Activity report 2014

Research Institute of Organic Agriculture – Switzerland, Germany and Austria
Editorial
Cheap food has too high a cost 1

Soil Sciences
Using microorganisms specifically for plant nutrition 2

Climate Sustainability
Sustainability assessment has market potential 4

Crop Sciences
Making urban parks and soccer fields "green" 6

Livestock Sciences
"Broad-leaved dock was a major surprise" 8

Socio-Economics
Food waste, world food supply: Reckonings of global issues 10

Extension, Training and Communication
Soil preparation: Less is ever more 12

International Cooperation
"Innovations? An insecticide made from oil and chilli peppers, for example" 14

Quality Assurance
Organic and from the region – for sure! 16

Environmental Education
Diversity at nursery schools 18

FiBL Austria – Projects
Organic excellence from field to fork 19

FiBL Switzerland
Chronology and finances 21

FiBL Switzerland
Foundation Council members 24

FiBL Switzerland
Clients and donors 26

FiBL Switzerland
Employees 28

FiBL Switzerland
Education 30

FiBL Germany
Chronology and finances 31

FiBL Germany
Board 33

FiBL Germany
Clients and donors 34

FiBL Austria
Chronology and finances 35

FiBL Austria
Board 36

FiBL Austria
Employees 37

FiBL Austria
Clients and donors 38

FiBL Switzerland, Germany and Austria
Support FiBL 39

Weblinks and Imprint
40
Dear Reader,

The topics the organic farming movement has been putting on the agenda for many years have now reached the core of general agricultural research. This is evident in areas such as soil fertility, biodiversity, groundwater protection, animal welfare, animal health, interrelationships between nature conservation and agriculture, and the enormous cost to society of intensive farming practices.

In defining their own standards, such as GlobalGAP, supermarket chains and their major suppliers have made it clear that pesticide residues in foods are undesirable, a stance that has very much accelerated developments in organic crop protection methods. Industry interest in the international Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting in Basel, Switzerland, which is organized by FiBL, has increased considerably.

Society’s reaction to the dangers associated with the use of antibiotics in the farming sector remains inept, while medical doctors are already warning about the repercussions for human therapy of antibiotics-resistant pathogens. This is another area where FiBL has operational solutions at hand; in dairy farming for example, the best organic farms sport healthy cows with good milk yields without resorting to antibiotics.

Many labels placed on non-organically produced foods promise sustainable production; consumer awareness is high. Many of these label programmes are, however, too one-dimensional. In fact, they reveal that sustainability is more than just a question of production techniques: No-till cropping of genetically modified Roundup-ready soya beans in Brazil and Argentina, for example, may well combat soil erosion in the short term, but the gigantic monocultures continuously face new problems from pathogens, invincible weeds and soil compaction. And so the chemical warfare continues. Organic farming, in contrast, benefits from a holistic, systems approach. Robust production systems can only result from growing a diversity of crops, from integrating resting phases in the form of grass-clover leys for livestock, and from recycling organic material such as farmyard manure and compost back into the soil.

Global agriculture is in the process of discovering the organic farming model. If external costs are not taken into account, it appears at the surface to be a costly step to take. At the economic level, industrialization and specialization in farming has been a model of success as classic economies of scale have dramatically lowered the cost base per unit of food produced. Other sectors of the economy also benefit from this development as people have more disposable income at hand to spend on consumer goods and services.

While the scientific community has already been anticipating many ecological concepts, progress in the world of commercial farming and food processing has been hesitant. In this respect, organic labels are an important tool for those consumers who do not want to wait any longer. But society at large can only progress if the external costs of cheap food are finally taken into account instead of the coming generations being burdened with them. According to a 2014 FiBL study on behalf of the FAO, the global full costs of food waste amount to about USD 2.6 trillion per year. The production of such “waste” also gives rise to external costs. A further study produced by FiBL Austria in 2013 has shown that organic farming can markedly reduce these costs. In the years to come, FiBL will be as concerned with the true cost of agriculture and thus with the cost of good, healthy diets as with scientific-technical innovation in organic farming.

