Rice is a crop whose history is inextricably entangled with the emergence of the early modern world economy and of the global networks of industrial capitalism. The New Histories of Rice Workshop at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science brings together historians of rice technology, science, economy and culture in key regions of the emerging modern world-system for a comparative discussion on sources, research questions and analytical frameworks that transcends localisation. The goal is to develop a broader, more systemic treatment of rice within the history of capitalism.
25 March

9:15 Welcome and Introduction
Dagmar Schäfer and Francesca Bray

New Sources, New Methods

9:30 Edda Fields-Black – Rice in the Upper Guinea Coast: A regional perspective based on interdisciplinary sources and methods
Sui Wai Cheung

10:15 Hayden Smith – Reserving Water: Environmental and technological relationships with colonial South Carolina inland rice plantations
David Biggs

11:00 tea and coffee

11:30 Edwin Nuijten/Paul Richards – A Colour Bar? The Commercialization of Rice at Sierra Leone
Lauren Minsky

12:15 Discussion
Jonathan Harwood

13:00 lunch

Knowledge and Innovation

14:00 Peter Coclanis – White Rice: The midwestern origins of the modern rice industry in the United States
Penelope Francks

Peter Boomgaard

15:30 tea and coffee

16:00 Erik Gilbert – Rice and Social Hierarchy in East Africa
Harro Maat

16:45 Sui Wai Cheung – A Desire to Eat Well: Rice and the market in eighteenth-century China
Walter Hawthorne

17:30 Penelope Francks – Rice and the Path of Economic Development in Japan
Olga Linares

18:15 Discussion
Marcus Popplow

19:30 dinner at Alter Krug

26 March

Food, Commodity and Social Reproduction

9:30 Lauren Minsky – The Many Lives of Rice: A preliminary and exploratory exploration of the lived health experiences of rice cultivators in the punjab and bengal regions of South Asia
Peter Coclanis

10:15 David Biggs – Particular Views from the Mekong Delta
Seung-Joon Lee

11:00 tea and coffee

11:30 Olga Linares – “When Jola Granaries were Full”
Hayden Smith

12:15 Peter Boomgaard/Pieter Kroonenberg – Rice, Sugar, and Livestock in Java, 1820-1940: Another look at Geertz’s Agricultural Involution
Edwin Nuijten

13:00 lunch

14:00 Harro Maat – Commodities and Anti-Commodities: Changes in rice cultivation on Sumatra (1900s-1930s) as an effect of colonial plantations
Edda Fields-Black

14:45 Walter Hawthorne – The Cultural Meaning of Work: The “Black Rice Debate” reconsidered
Erik Gilbert

15:30 Discussion
Marcus Popplow

16:15 tea and coffee

16:45 General Discussion