



# Biodynamics in the world

Newsletter August 2019

## Dear members and friends of Biodynamic farming,

One solution to mitigate the effects of climate change is Biodynamic agriculture. To be relevant, many more farmers have to learn biodynamic methods to form resilient farm organisms. In November, teachers and consultants in biodynamic agriculture will meet in Dornach to share their experiences and expand the range of courses and training available.

One of our great teachers, Alex Podolinsky, has crossed the threshold into another reality. We are grateful to all the pioneers who have further developed the biodynamic approach.

*Christoph Sumpfendorfer*

## Agricultural Section at the Goetheanum

- The Conference Contributions of the 1st. International Biodynamic Research Conference 2018 have been published

Biodynamic research is carried out in every agricultural field and in many places around the world. It makes use of a broad range of methods and links to various other research areas such as agroecology. The 1st. International Conference on Biodynamic Research, 5 – 8 September 2018, adopted an inter and trans-disciplinary approach, and brought together both academic research and farmers' expertise in order to explore and discuss the pressing issues in biodynamic food and farming systems. These issues were addressed both from traditional scientific and innovative methodological perspectives.

The recently published booklet contains most of the abstracts of the papers and posters presented at the conference by over 100 researchers from all over the world. It is available as an e-publication on the following link: [www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/thematic-areas/research/](http://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/thematic-areas/research/)

- Agricultural Conference 2019 documentation published.

The documentation for the Agricultural Conference 2019 on the theme of "Land and Economy: Agriculture between the Farm and the World", has been published in German, English and French and can be downloaded as a PDF at: <https://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/lwt/agriculture-conference-2019/>

The Spanish version will be published as a PDF in August. You are welcome to order printed copies directly from the Section for Agriculture: [agriculture@goetheanum.ch](mailto:agriculture@goetheanum.ch)

- Agricultural Section's new website focuses on thematic areas and events

The complete relaunch of the Section's website last autumn was a major step forward. The need to be able to report news from the different thematic areas quickly and centrally had become increasingly important, as had publicising the expanding range of events. The thematic fields themselves were completely reorganised, with each being given its own individually designed page. It is now easy to find the latest information on

*"Learning is like rowing against the current.  
When you stop, you drift back."*

Lao Tse

areas such as research, training and advice, and also the professional groups and their initiatives. These areas are being constantly expanded and updated, so that it is worth revisiting the pages regularly.

[www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/](http://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/)

## Dates & events

- Ätherbildung – der Mensch als Gestalter  
Drittes Kolloquium: «Bewegung» (only in German)  
20. - 21. September 2019, Goetheanum, Dornach, Schweiz.  
[More Information](#)
- Entrepreneurial Leadership in a Complex World  
Goetheanum Leadership Course, Dornach, Switzerland  
30th September 2019 – 28th February 2020  
[More Information](#)
- Biodynamic Trainer & Teacher Conference  
7th - 9th November 2019 at the Goetheanum, Dornach, Switzerland  
[More Information](#)
- Agriculture Conference 2020  
The Spiritual in Agriculture  
Annual International Conference of the biodynamic movement  
5th to 8th February 2020 – at the Goetheanum Dornach, Switzerland  
[More Information](#)
- Organic World Congress 2020  
21st– 27th September 2020, Rennes, France  
[More Information](#)

## Organic World Congress 2020

The Organic World Congress is the meeting place for the organic scene worldwide. Here, the challenges of organic agriculture are intensively dealt with, both practically and scientifically. It is also a platform for exchange of ideas and innovations. There is an exciting accompanying programme of pre and post-conferences, excursions, trade fairs and other festivities in Rennes and through Brittany.

You are invited to share your ideas for the Organic World Congress. Further information can be found at <https://owc.ifoam.bio/2020/conference-fora>

## Events

### International Working Conference for Biodynamic Educators and Trainers

**7 - 9 November 2019 at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland**

Together with Demeter International and a competent core team, the Section for Agriculture is planning an International Working Conference for biodynamic trainers. The title of the working conference is: "Trainer & Teacher Conference: Developing Potential - Building Capacities for Joint Development in Biodynamics".

In addition to impulse contributions on the topics of individuality, learning processes, learning landscape and transformation; the main focus will be on working together on specific questions for the development of biodynamic training and further education offers and on the individual development of potential.

The working conference is part of the training strategy developed by Demeter International and the Section for Agriculture, which; based on the results of various meetings and working groups on the topic, as well as feedback from teachers on a questionnaire, summarises the short and long-term objectives of biodynamic training worldwide. There is a constant focus on Community Development. The developed training strategy is a trend-setting working instrument based on participative development.