Cheap food has too high a cost

Robert Hermanowski, Managing Director FiBL Germany.

Andreas Kranzler, Managing Director FiBL Austria.

Urs Niggli, Director FiBL Switzerland.
Using microorganisms specifically for plant nutrition

Soil microorganisms play a key role in plant nutrition. Bacteria and fungi are capable of making phosphorus and nitrogen available to plants. Microorganism preparations as well as plant and compost extracts, or "bioeffectors", are known as plant boosters in the industry. As part of an EU-funded project, FiBL soil scientist Cécile Thonar is investigating the potential of bioeffectors for organic agriculture.

What are the goals of the European "Biofector" project?
Cécile Thonar: There are a great many plant boosters on the market nowadays. But when it comes to which crops and which soils these materials should be used on and how they work, we still do not know much. We want to find out what contribution such products can actually make towards a resource-conserving agriculture. The Biofector project is broad in scope and is combining the know-how of research groups and manufacturers in Europe for the first time. Although we are working on the fundamentals and studying the modes of action, we are also testing products for maize, wheat and tomatoes under field conditions. Around forty products will be studied in detail in the project as a whole. At FiBL we are focusing on seven materials.

To what extent are the products already being used in actual practice?
In Switzerland, such products are being used chiefly in vegetable production, in nurseries, or on golf courses at the present time. A few farmers are using them as well. The materials are still relatively expensive and their efficacy is dependent upon many factors which have yet to be studied systematically. A few dozen microorganism preparations and plant boosters are listed in the FiBL inputs list, meaning that they are approved for organic agriculture.

What roles does FiBL have in this project?
We are testing the products in container trials with maize in different soils. For example, one product turned out to have a clear yield-enhancing effect in soils with low pH values and low phosphorus levels. In the field trials, the differences that we obtained were less clear-cut than those obtained by our colleagues in Italy and Romania.

In the first year, in the scope of her Master thesis Carla Mosimann developed a molecular biology assay method with which the persistence of inoculated bacteria can be monitored in the soil. With this method it is possible to establish whether the inoculated bacteria can compete with the microorganisms originally present in the soil and whether they are effective. We are also investi-
gating whether the biodiversity of native mycorrhizal fungi is adversely impacted by the application of the bioeffectors.

**What potential do bioeffectors have for organic agriculture?**

I see good possibilities for the short-term, especially in nutrient-poor soils. A similar project under the name COM-PRO is being conducted in Africa under the direction of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). We are in close professional contact with them, and numerous products are being tested by us in Europe as well as in the IITA trials. In a recently started project with Swiss and Indian partners, we are testing the use of bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi in a pigeon pea and finger millet mixed cropping system. The important thing is that such products will always be used in combination with fertilization measures such as composting. There will not be a miracle product to replace standard fertilizers.

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www.biofector.info

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**Biochar: Charcoal is not just charcoal**

Carbonized organic matter or charcoal was once used by farmers in the humid tropics of South America, Africa and Southeast Asia specifically to improve the soil, in which case it is also known as biochar. This traditional technique was eventually forgotten. A few years ago, however, it was rediscovered by researchers and is now being studied more closely. In addition to yield increase, the focus nowadays is on the contribution of biochar to reducing global warming. Once applied, biochar remains in the soil for up to 2000 years and could thus serve as an efficient carbon sequesterer with positive impacts on soil fertility.

Biochar is obtained from plant residues with a comparatively low water content by means of industrial pyrolysis, which involves carbonization in the absence of oxygen and at temperatures up to 1000 degrees. On the other hand, biomass with a higher water content such as sewage sludge is carbonized in a vapour atmosphere at a pressure of 20 bar (hydrothermal carbonization, HTC).

