
- 2001-2006: “Socio-Economic Impact and Policy Implications of El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO),” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Science BMBF
- 2001-2003: “Potential and Problems of Integrating Nature Conservation and Agricultural Development in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala,” funded by the German Research Foundation DFG
- 2001-2003: “The Influence of Forest and Nature Conservation Policies on Resource Management and Rural Livelihoods in Rainforest Margin Areas: The Case of Central Sulawesi, Indonesia,” funded by Tropical Ecology Support Program TOEB of GTZ.
- 2001-2003: “The Influence of Markets and Policies on Resource Use in Rainforest Margins”, sub-project within the interdisciplinary research program “Stability of Rainforest Margins in Indonesia”, funded by DFG.
- 1999-2002: “Development of a Watershed Information System for the Assessment of Land Use Systems and Conflicts in the Mountain Regions of the Lower Mekong Basin - Case Studies in Vietnam and Thailand,” funded by GTZ.

## **Consulting and Evaluation**

- 2023: **FAO:** Served as member of the program committee and co-chair of FAO’s Global Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (Sept. 27-29, 2023)
- 2021: **World Bank:** Prepared a review paper on the political economy of agricultural policy reform processes

- 2019: **World Bank:** Conducted a study on the digitalization of agriculture and its impact on agricultural input industries
- 2017-2018 **FAO –Monitoring and Analyzing Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) Project:** Conducted the Mid-Term Implementation Review of the project
- 2016 **CGIAR - Independent Evaluation Arrangement:** Served as team leader of a synthesis review of fifteen CGIAR Research Program (CRP) evaluations
- 2014 – 2015: **CGIAR - Independent Evaluation Arrangement:** Served as co-team leader of the evaluation of the CGIAR Research Program on Aquatic Agricultural Systems
- 2013 **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – Office of Evaluation:** Served as member of the team of the “Corporate Level Evaluation of IFAD Policy for Grant Financing”
- 2012 **Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) -** Served as one of four members on the Independent Evaluation Team of PARC (with responsibility to assess governance and design a staff survey)
- 2011-2012 **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – Office of Evaluation (OED):** Served as one of four members on the Independent Evaluation Team for the global “Evaluation of FAO’s Role and Work in Food and Agriculture Policy” (with responsibility to assess corporate and governance issues).
- 2008-2009 **World Bank - Independent Evaluation Group (IEG):** Led the country case studies on India and China for the Global Evaluation on World Bank Support to Agriculture and Agribusiness (1998-2008).
- 2006-2007 **World Bank** – Served on the core author team for the World Development Report 2008: “Agriculture for Development” – was responsible for Chapter 11 on Governance.

## Teaching

### Courses at the University of Hohenheim (since 2011) – Graduate Program

- Governance, Institutions and Organizational Development
- Policy Processes in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Methods of Interdisciplinary Collaboration
- Qualitative Methods in Rural Development Studies

### Courses taught at the University of Göttingen (1996-2004)

- Policy Analysis in Developing Countries
- Economics and Policy of Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Developing Countries
- Economic Theory and Applied Economics of Agricultural Production in Developing Countries
- Institutions for Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Institutional Economics and Development
- Analytical Methods in the Social Sciences
- Forest Development Policy

## **Professional Experience in Developing Countries**

### **Somaliland (2023)**

Scoping study for research on pastoral protected areas in collaboration with Welthungerhilfe

### **Benin (2022)**

Research on agricultural innovation systems

### **Uganda (since 2007)**

Research on digital tools for agricultural extension reforms; previous research on rural service provision and on programs supporting agricultural livelihoods in post-conflict situations.

### **India (since 2005)**

Research on digital tools for livestock development; previous research on governance challenges of food security programs; political economy of agricultural policy reform in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh; decentralization and rural service delivery in Karnataka and Bihar; evaluation of World Bank support to agriculture in India for the time period from 1998 to 2008.

### **Zambia (2015-2019)**

Research on governance challenges of agricultural mechanization and on livestock development.

### **Ghana (2005-2018)**

Research on governance challenges of seed and fertilizer supply; agricultural mechanization and on rural service provision; and local governance and water resources management in the Upper East Region of Ghana.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo (2010 / 2011)**

Research on reform of agricultural sector institutions.

### **Nigeria (2011)**

Research on the reform of the land administration.

### **Ethiopia (2007 - 2018)**

Research on governance challenges of seed supply and on pastoral land use systems; contributed to research on benchmarking for agricultural innovation systems and to research on rural service provision.

### **Malawi (2009 - 2010)**

Research on policy processes related to agricultural development strategies and fertilizer subsidies, with emphasis on research-policy linkages.

### **Pakistan (2006/2007 and 2012)**

Research on decentralization and voter turnout; evaluation of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

### **Mali and Burkina Faso (2006)**

Research on participatory processes of agricultural policy formulation at national and regional level; institutional and policy assessment for biotechnology regulation in West Africa.

**Guatemala** (1998-2003; 2008/09)

Research on biodiversity policy at the national level, on the reform of the public forest administration, and on biodiversity management strategies in Alta Verapaz; research on rural service provision.

**Indonesia** (1999-2002)

Research on problems of rural development, biodiversity management, and collaborative governance (partnerships between state agencies and local governments) in the Lore Lindu National Park, Sulawesi

**Thailand and Vietnam** (1999-2000)

Research on forest policy and watershed management in Thailand and Vietnam.

**Mongolia** (2000)

Assessment of socio-economic potentials and problems of nature conservation and development in the bufferzone of the Chan Chentije Protected Area.

**Sri Lanka** (1993-1998, together 23 months)

PhD research on livestock farming development, land use conflicts, and technology adoption, focusing on the role of property rights and collective action.

**Malaysia** (1992)

Master's Thesis research on the economics of using agro-industrial by-products as animal feed.

**Membership in Professional Organizations**

- International Consortium of Applied Bioeconomy Research (ICABR), Board member since 2018
- International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE)
- German Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences Association (*Gesellschaft für Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften des Landbaus* - GEWISOLA )
- Development Economics Committee of the German Economics Association (*Ausschuss für Entwicklungsländer im Verein fuer Socialpolitik*)
- German Council for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research, Deputy Chairperson from 1998-2001 (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tropische und Subtropische Landwirtschaft – ATSAF*)
- German Agricultural Society (*Deutsche Landwirtschaftsgesellschaft – DLG*), since 2015 member of the *Gesamtausschuss* (Governing Body)

**Academic Functions**

Since 2012 Dept. Dean of Curriculum at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Hohenheim (responsible for the international M.Sc. programs)

2001 – 2004: Speaker of the Climate Impact Research Program of the German Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF)

1998-2004 Founding Member and Co-Chairperson of the Interdisciplinary Center for Sustainable Development, University of Göttingen

2001 – 2002 Deputy member of the Academic Senate of the University of Göttingen

1999 – 2001 Member of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Göttingen

1990/91      Student representative in the Academic Senate of the Technische Universität München

### **Languages**

- English (excellent)
- Spanish (satisfactory, limited practice)
- French (satisfactory, without practice)

### **Publications**

See list provided at <https://490c.uni-hohenheim.de/regina-birner>