We would like to achieve the following goals, in cooperation with you, through this international working conference for biodynamic trainers:

- The promotion of capacity development. New biodynamic organisations are supported and motivated in their training and further education work through the international exchange of experience. The individual potential of the trainers can be developed.
- In intensive cooperation, solutions to specific training issues can be worked out together.
- The intellectual basis of biodynamic training work is to be strengthened.

Interest in biodynamic agriculture is growing and the demand for Demeter products is growing worldwide. Larger companies are also entering the market for biodynamic products. On the one hand, a progressive market can help

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to increase the sustainable, biodynamically cultivated area; on the other hand, such a development requires a strong foundation. In order to guarantee a sustainable development of the market, sufficient training and further education opportunities in biodynamic agriculture are needed. Therefore, it is necessary to invest in the establishment and development of organisations and their education and training initiatives. This is necessary in order to prevent the biodynamic values from being clouded by the rapid growth of the market.

In order to facilitate international exchange and networking, various elements of the working conference will be translated into different languages. The main language will be English, with at least three additional languages (German, French and Spanish) if required. In addition, a low ticket price should make it possible for a large number of trainees from all over the world to participate. In order to enable interested trainers from financially weaker countries to participate as well, travel cost support is being considered. If required, please contact Sarah Sommer: [sarah.sommer@goetheanum.ch](mailto:sarah.sommer@goetheanum.ch)

### Contact person

Section for Agriculture: Jean-Michel Florin, Sarah Sommer

Demeter International: Petra Derkzen

Other members of the core team: Alysoun Bolger – Biodynamic Association UK; Elisabeth Bach - Demeter in the North; Simone Helmle - Demeter e.V. Germany

We look forward to receiving your registration by the end of July:

<https://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/events/events/biodynamic-trainer-teacher-conference/>

## 3rd international olive growers meeting in Italy



The third international olive growers meeting took place in Italy on the invitation of the Minisci family from Calabria. It was organised by the Section for Biodynamic Agriculture, Jean-Michel Florin in collaboration with Dr. Reto Ingold and Dr. Maja Kolar.

There were around 20 participants from Europe; mainly from the Mediterranean countries, where highly appreciated Demeter olive oils are produced. This meeting took place in April 2019. The first meeting was organised in a Demeter certified olive orchard at Risca Grande in Portugal and the second was in Greece, hosted by the company Epikouros in the Kalamata region along with the Kontogiannis family from Korinthos.

The Minisci company is located on a sunny plain of Sibari and is one of the leading companies in the organic food-agricultural industry of Calabria. It is run by Angelo Minisci and his two sisters, Anita and Maria Grazia.

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They produce and market extra virgin olive oil, fresh and processed fruit and vegetables and candied fruits coated in chocolate.

The main topic of the meeting this year was the management of biodynamic olive orchards and the quality of biodynamic olives and olive oil. In this context, two lectures from experts were given. Professor Dr. Raffaele Sachi, an expert for food technology from the University of Naples, works closely with the Minisci family. He explained the latest research on the olive oil processing cycle.

After the visit to the olive orchard, Carlo Noro, professional preparation maker from Italy, emphasized the importance of using biodynamic composts, green manure and the high quality biodynamic preparations in the olive orchards, as the key elements for production of high quality olives.



During the two-day meeting, the participants had the opportunity to discuss the current situation of the olive oil market. They actively participated in the different working groups such as soil and plant management, compost and biodynamic preparations, marketing and public relations. They also considered how to introduce and discuss these topics with the consumers.

It became obvious that the biodynamic olive growers group, which collects professional knowledge in biodynamics and quality oil making, must become more visible in the future. Demeter olive oils are comparable to precious terroir wines and until now are not appreciated in the same way.

The group participants decided to invest more into exchange, research and communication, so that the voice of the olive growers is better heard within the Demeter movement and by the consumers outside.

We would like to thank again the Minisci family and company for their warm hospitality. We also kindly invite newcomers and olive friends to join the group of olive growers. For further information please contact Dr. Maja Kolar at: [maja@gaiamaia.com](mailto:maja@gaiamaia.com)

## Biodynamic Courses in Kenya, April 2019

### Kenya - Biodynamic Farming Since 2016

Together with the Kenyan NGO (OACK – Organic Training Center in Kenya), we ran five courses on biodynamic farming between 2016 and 2018. Altogether sixty peasant farmers attended our courses. At the same time, we introduced biodynamic agriculture to the school farm attached to Mbagathi Rudolf Steiner School in Nairobi. This year, a conference took place to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the school as well as 100 years of Waldorf education. As part of the conference we offered a three-day biodynamic prep-making seminar to 21 participants from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zanzibar and Uganda.