In his PhD work at FiBL, Michael Scheifele set up container trials to compare these two types of charcoal in different soils. Using stable isotope analysis, it was shown that in contrast to HTC charcoal, pyrolysis charcoal (biochar) is hardly degraded at all within a 205 day period in all soils used. Pyrolysis charcoal is thus capable of making a greater contribution to carbon sequestration over the long term. Both types of charcoal were shown to increase the pH, especially in acid soils, and this effect was more pronounced with pyrolysis charcoal.

Via adsorption, both charcoal types led to lower nitrogen availability in the soil solution. Nevertheless the test plants were able to obtain more nitrogen from soils that were amended with charcoal. This phenomenon is attributed to greater symbiosis between plants and microorganisms. A distinctly greater effect was achieved with HTC charcoal but owing to the faster degradation of that type of charcoal it was also of lesser duration than with pyrolysis charcoal.

These results show that both charcoal types must be used in accordance with the intended purpose and the desired benefits. Accordingly, for nutrient-loving plants one would use HTC charcoal with its two- to three-year effect duration rather than a slow-release fertilizer, whereas for long-term soil improvement one would use pyrolysis charcoal with its activity that lasts more than a hundred years.

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**Fibl is testing various bioeffectors in container and field experiments with maize.**
Sustainability assessment has market potential

Sustainability is a key issue for society and its assessment is one of the major challenges that FiBL, amongst others, is tackling. Matthias Meier and Christian Schader are two of FiBL’s experts in this field. Matthias Meier works on Life Cycle Assessment while Christian Schader deals with comprehensive sustainability assessments. In this interview the two experts discuss differences and synergies between the two areas.

You are both working on assessing sustainability. Why do you need different tools?

Matthias Meier: Life Cycle Assessment addresses only one aspect of sustainability and that is the environment, but it does so in great detail. The precision inherent in a Life Cycle Assessment has its price, but especially for a single product it serves as a good basis for comparisons with the competition.

Christian Schader: Sustainability assessments using our SMART (Sustainability Monitoring and Assessment RouTine) method offer companies and farmers a cost-efficient opportunity to have all aspects of the sustainability of their enterprise – ecological, economic and social aspects as well as governance – assessed. We even have a third tool at hand, SOL-m, which is a systems model capable of analysing impacts at larger scales, on the global farming sector for example.

Which of the tools is the better one?

Meier: That is the wrong question. We are working together towards both improving the different assessment tools by themselves and towards combining them with a view to assessing sustainability in the food value chain more precisely and more comprehensively, for example in organic production systems. Our aim is to offer a robust decision-making basis for more sustainable agriculture, food processing and consumption.

Life Cycle Assessment is a research tool which captures information very precisely. For example, we assessed the...
climate impacts of a range of beef production systems as part of the Bio Wei-de-Beef (organic pastured beef) project established by FiBL and Migros. The results have enabled us to state for each of the different husbandry systems the climate impact per kilogram of beef produced.

Schader: The strength of SMART lies in the analysis of entire processes; we assess 58 different parameters ranging from working conditions to soil erosion caused. We don’t dive quite so deeply into the details but instead we give a good summary account, which of course is a lot cheaper than a Life Cycle Assessment for an entire holding. The fact that we work with different assessment tools at FiBL is beneficial in that it generates synergies. In the SMART section we benefit for example from Matthias’ work on advancing the methodology for assessing biodiversity. Similarly, the global impact assessments we calculate using SOL-m can be a good basis for specific Life Cycle Assessments.

How great a potential do you think your applications have for the private sector?

Schader: We reckon there is great potential. We have therefore established a spin-off called Sustainable Food Systems (SFS). Numerous companies have already expressed interest in our tool even though we have hardly advertised it so far because at present we are still primarily concerned with the development of SMART. Associations such as Bio Suisse have also expressed interest as they wish to gain greater insights into the sustainability of their food value chains.

