

Biodynamics in the World

The Newsletter of Demeter International, the International Biodynamic Association, and the Agricultural Section at the Goetheanum

Dear members and friends of Biodynamic farming,

The summer break is in full swing in Europe, the newsletter is correspondingly small, BUT with an important plea – please sign up for the Monsanto tribunal. Information is at the end of the seed breeding report. Thanks and good reading.

Ian Henderson

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Demeter International Assembly



Many thanks to the Finnish Association for a very well organised Assembly which took place in June 2016

Standards and Standards Committee

I'd like to report that the IBDA has ratified the motions which were passed at the Members' Assembly. You will soon receive the modified standards documents so that translations of the updates can be promptly integrated into the respective language versions.

Also the Standards committee warmly welcomes Jasmin Peschke as an external consultant to standards work both for nutritional as well as cosmetic and personal care questions.

Ian Henderson

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International Certification Office

New certifications

Since April there have been the following new certifications:

- Phalapraddha Farmers Society / India: part of the project of Phalada Agro Research Foundation Pvt. Ltd. with mixed cultivation (herbs, spices, fruits, nuts, coffee) by 6 smallholders 17,8ha. Demeter inspection was carried out by CUC India.
- Contact info@phaladaagro.com

- Wuhan June Jian Organic Agriculture Development Co., Ltd. / China: This is already the sixth operation certified by the ICO in China. Again, mixed cultivation (fruit, vegetables, cereals, fodder) and livestock (cattle, goats, pigs, poultry) on 13ha. BD advice from Jakes Jeyakaran. Demeter inspection is carried out by CERES.
- Contact peasant_198810@126.com
- The Epikouros group in Greece has added another producer. Lekkas Evaggelos also grows olives on 8,4ha olives. The Demeter inspection was by Bio-Hellas.
- Contact: labis@epikouros.gr
- Hibernia Misiones SA / Paraguay: the first 67ha sugarcane has been certified "in conversion to Demeter". BD advice given by René Piamonte, Demeter inspection by IMOCert.
- Contact juan.chanfreau@hiberniamisiones.com
- Dietimport / Portugal: a new wholesaler with a small Demeter assortment so far.
- Contact lilianarodrigues@dietimport.pt

Cancellations/resignations:

POLWIND Sp.z.o.o./Polen

AGROPOL Sp.z.o.o./Polen



The members of the International Certification Office (Certification Commission) from left to right: Katia Ziegler, Ian Henderson, Cornelia Hauenschild, Franziska Bühlen.

Cornelia Hauenschild

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Agricultural Section at the Goetheanum

Agriculture Section Circular 109

The contents include:

Looking back on the Agriculture Conference 2016

Can the Biodynamic Approach provide Impulses for the City of the Future?

Jean-Michel Florin

New Theme of the Year 2016/17

Soil Fertility – Approaching this Concept

Ueli Hurter

Goetheanum World Conference

Understanding the Work of the Section in the Present

Ueli Hurter

From the Work of the Section

New: Nutrition Co-ordinator Post in the Agriculture Section

Jasmin Peschke

Impressions of Argentina

Ueli Hurter

Circle of Representatives' Meeting (1st-4th November) in Bingenheim, Germany

Ute Kirchgaesser

Organic World Congress 2017

Ambra Sedlmayer

Obituary for Friedrich Sattler (1926-2016)

Manfred Klett

Contact the Section for your copy

sektion.landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch

Coordination Centre for Nutrition

Our daily bread is more than just something to eat. Seeds, growing and processing characterise food quality. Eating becomes a culture if socially beneficial aspects such as sustainability, fair trade and the environment where eating takes place, are taken into account. A high-quality meal, prepared in an appealing way, allows individual tasks to be more effectively taken up. In addition, you become "Landscapers of the Argentine Pampas, if you eat a juicy steak every day. Because then more soya will be grown there," explains Jasmin Peschke.