Besides introducing them to the theoretical know-how of BD farming; much time was devoted to the production and the application of biodynamic preparations. In the hands-on part, horn manure and all compost preps were made. Prep plants of good quality are now being cultivated on the school farm; stinging nettle, chamom-

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mile, dandelion and yarrow can be grown easily. Getting horns, mesentery and intestines also poses no problems in Kenya. The school farm now offers a wide selection of prep plants stored in optimal conditions and controlled regularly. We used them to prepare the composts. Additionally, horn manure was stirred and spread.



On the last day we prepared Cow Pat Pit (CPP) which we find highly beneficial for tropical soil. Farmers appreciate its simple production as well as its multiple applications. Two groups dynamised the cow pat, which was then inoculated with the biodynamic preps and placed in two pits. The participants were also shown various other possibilities, e.g. its application on seeds and seedlings. We all stirred CPP at the new stirring site and spread it on the grounds of the school farm. Very positive feedback was given at the end of our three-day seminar; with many participants requesting further courses.

## Biodynamic Courses in Zimbabwe, April 2019

### Zimbabwe - The Very First Biodynamic Impulse

Some of you who attended the Agricultural Conference at Dornach in February 2019 might remember Maaianne Knuth and her introductory speech. Maaianne founded Kufunda, an organisation promoting community work and women's groups. Two years ago a small Waldorf inspired school was established. Organic farming and permaculture were practised but now with the biodynamic impulse; agriculture at Kufunda has truly gained in importance.



Our three-day course with 21 participants was the very first BD impulse in Zimbabwe. Introducing our listeners to the basics of good ecological farming and BD farming was completed with hands-on activities when all of us made all preparations except horn silica.

Again, making and applying Cow Pat Pit (CPP) was important. Furthermore seven new compost piles were built and some older ones were inoculated with the preps. All preparation plants were sown and have developed well. Immediately after our departure, some of Kufunda's members started to set up compost heaps in their kitchen gardens.

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In August 2019 as well as in 2020 we will continue our BD work in Zimbabwe.

*Anne & Rolf Bucher, May 2019*



## Activities of the Biodynamic Association Sri Lanka (BDASL)

Biodynamic Association of Sri Lanka (BDASL), the pioneer organization in developing sustainable agriculture in Sri Lanka, has organized some special training sessions during this year as well. The first two training sessions in 2019 were held at the Seethavalley Biodynamic Farm (owned by Bio Foods Pvt Ltd), a farm that includes spices, vegetables and animal husbandry which is certainly the ideal basis for theoretical and practical sessions.

‘We want our agriculture extension and Internal control staff and our agriculturalists to know that we can find the solutions to grow our food economically and efficiently, while preserving the goodness of the crop and nature, using best-in-class agriculture practices through biodynamic agricultural practices’, said Senerath Yatigammana- President of Biodynamic Association, Sri Lanka (Key resource person/Trainer) during the two day training sessions (theory and practical).



The training session activity - Silica grinding

The second training programme (20-03-2019) was held with the vision of reaching out to universities to encourage the next generation and thereby to stimulate the enthusiasm of the trainees, who would take on biodynamic agriculture for the future. (Trainers – Dr. Gamini Hitinayaka, Vice president – BDASL (Theory) and Mr. Senarath Yatigammana, President –BDASL (Practical). The training programme consisted of the following theory and practical sessions: Concept of biodynamic agriculture, preparation making, specialty of the specific raw materials, storing and application of BD preparations. Practical session covered recovering of BD 503, 505 & 506.

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Agriculture extension specialized university students who attended the programme from University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and University of Saga, Japan with Key Resource Persons –Dr. Gamini Hitinayaka (Vice president – BDASL and Mr. Senarath Yatigammana (President –BDASL).

Next two day training program and prep making session will be on 24th and 25th October, 2019.



## Farm Talk News from First Pilots

### **Austria – Birgit Heinrich**

After the workshops in January, several groups of farmers have been formed and there is a local coordinator in the region. Demeter Austria will follow up with them in the autumn.

### **Slovenia – Maja Kolar**

Our members were very satisfied with the workshop in January and that is why we decided how to continue the Farm Talks and presented it at the Members Assembly in the early spring. We asked some farmers to be small group leaders and they all accepted their role. Recently we realised that not enough farmers subscribed to the small groups because the season had already started, and they were not able to dedicate time for this work. We decided to postpone the Farm Talks small group work until autumn.