Meier: The strength of Life Cycle Assessments is in the assessment of a single product with a view to setting it apart from competing products. But there is limited potential in this area. I see our role to be more in the area of developing complex models as a service to science.

What are the weaknesses of your tools?

Meier: The disadvantage of Life Cycle Assessments is their relatively high cost. One does, however, get very detailed results. Life Cycle Assessments originated in the industrial sector where there are closed systems; given that in open, natural systems it is more difficult to distinguish between inputs and outputs, we have not quite reached all our targets in terms of developing correct models.

Schader: We, too, still need to further develop our calculation models to ensure that each of our customers gets correct results in keeping with their requirements.

climate: The role of organically managed soils

Colin Skinner, PhD candidate at FiBL, will continue to elucidate the linkages between GHG emissions and organic agriculture until the autumn of 2015 when he is set to complete his PhD thesis entitled “Determination of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in Swiss arable soils”.

In 2014 an international comparative study showed that organically managed lands can contribute to climate change mitigation as they emit less nitrous oxide and take up more atmospheric methane than non-organically managed soils do on average, but, as FiBL climate expert Andreas Gattinger points out, scientific evidence to this effect is still quite limited. Additional information is needed to determine more precisely the climate efficiency of organic agriculture. To this end, Colin Skinner measures emissions and uptake of nitrous oxide, methane and carbon dioxide in plots planted under grass ley, maize, wheat and oilseed rape at the DOK trial site in Therwil.

There is great interest in the results, amongst others on the part of the Swiss Confederation which has provided significant financial support for this project through its Federal Offices for the Environment (FOEN) and Agriculture (FOAG). The FOAG Climate Section is working on a Swiss Climate Strategy for Agriculture and has similarly found that the current state of knowledge is insufficient, as a result of which too many of the parameters must be estimated. The FOEN for its part seeks to refine its greenhouse gas inventory – to which FiBL is also contributing – in order to have more detailed data at hand.
Franco Weibel, as co-director with Martin Koller of the Grünstadt Schweiz project at FiBL, can you tell us a little about how it came about?

Franco Weibel: Around 2010, the folks at the Municipal Garden Department of Basel (Stadtgärtnerei Basel) started toying with the idea of going organic. A project was started in 2012, in which we and the Department have already celebrated the first successes: namely the conversion of the Weidenhof operation in Arlesheim and of the Brüglingen nursery in Basel to organic production.

What is being produced there?
The Weidenhof operation produces compost, grows groundcovers, and runs a tree nursery. Ornamental plants are grown in the greenhouses at Brüglingen to provide flowers for urban beautification. Doing this under organic conditions is quite demanding and results in a greater workload, for instance in weed control. Martin Koller helps with that in an advisory capacity. We are glad and rather proud of the fact that Weidenhof has been fully certified to the Bio Suisse “Bud” label since 2014 and that the Brüglingen nursery is going organic.

What’s happening in the parks?
The Weidenhof operation produces compost, grows groundcovers, and runs a tree nursery. Ornamental plants are grown in the greenhouses at Brüglingen to provide flowers for urban beautification. Doing this under organic conditions is quite demanding and results in a greater workload, for instance in weed control. Martin Koller helps with that in an advisory capacity. We are glad and rather proud of the fact that Weidenhof has been fully certified to the Bio Suisse “Bud” label since 2014 and that the Brüglingen nursery is going organic.

 Trials on organic lawn fertilization in a park in Basel City. Left to right: Urban horticulturalist Gino Picciotto, Felix Rusterholz (Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW), Franco Weibel and Ignazio Giordano (FiBL).

Making urban parks and soccer fields “green”

Urban green areas, although heavily stressed, can still contribute to the well-being of urban populations if elements of organic agriculture are used in managing them, despite widespread skepticism. Organic management can often even do the job better, as the Grünstadt Schweiz (Green City Switzerland) project in the partner cities of Basel, Lucerne and Winterthur demonstrates. Next on the agenda is the “greening” of athletic fields, as FiBL project co-director Franco Weibel explains in the interview.

