North-Western Research Institute of Economy and Organization of Agriculture (NWIAE), Saint Petersburg-Pushkin, Russia, was established in 1977 and is the leading institution on the problems of economics, organization and management in agriculture of the North-West Russia.

Public Fund Center of Applied Research TALAP (TALAP), Astana, Kazakhstan, was established under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. TALAP is a non-profit think tank in the field of economics, finance, human capital development, public administration and law.

School of Agriculture, University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina, was founded 100 years ago. FAUBA combines solid academic experience with ongoing efforts to update its technical equipment and research. The extensive academic offer of services has increasingly grown in recent years to provide adequate answers to the accelerated changes in the agricultural world.

University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest (USAMV), Bucharest, Romania, is the oldest and largest institution of higher agronomic education in Romania, founded in 1852. Currently, the university consists of 7 faculties with 12,000 enrolled students, a number of multidisciplinary research laboratories as well as a greenhouse, all designed to provide an international level education environment.

University of Missouri (Mizzou), Columbia, Missouri, USA, was founded in 1839 as the first public university west of the Mississippi River. Mizzou has more than 30,000 enrolled students, 13,000 full-time employees and 317,000 alumni. Its students represent every Missouri county, all 50 states and 100 countries. Mizzou has more than 300 degree programs through 19 colleges and schools.

Zhytomyr National Agroecological University (ZNAEU), Zhytomyr, Ukraine is the only higher agricultural education institution in Ukraine with the focus on ecology. About 7,000 students are studying at ZNAEU. The University consists of 8 faculties, 42 departments, 85 vocational training centers, and 5 research institutes.

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) analyzes economic, social and political processes of change in the agricultural and food sector, and in rural areas. The geographic focus covers the enlarging EU, transition regions of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, as well as Central and Eastern Asia. IAMO is LaScaLA project coordinator.

Association Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB), Kyiv, Ukraine, is a business association which represents the interests of leading agri-food companies in Ukraine, consolidating about 100 producers and input suppliers.

Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CULS), Prague, Czech Republic, is a public university. Currently the university has more than 18,000 students (10 percent are international students), about 700 professors and associate professors, 6 faculties and 1 institute. CULS offers over 170 accredited study programs.

FEA-RP Business School at the University of São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, is the School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto, founded in 1992. It offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Business Administration, Economics, and Accounting for over 1,400 students.

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Hague, The Netherlands, is an international graduate school of policy-oriented critical social science founded in 1952. It brings together students and teachers from the Global South and the North in a European environment.

Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information (IAEI), Prague, Czech Republic, is state-subsidized organization established by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1993. IAEI is the center of expertise in agricultural and food economics and sociology.

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU), Halle (Saale), Germany, offers a wide range of academic subjects in the areas of humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and medicine. The oldest and largest university in Saxony-Anhalt, MLU was created in 1817 when the University of Wittenberg (founded in 1502) merged with Friedrichs University Halle (founded in 1694).
Background

The International Competence Center on Large Scale Agriculture (LaScalA) is an international network of scientists and young researchers. The project enables the systemization of theoretical/empirical research and acts as a forum for exchange of relevant research ideas and results in the sphere of large scale farming.

The project aims to investigate the economic, organizational and ethical aspects of large scale agriculture as well as institutional frameworks that enable sustainability of large agricultural enterprises. The project aims especially to fill existing research gaps related to the management issues and the effects of large scale agricultural businesses on the economic and social performance of the sector, welfare and distributional justice in rural areas, and competition in factor and output markets.

Structure

The project is divided into three general and mutually nurturing work packages (WP):

- systemizing and conducting research on organizational, ethical and institutional aspects of large scale farming (WP 1),
- linking and expanding the network of large farm scholars (WP 2) and
- establishing an interactive online platform dedicated to large scale agriculture (WP3).

The online platform provides information on:

- structural, managerial, economic, social and ethical aspects of large scale agriculture;
- research results of the project partners;
- publicly available data on large agricultural enterprises in the target countries;
- science-stakeholder communication and collaboration with agribusiness partners.

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