### **Süd-Tirol – Alois Lageder**

After our meeting in November, the coordinators of the individual groups met in January to discuss the next steps. At that time we agreed to discuss the self-evaluation in the individual groups and to submit proposals for changes.

At the meeting of the coordinators in February, the proposal for the questionnaire was approved. Although it was not necessarily designed for orchards and vineyards, but especially for larger farms, we see it as a valuable help and support to better define the objectives that the host farm should develop. In January and February about 14 small groups of 3-5

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farmers had formed and started their work.

In the next months the individual groups will continue their Farm Talks and in November all the participants of the small groups will meet again to exchange our experiences.

### Portugal – Ambra Sedlmayr

Recently the first Farm Talk in Portugal was held with a small group of farmers. The first visit was at Via Flora, a Demeter certified medicinal plant farm, with 3 other farmers and their wives as peers. People had a lot to talk and discuss and it was challenging to focus the meeting on the Farm Talk process. It was the first visit of the farm for all farmers present, even though they are from the same region. The host farmers really appreciated the round of farm characterisations by the visitors and felt themselves seen and reflected in the images given. Soon the next farm from this group will be visited.

The Farm Talk poster is translated into English, German, Portuguese, Slovenian, Hungarian, Finnish and Spanish now. The Self-Evaluation is also available in all the above languages.

For more information: [petra.derkzen@demeter.net](mailto:petra.derkzen@demeter.net)

## Research

### Publications on Research in Biodynamic Agriculture

Out of the conference on Research in Biodynamic Agriculture held last year in September; a special issue is ongoing in the Open Access Journal Open Agriculture. So far, 4 publications have been published in this journal and more are under review.

To see the online articles, follow [this link](#).

From one of the same authors, Heberto Rodas, a publication was also published in a Spanish journal based in Mexico. It is the first publication on biodynamics within the Mexican context [\(link\)](#).

The Biodynamic Association in the USA hosts a database and collects research in biodynamic agriculture. If you have any relevant research publication which could be added to the database, please contact: [sarah@biodynamics.com](mailto:sarah@biodynamics.com)

## Demeter-International

### Members' Assembly of Demeter-International

Biodynamic agriculture has long been an international movement. Worldwide, almost 200,000 hectares are cultivated biodynamically. 19 national Demeter organisations are full members of Demeter-International, the worldwide umbrella organisation. There are also guest members and individual projects. Once a year, the national representatives of this movement meet for the Members' Assembly of Demeter-International. This year the meeting took place from 16 to 22 June 2019 in Doorn near Utrecht, the



**FAUANL, Mexiko (Dr Heberto Rodas-Gaitán)**

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Netherlands.

### **International Standards Decisions**

One of the tasks of this Assembly is the development and amendment of the international Demeter standards. These are the minimum standard of the movement. National guidelines must always at least reflect this standard but can also provide for stricter rules.

This year's most important resolutions regulate the origin of organic fertilisers, livestock in horticultural enterprises and provide for products of green freshness no longer to be packaged in plastic from 2021. They thus reduce distortions of competition in international trade with Demeter products and sharpen the profile of the biodynamic movement.

### **Merger of the International Biodynamic Organisations**

In addition to the standards, strategies are also developed and future projects initiated at the Members Assembly. The most important project this year is the merger of the two international biodynamic associations: Demeter-International as the operational organisation on the one hand and the International Biodynamic Association (IBDA), the brand owner and international organisation of biodynamic agriculture on the other. Many important questions could be clarified in a workshop at the meeting. Before a final decision can be made on the merger, however, there are still further questions to be resolved, including those concerning the name of the new organisation.

In addition, the Assembly has adopted a 7-year strategy for the area of training and has agreed on objectives for such a strategy for the area of quality assurance. Finally, a working group was set up to develop social standards as part of the Demeter guidelines.

### **Committees and Elections**

Finally, Demeter-International elected or reappointed central bodies: In addition to Helmy Abouleisch (Egypt), Jean-Marie Defrance (France) and Alexander Gerber, Alysoun Bolger (USA), Carlo Triarico (Italy) and Maja Kolar (Slovenia) now sit on the international board. The Accreditation Committee (AC) was newly elected. The members are: Tarry Bolger (USA), Alexandre Harkaly (Brazil), Krishnan Venkataraman (India) and Sebastian Fuchs (DI). Sebastian Fuchs will now coordinate the AC as well as the Standards Committee (SC).

## **International Certification Office**

### **New responsibilities for Demeter certification in Spain**

#### **Cooperation between Demeter Spain and Demeter-International**

In order to guarantee and improve the high quality of Demeter certification; Demeter International decided on 26th June 2019 - in coordination with the Spanish Biodynamic Association, which is responsible for the Demeter office in Spain - to assume responsibility for Demeter testing and certification in Spain.