Jasmin Peschke,
head of the
Coordination Center
for Nutrition in the
Agricultural Section
(Photo: Michèle
Melzer)

With the Coordination Centre for Nutrition, the Section for Agriculture expands from their core competencies in Biodynamic agriculture. Jasmin Peschke, with a doctorate in food science, will bring together insights about healthy and responsible diet and make them available through training courses for professionals and consumers in order to stimulate individualised nutrition. "I shall be a contact person for nutrition initiatives from all over the world," said Jasmin Peschke. To make the global importance of diet clear, she points out how breeding, farming and processing are connected with

education and medicine, in for example, the menu plans of hospitals, schools, factories and homes for the elderly.
Jasmin Peschke

nutrition@goetheanum.ch

Reports from Member Countries

Biodynamic seed breeding in Germany

For over 30 years now, Biodynamic farmers and gardeners have been involved as pioneers in the independent development of seed varieties for the organic industry. The advantages of selection for taste and digestibility are clear already during the development period that can last up to ten years. Site specific cultivation is carried out and so regionally adapted lines are produced. Open pollinated varieties pass on their good qualities, unlike the hybrid varieties that the industry offers in which the seeds must be bought each year. As a result seed remains as a cultural asset in the hands of farmers and gardeners and not a pure commodity, traded for economic gain.

The most recent success is the first registration of two multiple line varieties by Demeter breeder Hartmut Spieß from Dottenfelderhof in Bad Vilbel. For a multi-line variety, a mixture of different lines is united in one. The wider diversity within the population ensures higher resilience, not least against the increasing weather extremes, says the breeder.

"This creates independence from the offerings of the seed industry, which also relies increasingly on genetic engineering," says Antje Kölling from Demeter e.V. (which incidentally developed the first Guidelines for Production and Certification of Biodynamic Varieties).

Many Demeter processors support the lengthy, sometimes tedious and always costly breeding work. They prefer the open-pollinated varieties and use them to create vital food. So it is not only on the vegetable shelf where you can find Rodelika Carrots, Aromata parsnips, Verdil spinach, Rutje tomatoes, Briweri lettuce, Robuschka beetroot, Pantos peppers, Red Kuri pumpkin etc. from alternative breeding. The aromatic vegetables are juiced, loaves of light grain rye entice the consumer, and the new wheat varieties such as Aszita, Sandomierz, Jularo have proven themselves in baking trials and are often used. In processed grain products such as flour, snacks or cereals, manufacturers are using Biodynamic varieties. "In addition to proven traditional varieties it needs varieties that are developed for today's conditions and needs" stresses Antje Kölling. "Farms require seed, which is optimally adapted to specific Biodynamic methods, is durable and which assures good profitability. The consumer is guaranteed variety on the plate, the highest nutritional quality and authentic flavour from this breeding work". To see German varieties produced by Biodynamic breeding simply click [here](#).

Summarised from press releases – Demeter e.V

www.demeter.de

Set against this very positive development we see the mainstream destruction of our seed resources by multinational corporate companies who frequently combine genetic manipulation with large scale contamination of the landscape by the pesticides they also sell. These two actions are an attack on healthy

ecology, the loss of which has the potential to force the entire world into starvation.

Opposition is gaining momentum, and we encourage you to become involved.

We would like to invite you to support a courageous initiative by people such as Hans Herren, Vandana Shiva, Olivier de Shutter, and others, of taking Monsanto to Court in October this year for "Crimes against humanity and ecocide". The date for the Monsanto tribunal is set for: 14-18 October 2016

All information on this initiative is available in many languages at:

<http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org/>

Ian Henderson, the Section and the General Secretary – Christoph Simpfendörfer

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Reports

5th International Biodynamic Viticulture Encounter

The conference was held at Bodegas Krontiras, located in Lujan de Cuyo -Mendoza - Argentina, on 26th to 27th November 2015 and attended by staff involved in both the production and processing of Demeter certified Argentinean and Chilean vineyards and wineries. Given the importance of the topic under discussion during the two day event - the "Biodynamic preparations" - oenologists and owners of the various projects and other guests related to Biodynamic Agriculture were also invited to be present.

The meeting was greatly enhanced by the participation of Vincent Masson, a specialist in Biodynamic preparations who heads one of the most important BD preparation centers in Europe. Over two days, he presented a deeply enriching work, where theoretical aspects of working with BD preparations were explained. These were backed by his extensive experience and his knowledge of the subtleties of the principles of Rudolf Steiner with their further development by Kolisko and Pfeiffer.

The experience gained in Australia by Alex Podolinsky - achieving more efficiency in the application of Biodynamic preparations on large areas, was also discussed

Members of many companies involved in the preparation and implementation of the BD preparation work on their farms contributed with questions on issues specific to the southern hemisphere. This created a climate of absolute commitment to the importance and support of the health of vines, even in extreme climatic and environmental conditions.