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What’s happening in the parks?
Also since 2012, we have been testing seven organic lawn fertilization methods, with two replications in each case, in four different parks in Basel. The basic idea is to cover the phosphorus and potash requirements, as determined by soil testing, primarily with compost. Many people expressed doubts as to whether this is feasible in parks subject to such intensive use. But experience has since shown that using compost poses no problems for the users of the facilities and that it has a very positive effect on soil and lawn quality. What is spectacular about these trials is that they took place during unrestricted use of the parks. This required precise coordination between the Garden Department and the independent lawn care businesses: Our total of fifty test plots, each one six by seven metres in area, had to be fertilized, managed and scientifically sampled in strict accordance with the experimental protocol for two years straight. After the successful conclusion of the plot trials, the Municipal Garden Department decided to fertilize nine of their parks in 2014, and 13 by 2015, in accordance with our recommendations. As a comparison standard, they will continue fertilizing a third of the
lawn area in four parks by conventional means. There were no visible differences between the organically fertilized and the conventionally fertilized areas at any time throughout 2014: vigour, turf grass density and colour were identical.

What’s been going on with the project since then?

Jointly with the Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), in 2011 we began to push for a federally funded project under the supervision of the Commission for Technology and Innovation (KTI). After a two years of preparations, the KTI gave us the go-ahead and we were thus able to start with the implementation phase in January 2013. In addition to Basel, the cities of Lucerne and Winterthur are also involved. The Association of Swiss Municipal Garden Departments (VSG) and the firm nateco are the project leaders. The goal is certification to a three-step Grünistadt Schweiz (Green City Switzerland) label, similar to Energiestadt Schweiz (Energy City Switzerland). nateco AG will be in charge of monitoring and certification.

Have any cities been certified yet?

No, the action plan will not be ready until 2015. It is very comprehensive and comprises sixty measures, which will be evaluated after implementation. The plan covers everything from plant protection to the selection of suppliers. The cities will then be certified to the gold, silver and bronze levels. Having already implemented so many elements of organic agriculture, cities on the gold level would have relatively little trouble applying for Bio Suisse certification.

Has it been necessary to overcome any resistance to the greening of parks and municipal garden departments?

Absolutely, and that is completely understandable because the subject is truly new territory, internationally as well. In general the Swiss municipal garden departments are definitely willing to go organic. Doing so on the other hand is not so easy; in part due to the high pressure to cut back expenses prevailing in most cities. Employees often see greening as an additional requirement that will make more work or even jeopardize the quality production currently demanded, for example because only natural plant protection products may be used henceforth.

Will organic management be able to keep pace economically?

We are aware that there is no upward leeway as far as costs are concerned. Through precision management, we have been able to keep overall costs down to the former level: For site-appropriate management, in all parks we prepared soil profiles and took samples for nutrient analysis, and then optimized both fertilizer rates and cultivation intensity, for instance in soil aeration, accordingly. In doing so we also optimized the costs. Another positive aspect is that the conversion has gone very smoothly and the municipal gardeners are very satisfied with the results.

What’s next with the project?

In collaboration with the ZHAW in 2014, we started managing athletic fields in Lucerne organically. Although this was met with even greater resistance, the preliminary results from trials on five soccer fields are encouraging. Contact: franco.weibel@fibl.org. martin.koller@fibl.org. www.gruenstadtschweiz.ch

Control of spotted-wing drosophila requires new approaches

In 2014, spotted-wing drosophila Drosophila suzukii for the first time caused damage to soft fruit, stone fruit and grapes throughout Switzerland. Experience to date has shown that insecticides can not solve this problem, as this species of vinegar fly only moves into crops just before they are ready for harvesting. Moreover, their control is hampered by their habit of moving between wild plants (elderberry, blackberry) and crop plants. There are as yet significant knowledge gaps as to this species’ crop and cultivar preferences.