The agreement, effective from 27th June 2019, is as follows: As in the past, the Demeter Office in Spain will continue to conclude license contracts with all producers, processors and traders interested in using the Demeter and Biodynamic trademarks.

Demeter-International assumes overall responsibility for the inspection and certification processes. The certification decisions will be taken by the certification manager for Spain appointed by Demeter-International/ International Certification Office (ICO), Eduardo Tilatti himself or within the certification committee (This Spanish-speaking certification committee appointed by the ICO takes care of all deviations, sanctions and complaints).

Demeter Spain continues to issue certificates based on decisions of the certification manager/certification committee.

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The office of Demeter Spain supports Demeter-International by carrying out the inspection and certification tasks and continues to answer all questions regarding inspection and certification issues in Spain.

**Contact:**

Asociación para la Agricultura Biodinámica en España  
 Oficina de Certificación Demeter España  
 C/ Sobrante 20, Portal 3  
 Planta Baja, Puerta D  
 28240 Hoyo de Manzanares/Madrid  
 SPAIN  
 phone +34 918566419  
[certificacion@demeter.es](mailto:certificacion@demeter.es)

**New staff member within ICO**

Eduardo Tilatti has taken over the task of the Director for the Demeter Certification scheme in Spain. From 1st of October onwards, he will work for Demeter-International as a new certification manager for Latin America.

Eduardo is an agronomic engineer, originally from Argentina. He has worked as an organic auditor since 1998, approved by IOIA for primary production and processing. He is approved for different Control Bodies. He was the founder and coordinator of the first Organic group of extensive organic farmers in Argentina (2005 – 2015). In the Fundación Demeter Argentina, he was founder, president and director (2009 – 2019). He worked with IMO Group Switzerland as a coordinator and auditor in Argentina for Fair trade certification (Fair For Life) (2011 – 2015). And recently he worked for CE-RES GmbH headquarters, Germany: Evaluation and certification officer. Demeter and Fair Trade Program Manager (2015 – 2019).



We are happy to welcome Eduardo in the team of the International Certification Office.

**Trademark**

**Information for all Demeter licensees**

**Sale of Demeter and Biodynamic products**

Safeguarding the integrity of Demeter and Biodynamic products is in the common interest of all users of our trademarks. The trust that the consumer puts in our products must be justified, and our system of contracts and certifications has been developed for this purpose.

The conditions for the sale of Demeter and Biodynamic products are underpinned in three legally binding areas: Trademark rights, our standards verified by inspection/certification and the distribution principles relevant to each market.

Consequently, all licensees must respect the following:

1. The basic principle that Demeter and Biodynamic products can be sold only to companies (processors, traders, etc.) that have a contract with a Demeter organisation.
2. Exemptions are permitted for sales to traders who do not have a Demeter contract only if the products are packed and labelled as Demeter /Biodynamic for the end consumer AND if the distribution strategy of the importing country is respected.

Please find a list of countries who have a distribution strategy hereunder.

If you have any questions, please contact the respective country organisation.

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<https://www.demeter.net/demeter-international/members-guest-members>

- As soon as a trader is using the trademarks Demeter/Biodynamic for any advertising or on its website, this trader needs a contract with the respective Demeter organization. Please inform your clients accordingly.
- As soon as a trader is packaging products in his name or his name is added to the label, he needs a contract (e. g. “imported by xyz” or “distributed by xyz”).
- As soon as a trader is dealing with bulk products or fruit boxes (e.g. bananas), he needs a contract.
- As soon as a trader handles vegetables or fruits that are traded not in end-consumer packaging, he needs a contract.

The Demeter community is striving for fairness in the economic field. Every Demeter licensee is requested to consider the effects that his activities in the market have for the other participants active there.