The theoretical foundation given by R. Steiner about BD preparations as "forces" that are actively involved in the development and health of plants and the success using them has been proven by extensive scientific studies made in France by Pierre and Vincent Masson and their collaborators.

The meeting deepened the foundations of Biodynamic Agriculture, re-creating group synergy and reviving the energy necessary to continue the meeting schedule by confirming the next meetings in 2016 on Bodegas Odfjell (Chile) and on Bodega Chakana (Argentina) in 2017.

To frame this moment from a BD Agriculture perspective, we return to the vision-image of "Building Alliances for the Earth" of the 2013 Congress at

Goetheanum, which requires the openness and interest in meeting each other and an understanding of the "problems" that we are facing together. This requires a clear commitment to common goals and at the same time greater flexibility in the process.

This is the attitude that we are developing together since our first meeting in 2010, and the one which we want to emphasize - meeting our common interests by being generous in giving and receiving.

To close this event, a plenum session was held between members of the Demeter Argentina Foundation and representatives of Argentinean and Chilean wineries to define new goals for this Conference in the future.

We appreciate the confidence placed in the Demeter Argentina Foundation through the efforts of all participating wineries and the support given to this annual meeting to exchange knowledge and experiences in a joint effort for the development of the Biodynamic vision for Viticulture.

Juan Sebastián Buzzio Sagasti

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Report from the Raw Materials Manager

The availability of Demeter coconut oil has been significantly improved thanks to two new certified projects (one of them having an exclusive contract with a German importer), now capable of supplying oil in larger quantity.

We are currently working on two important issues: to better coordinate the production of cereals and oil seeds in East Europe and to improve the availability of dried herbs, herb powder and vegetable powder.

Reminder: the monthly raw material newsletter is a tool for the producers to reach most of the companies interested in Demeter raw materials and products. Farmers and companies shall contact Aurélie whenever they want to offer products. For any further information, please contact

Aurélie Truffat

a.truffat@demeter.fr

Miscellaneous

Tropane alkaloids – an information sheet

Prevention of contamination in organic crops

In some regions, weeds containing tropane alkaloids are increasingly being found in various crops, mainly corn, millet, buckwheat and sunflowers. They can contaminate the harvested crop with tropane alkaloids which are toxic to warm-blooded animals.

The fight against tropane alkaloid containing plants in the field is of great importance as impurities of the harvested crop can be only partially rectified.

The leaflet focusses on a problem that is largely unrecognized in practice and provides recommendations for the prevention of contamination.

Contact the FiBL site:

<https://shop.fibl.org/de/artikel/c/allg-acker-futterbau/p/1707-tropanalkaloide.html>

or email a request for the leaflet to the Demeter International Office:

Ute Bucholski

ute.bucholski@demeter.de

Dates/events/courses

XXXI Meeting for Latin American Biodynamic Agriculture 2016

Building Partnerships between Earth and Mankind
6, 7, 8, 9, October 2016
Waldorf School, San Francisco of Limache, Valpariso, Chile.
Registration and information
encuentroabdchile@gmail.com
www.agriculturabiologicadynamica.cl

Reminder

Biodynamic Arboriculture Conference 2016

On 24th – 25th of November 2016 an international conference on Biodynamic arboriculture will take place at the Goetheanum in Dornach, CH. This conference is organised by the Section for Agriculture at the Goetheanum and aims to support growers of perennial crops such as fruits, nuts, olives, vines and soft fruit in working with the Biodynamic approach.

The central theme of this conference will be understanding the nature of woody plants and how insights from Biodynamic agriculture can be applied

successfully to produce healthy crops. Whereas in the past fruit trees were part of mixed cropping systems, in the last century or so specialised monocultures have become the standard form of production. As a consequence of modern industrialised production methods, fruit trees have become more prone to diseases. Using the Biodynamic concept of the farm organism, the key will be to create a suitable environment for the healthy growth of woody crop plants. Biodynamic preparations and the building up of soil fertility are essential for making orchards more resilient and able to cope with changing circumstances while yielding high-quality fruit.

For further information, programme and registration form (note bookings close 10th November) contact the Section for Agriculture at the Goetheanum:

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Attachments: Demeter International Vision Mission paper

Section for Agriculture

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Standards & Newsletter

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