



Master Seminar in Agricultural Economics

I. Type of seminar

In this seminar, students will apply econometric tools in the context of agricultural economics.

The topic can be chosen either from the list of suggested topics, or students propose their own topics. In the latter case, the suitability of the topic will be discussed with the supervisor.

In this seminar, students will also acquire relevant tools to be prepared for writing a research-based master thesis. This will be supported by an obligatory workshop on academic research, an obligatory workshop on presentation skills, and short presentations of each student's current state of the thesis ("research plan presentation"). On top of that, we expect and encourage active participation and interaction between students.

Since this is not a programming course, it is expected that students have **solid skills in statistical software**. In addition, we expect that students are willing to **familiarize themselves** with new methods and approaches. The respective supervisor will support students in this.



II. Topics and introductory reading material

Topic 1	<p>Current developments in an agricultural land market of your choice</p> <p>Pick a country/region of your choice and present current developments in its agricultural land market. Choose it based on your interest, but make sure that enough data are available for the descriptive and empirical analysis. Write a short scientific study including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a section where you introduce the country, provide some informative statistics about the country and/or its farmland market, point out the relevance of the topic, and refer to the literature; • a descriptive analysis with a presentation of collected relevant data in at least one own map and at least one own graph; • an empirical analysis where you try to explain the ongoing developments.
Literature	<p>S Rosen (1974). Hedonic Prices and Implicit Markets: Product Differentiation in Pure Competition. <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 82(1): 34–55. https://doi.org/10.1086/260169.</p> <p>H Huang, GY Miller, BJ Sherrick, MI Gomez (2006). Factors Influencing Illinois Farmland Values. <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> 88(2): 458–470. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8276.2006.00871.x.</p> <p>CJ Nickerson, W Zhang (2014). Modeling the Determinants of Farmland Values in the United States. In: JM Duke, J Wu (eds.): <i>The Oxford Handbook of Land Economics</i>. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199763740.013.005.</p>
Data	Publicly available datasets

Topic 2	<p>Exploration of land use patterns based on the harmonized IACS inventory</p> <p>The Harmonized IACS inventory of Europe-LAND is a harmonized collection of data from the Geospatial Aid (GSA) system of the Integrated Control and Administration System (IACS), which manages and controls agricultural subsidies in the European Union. The GSA data are a unique data source with field-levels of land use information that are annually generated. The data carry information on crops grown per field, a unique identifier of the subsidy applicants that allows to aggregate fields to farms, information on organic cultivation and animal numbers per farm. Pick an available country/region of your choice and explore land use patterns. Write a short scientific study including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a section where you introduce the country, provide some informative statistics about the country and/or its land use patterns, point out the relevance of the topic, and refer to the literature; • a descriptive analysis with a presentation of collected relevant data in at least one own map and at least one own graph; • an empirical analysis where you try to explain the land use.
Literature	<p>H Leonhardt, M Wesemeyer, A Eder, S Hüttel, T Lakes, H Schaak, S Seifert, S Wolff (2024): Use Cases and scientific potential of land use data from the EU's Integrated Administration and Control System: A systematic mapping review. <i>Ecological Indicators</i> 167: 112709. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2024.112709.</p> <p>S Wolff, S Hüttel, C Nendel, T Lakes (2021): Agricultural Landscapes in Brandenburg, Germany: An Analysis of Characteristics and Spatial Patterns. <i>International Journal of Environmental Research</i> 15: 487–507. https://doi.org/10.1007/s41742-021-00328-y.</p>
Data	Harmonized IACS inventory: https://zenodo.org/records/14384070



III. Dates

March 23, 2025	Online application via Alma
April 15, 2025, 10–12 (c.t.)	Kick-off and topic assignment (mandatory)
Tba	<i>The schedule of the regular meetings (mandatory and optional) will be announced after the course start.</i>
June 17, 2025	Term paper is due by noon (12 p.m. s.t.)
Tba	<i>The schedule of the regular meetings (mandatory and optional) will be announced after the course start.</i>
July 15 and 22, 2025	Final presentations (mandatory)

IV. Course credits

Students can obtain course credit (9 ECTS). To obtain course credit, students must meet the following criteria:

- Students participate in all mandatory meetings.
- Students submit their 12-page thesis on time.
- Students present their thesis during the seminar.
- Students actively participate during the seminar.

The final grade consists of 50% from the thesis and 50% from the presentation and seminar participation.

Please note:

Topics are subject to change – students are invited to propose their own topics that fit under the general theme of the seminar.

Tübingen, February 2025