If you need assistance with your marketing activities, our Raw Material and Product Coordinator Aurelie Truffat (English, German, French) can help you: aurelie.truffat@demeter.net - Cell: (0033) 623 661 843

Countries with special distribution principles:

**Demeter Germany:**

Demeter e.V., Brandschneide 1, 64295 Darmstadt, Germany  
Phone: +49 6155/84690, info@demeter.de, www.demeter.de

**Demeter Austria:**

Demeter Österreich, Theresianumgasse 11, 1040 Wien, AUSTRIA  
Phone +43 18794701, info@demeter.at, www.demeter.at

**Demeter Italy:**

Demeter Associazione Italia, Strada Naviglia 11/A, 43122 Parma, ITALY  
Phone +39 0521776962, info@demeter.it, www.demeter.it

**Demeter France:**

Association Demeter France, 7 Rue Edouard Richard, 68000 Colmar, FRANCE  
Phone +33 389414395, contact@demeter.fr, www.demeter.fr

**Demeter Netherlands:**

Stichting Demeter, Diederichslaan 25d, 3971 PA Driebergen, THE NETHERLANDS  
Phone +31 343522355, info@stichtingdemeter.nl, www.stichtingdemeter.nl

## Reports from member countries

### Austria

#### New Board for Demeter Austria

The Annual General Meeting of Demeter Austria took place on 30th March 2019 in the Hotel Blie in Horn, Lower Austria. It was held on the occasion of 50 years of Demeter in Austria; a country where Rudolf Steiner, the founder of biodynamic agriculture, had his roots. This time the new election of the board, which is to be elected every four years, was also on the agenda. The board members of the previous term of office, with one exception, were unanimously re-elected. The new - and proven - board now consists of chairman Andreas Höritzauer, his deputy Martha Steininger, cashier Helga Bernold, secretary Franz Fink as well as Lisa Dyk (proces-

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sing) and Nikolaus Moser (viticulture). They are all eager to go into the next four years and into the important projects that have already been fully started. These are, for example, the 50th anniversary of Demeter Austria, the adoption of the new Austrian distribution principles and the expansion of cooperation between farmers, processors, traders and consumers in the sense of associative management.

The introduction of farm development talks and the strengthening of animal husbandry on farms to support soil health will also be focal points of future work. The aim is to improve Demeter's high quality. This also includes continuing intensive cooperation with Demeter at the international level.

Horst Moser has resigned from his position for personal reasons. As a member of the Market Forum, he will continue to be available to Demeter with his expertise. The presence of many Demeter pioneers as well as many young committed members at the General Assembly underlined the cohesion and continuity in the work of Demeter Austria.



## 50 years of Demeter Austria

We are pleased to invite you to the Demeter anniversary celebration at the Wegwartehof in the Waldviertel. Demeter Austria celebrates its 50th anniversary and invites you to sow the future together.

### **Date:**

Saturday 21 September 2019 from 13.30 hrs

Sunday 22 September 2019 from 09.30 hrs

### **Location:**

Demeter farm Wegwartehof, 3800 Merkenbrechts 1, [www.wegwartehof.at](http://www.wegwartehof.at)

### **What awaits you?**

The ceremony with podium discussions and joint sowing will take place on Saturday, 21 September from 2 pm. On both days you can experience biodynamic work up close and eat delicious Demeter and organic delicacies. There are all kinds of information stands from Demeter farms and friends along with information about Demeter agriculture. You can work with the horse and tillage to experience in theory and practise. Carriage rides, mare milking, music and a colourful children's programme round off the whole experience. There is something for everyone!

We would be delighted to welcome you. Please make sure you reserve the date in advance.

## Germany

### New Paths to Certification for Demeter Farms in Germany

The first year of Demeter e.V.'s alternative certification project has allowed us to introduce something big, even radical, to our members and partners in Germany. We seized the opportunity to create something our members have been asking for since years: an initiative that pilots a new path to Demeter-certification, putting the focus on farms and farmers rather than checklists and rigid inspections. With this project, Demeter e.V. has opened itself up to a development that has the potential to bring vitality to the way we recognize our farmers' accomplishments and foster high quality Demeter products. It also reflects our history as the oldest organic farming association in the world — an association for pioneering world-changers.

The report offers an insight into the process of developing an alternative route to certification, and includes

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contributions from participating farmers, mentors and other stakeholders; as well as the first results of our 2018 data. The report will be published shortly on our homepage: [www.demeter.net](http://www.demeter.net)  
 For inquiries about the project, please contact the coordinator: [schirin.oeding@demeter.de](mailto:schirin.oeding@demeter.de)

## USA

### Many personal changes within Demeter USA

#### Evrett Lunquist - new Certification Director

Born and raised in Minnesota, Evrett Lunquist discovered his love of agriculture in college. He went on to complete a self-designed bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems where he studied food science, agronomy, and infrastructures and cultural dynamics involved with the field to table journey of food. He first encountered Biodynamics in 1992 while studying a Wisconsin produce farm inspired by Camphill Communities. He ended up returning to that farm and lived there for two years and followed his Biodynamic interest with an intensive two-week training at Michael Fields Agricultural Institute. Then, in 1996, Evrett Lunquist founded with his wife and kids a diverse Biodynamic produce farm integrated with livestock in southeast Nebraska. He has made all the Biodynamic preparations over the years with the guidance of many individuals at Biodynamic conferences and personal interactions. Expanding the scope of his involvement with Biodynamics, Evrett began inspecting farms and processors for Demeter USA in 2001. Evrett has also inspected for numerous organic certifiers, has extensive inspection training from the International Organic Inspectors Association and has worked as a certification reviewer for several certification agencies. Evrett comes to Demeter USA with a passion for farming, high quality food and its preparation, and educating others about organic and Biodynamic practices.

