UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Instruction Sheet for Evaluators
Assessment of the dissertation
to obtain the degree of Doctor of Agricultural Sciences (Dr. sc. agr.)
(November 2012)

The written assessment should address judgmentally the following questions:

- Is the topic suitable for a doctoral thesis? Are the objectives based on research questions and is the hypothesis understandable?
- Is the methodology for testing the hypothesis applied scientifically, and does it correspond to the current state of research?
- Were the objectives achieved and does the dissertation provide original findings? Are the results displayed correctly?
- Have the results been interpreted correctly and in the context of the current state of knowledge?
- Is the dissertation designed and formatted correctly? Is it linguistically clear and scientifically written?

Finally, the written assessment must include a recommendation that states if the dissertation is approved, must be changed before approval, or is rejected.

The dissertation must finally be graded using one of the following possibilities:

1 = very good	2 = good	3 = satisfactory
1.5 = very good to good	2.5 = good to satisfactory	4 = not satisfactory (failed)

A grade of 3.5 is not allowed to be given.

In **exceptional cases**, a dissertation might be rated "**excellent**" (without a grade). If both evaluators grade the dissertation as "excellent," an additional third evaluator will get involved. Only if all three evaluators provide a grade of "excellent" and the oral defense is very good (1.0), will the dissertation be given the title of "Summa Cum Laude."

In the assessment of an "excellent" dissertation, the evaluator should be able to address that the dissertation includes outstanding original methodological insights, excellent design and interpretation of the work, as well as scientific knowledge for future prospects and an impressive presentation in argument and form.

Signed

First Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences

16.04.2014