Promising approaches to controlling spotted-wing drosophila include repellents such as clay earths and rock dust as well as enhanced effectiveness of insecticides compatible with organic production; the latter can be achieved by adding lures.

Over the coming years repellents and lure formulations are to be tested on commercial farms. Given the spotted-wing drosophilas’ biology, it is evident that it will be futile to attempt control at the level of individual plots or farms. A landscape-wide control strategy will be needed. FiBL will develop and test approaches to such a control strategy in cooperation with research partners in Switzerland.

Better varieties for organic

Access to plant propagation material of a wide range of locally adapted crops and cultivars is of great importance for the future. For this reason, pioneers of organic plant breeding, like Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz, Sativa Rheinau AG and PomaCulta, have been involved since decades to improve our crops. FiBL supports organic plant breeders via breeding research and cultivar trials under organic conditions. The overall goal is to provide high quality seed of cultivars adjusted to organic farming conditions with improved yield stability, ecological and economic benefit and high nutritional quality derived from breeding techniques, which comply with the value of the organic sector (Bio Suisse Guidelines). FiBL is engaged in the improvement of (i) networking and recognition of organic farming (www.eco-pb.org), (ii) the legal framework for market introduction of organically bred cultivars (www.ifoam-eu.org), and (iii) the valorization of organic plant breeding (www.bioverita.org) on national and international level.

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How did the project come about?

**Michael Walkenhorst**: Organic advisor Eric Meier at the Strickhof Centre of Excellence for Education and Services in Agriculture and Food approached us and said he had 6000 Swiss Francs at his disposal which he would like to devote to a phytotherapy project. Around the same time we had made contact with Professor Matthias Hamburger, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Basel, Switzerland. Veterinarians have largely removed medicinal plants from their therapy spectrum, but the pharmacologists have never let go off medicinal plants and research into their applications. Together with Professor Beat Meier of the Swiss Medical Society for Phytotherapy and his colleague, veterinarian Dr. Franziska Klarer, we got the project rolling and advertised a number of pharmacological master thesis proposals.

How did this cooperation work out?

Very well indeed. It is a creative, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary cooperation.

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**LowInputBreeds: Breeding for animal health**

In the past, an animal’s genetic potential could only be determined by assessing its own performance and that of animals related to it. In contrast, genomic selection allows for breeding value assessment based directly on the animal’s genome, which permits much faster genetic improvement.

This method has come into widespread use in dairy cattle breeding. As part of the EU-funded “LowInputBreeds” project, our researchers have shown that genomic selection is not only well suited to evaluating breeding value for performance traits but also to accurately determining, with reasonable accuracy, phenotypic functional traits such as milking temperament, general temperament, udder depth or teat conformation. This allows for more rapid and more targeted genetic improvement of dairy cow health.

The above is one of numerous results of the LowInputBreeds project, which was devoted to the study of key aspects of the breeding of dairy cows, laying hens, sheep and pigs under low-input management.

For laying hens, field trials have shown that white and brown genotypes are equally suited to organic free-range systems, with optimum management being paramount. While most of the laying hen enterprises on Swiss organic farms already met this requirement, significant progress was made on farms in France and the Netherlands in the course of the project.

For sheep, the LowInputBreeds project has shown that Red Engadine Sheep are significantly less susceptible to gastrointestinal nematodes than Swiss White Alpines. Additionally it was shown that feeding of sainfoin can reduce both faecal egg count and gastrointestinal nematode burden. However, an additive effect could not be shown, i.e. it was not possible to achieve greater control efficiency by combining a less susceptible breed (Red Engadine Sheep) and the feeding of sainfoin. Therefore, gastro-intestinal nematode control will continue to involve the use of targeted wormers in highly infected animals. The alternatives named above can however contribute to limiting the use of these medication-based interventions.