#### A new Board is working since the beginning of this year

You can find details about the new Board of Directors in the USA under chairman Rudy Marchesi [here](#).

### Other reports and news

#### Demeter International at Biofach South East Asia

Over four days, the second edition of Biofach South East Asia became the central gathering place for the organic sector in South-East Asia. The fair met all the expectations of exhibitors, partners, organizers and visitors. From 11 to 14 July, over 20,000 visitors from more than 40 countries flocked to the IMPACT Exhibition Center in Bangkok to discover the latest organic trends. This fair, parallel with the Natural Expo South East Asia event; attracted over 400 exhibitors from over 14 different countries. The ASEAN countries of Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Singapore and Brunei were strongly represented; signifying a promise of a large future organic market. In addition, manufacturers, purchasers, wholesalers and retailers, and representatives from the service sector travelled to the event from Australia, Europe, South America, South-West Africa and the USA.

Demeter International continues promoting our movement in Asia by participating at the Biofach fairs in Asia. Last year (October 2018) at the tenth edition of the Biofach India in Delhi, we had a booth in the German Pavilion. This July, at the second edition of the Biofach South East Asia in



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Bangkok, we had a showcase in the German pavilion.

The first two days were restricted for B2B activities along with a conference and the last two days were open to the public. The Royal family of Thailand was represented last year by Princess Soamsawali Kitiyakara and this year her sister, Princess Sarali Kitiyakara, graced the fair.

Sundeeep Kamath, Secretary, Biodynamic Association of India, gave a contribution on Biodynamics – Beyond Organics, in the conference part of the fair. The presentation was very well received, gauging by the fact that there were over half a dozen registrations for the upcoming workshop on Biodynamics in November in Thailand.

The training developed by Simone Helmle, Head of the Demeter Akademie, for front line staff at Demeter outlets, was successfully used (in English) for the training of the Thai staff at the Demeter booth. There was a high interest expressed, by both consumers and trade, for Demeter products in this region. All these enquiries have been sent to our International Coordinator, Anette Jorry.



## Ecuador

### Biodynamic Association of Ecuador – ABDE

The first assembly of the Biodynamic Association of Ecuador (ABDE are its initials in Spanish) took place on June 22, 2019 in Buenavista (a small parish of the city Pasaje in the province of El Oro – Ecuador). The main objectives of the event were: 1) To have integration among individuals, professionals and companies involved in the field of Biodynamics in the country, 2) To constitute the Biodynamic Association of Ecuador and 3) To vote for the members that will form the board of directors during the first period of the association.

The assembly started at 08:30 a.m. with a warm welcome from Mr. Fernando Monsalve, followed by a presentation about the “Concepts of Biodynamics” by Ph.D. M.Sc. Rene Piamonte, the reading of the statutes, the election of the board members and a field trip to the farm “El Pinco”.

Among the 42 participants, there were professors, producers, philanthropists and companies from all over

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Ecuador involved in the field of biodynamics.

Participants of the Assembly – ABDE , El Pinco Farm – June 2019

The board was formed in the following way:

President: Fernando Monsalve–Motuche - Organic Farm

Vice-president: Santiago Peralta-Pacari

Treasurer: Ramiro Romero - Agriculturist

Secretary: Sofia Ochoa - Agriculturist

First Vocal: Pablo Prieto – Prieto Group

Second Vocal: Ximena Mosquera - Agriculturist

During the assembly, Ph.D. M.Sc. Rene Piamonte provided an explanation of the fundamentals on which the creation of the association were based and emphasized that the ABDE is a non profit association whose primary objective was to become a place where its members can share and discern knowledge about actual concepts of biodynamic as as well as increase and strengthen the awareness of biodynamics and fraternization of its members in the country.



*Board of ABDE – June 2019*

## Nikolai Fuchs

Nikolai Fuchs, former leader of the Section for Agriculture at the Free School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum, and now Director of the GLS Treuhand, gave an interesting contribution about “Land as Commons”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm0FHgNPf10>

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## Alex Sergei de Podolinsky

13th July 1925 - 30th June 2019



**With perception, vibrant energy and creativity, he gifted knowledge to the world.**

Alex Podolinsky passed away peacefully, just shy of his 94th birthday. He lived at home on his farm in Powelltown, Victoria until the end of his life. Alex was born in Germany. His father was a Russian Count from an ancient Russian noble family. His mother was German.

Together with his twin sister Alika, Alex attended boarding school from the age of 5. The schools were in England, France and Switzerland. He completed his secondary school at Salem College in Bavaria. The twins would spend time at home in Heidelberg in the holidays but, due to unfortunate circumstances, Alex seldom saw his father after the age of 5. It was his mother and Godmother who introduced him to Anthroposophy and the works of Rudolf Steiner.

Alex attended university where he gained a degree in Graphology (the study of handwriting) but he often sat at the back of the class, sneakily reading the works of Rudolf Steiner.

At the age of 14, World War II erupted. When Alex came of age, he was forced to join the German Army. As he was so fluent in French, he was sent to France as a spy. There he was under suspicion and poisoned but was able to escape to a hospital in Germany. The hospital was bombed and Alex was badly injured. However, he managed to drag himself home to his mother's house and was then considered unfit for the remainder of the war. This allowed him to indulge in his passion and employment, which was playing the flute. A child prodigy, Alex was already performing solo concerts all over Europe by the time he was 14 years old.

Alex married Katherin Siemers after the war and together they migrated to Australia in 1949 where they subsequently had 7 children. Alex was stateless, and as a young man, life in Europe was becoming increasingly unsafe due to his Russian heritage. He was indeed a political refugee. It was a proud and happy day when he was nationalised as an Australian citizen.

As a very young child, Alex had a dream of a land with a giant sun. He believed that land to be his beloved, adopted Australia. Alex loved this land of the sun and incredibly, uniquely, he witnessed every single sunrise and sunset for his entire adult life.

Alex was dynamic, vibrantly creative, artistic and actively perceptive; and he gifted his knowledge to the world. He was emotionally deep with an astonishing intellect. When giving lectures, the intensity of his concentration was obvious. He didn't speak with abstract concepts. He created living pictures through his words. He would find the most exact, moral and true way of characterising his subject; devoid of exaggeration and ambiguity.

Although an untrained architect, amongst numerous achievements, Alex designed a number of important buildings. These included the earlier buildings of the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School in Warranwood, the Wandin Curative Home, Ghilgai Steiner School, the Canberra Steiner School and many private houses. Not only did Alex design these buildings, he was also instrumental in establishing the Warranwood SS, Ghilgai SS and Wandin Curative Home. Alex also provided teacher training and long term mentorship. His buildings have a balance between shape, proportion, structure and harmony. He saw "Acoustics as the soul of the building" – How people experienced themselves and were being made to feel awake. His designs were often influenced by many European buildings including the Chartres Cathedral in France.

Alex was gifted in many areas of HUMAN endeavour but chose as his main focus the development of the Australian

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Demeter Biodynamic method. With help from the pioneering Australian farmers, he took the original impulse of Rudolph Steiner and developed a practical Biodynamic method based on quality and results, rather than just an Anthroposophical belief that Biodynamics works, as it came from Steiner. These results presented to farmers an objective reality of what quality preparations and a practical approach could achieve. His development of prepared 500 was a major step in bringing the influence of the preparations to large farms.

He forged on undaunted in the face of skepticism and outright opposition from the agricultural establishment. His impulse saw the development of mechanical stirrers and practical spraying equipment suitable for broad acre use.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, he founded the Bio Dynamic Agricultural Association of Australia, the Bio Dynamic Research Institute and even registered the Demeter Trademark.

Around this time he began testing and recording the increasing organic matter levels of his soil. He spoke extensively of the importance of this work, for both the health of the soil and the climate. His unique description of plant metabolism clearly and simply explained the need to feed plants from humus rather than with water soluble salts. For decades he travelled extensively throughout Australia, voluntarily mentoring farmers.

Alex also took the method back to Europe and established new pioneers of the method in different European countries, finding the appropriate farmers to work with in developing the method there and finding the right people in Europe to make quality preparations. Although Alex was unable to visit Asia, his work is having a major impact on soils in many Asian countries.

He taught us well and many farmers around the world are dedicated to continuing Alex's work in developing and teaching the practicality, reality, integrity and quality of the Australian Demeter Method across the globe.

With perception, vibrant energy and creativity, he gifted knowledge to the world.

The Podolinsky Family

Biodynamic Agricultural Association of Australia Biodynamic Research Institute

Biodynamic Growers Australia

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