After five years of research the LowInputBreeds project came to a successful conclusion. The project involved 25 institutions in 17 countries. Dr. Veronika Maurer of FiBL acted as academic coordinator of the project.

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www.lowinputbreeds.org

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In Switzerland, more than a hundred species of medicinal plants are used as home remedies to treat ailing livestock.

“Broad-leaved dock was a major surprise”

Michael Walkenhorst, veterinarian and FiBL researcher, has been leading a project designed to safeguard traditional phytotherapeutical knowledge. The project aims to record farmers’ traditional knowledge still in existence on the use of medicinal plants and natural substances for the treatment of livestock illnesses, and to protect this knowledge from fading into oblivion.
operation between veterinarians, pharmacologists and farmers which is rarely found elsewhere in this sort of configuration. And it has proven very effective because we are all walking down the same path – and in the same direction at that.

How did you approach the project?
We aim at safeguarding experiential knowledge by interviewing farmers all over Switzerland. To date these interviews have been conducted as part of five individual master’s theses. In addition we are able to draw on the results of a “sister” project in the Canton of Grisons and we are also awaiting results from a dissertation undertaken in Ticino. Our approach is to cover groups of cantons one after another. So far we have covered all the German-speaking cantons and in the remaining two years of the project we will conduct interviews in the Canton of Valais and in Romandie as part of three planned pharmacological master’s theses.

How did you find your farmer interviewees?
That required quite a lot of effort. At first it seemed to us that no one was interested in being interviewed but eventually “snowball sampling” paid off; this is a sampling method used in ethnological research where existing interviewees recruit potential future subjects from among their acquaintances. The cantonal advisers also gave us names of potential interviewees.

How did the farmers react to your inquiry?
Quite often their initial reaction was to ask: “Do you really want to know this or are you planning on poking fun at us?”. But when they realized that our interest was very serious indeed most of them were enthusiastic.

What are the demographics of farmers who work with phytotherapy?
Male and female farmers are roughly equally represented. Statistically, they are on average 45–50 years of age but, interestingly, they are in fact either much younger or older than this; phytotherapy appears to have been forsaken by the generation in between.

Which plants did you find to be most frequently used in phytotherapy?
Well, the most frequently named treatments certainly did not involve mysterious potions made from mountain herbs but generally well-known plants such as chamomile, Calendula, fennel and anise. The farmers listed a total of about one hundred species, with twenty of these named frequently.

Did you learn something new nonetheless?
I take more enjoyment from the fiftieth recipe for chamomile tea than from some combination of rare mountain herbs. What surprised us was how widespread the use of broad-leaved dock is, both as an ointment and as a tea.

Which livestock illnesses are most frequently treated using phytotherapy?
We have found that phytotherapy is mostly used to treat skin problems and gastro-intestinal problems, the latter of course being kind of an “internal skin”. Phytotherapy is very well suited for cutaneous applications: Plants must protect their surfaces, this is something we can exploit.

What are the next steps?
At the end of the project we will produce a ranking of the thirty to fifty most important plant species. It is very important to ensure that the project’s results will find recognition with the authorities and the scientific community. Moreover it is important to us to be able to give farmers a compilation of the most important recipes at the end. We are still discussing what sort of form that will take – possibly something like a “Farmers’ Wikipedia”. akr

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Food waste, world food supply: Reckonings of global issues

What would be the impacts of converting global meat production to organic methods? What is the global cost of food wastage? Can organic farming feed the world? – How an internship thesis grew into a research project lasting a number of years, in which FiBL developed a modelling method to answer global questions like these.

“Food wastage costs the world 2.6 trillion dollars each year” proclaimed a FiBL media release from autumn 2014. The headline refers to the presentation of an FAO study produced using the expert knowledge at Frick. On the basis of this study the world food organization was able for the first time to publish a reliable figure for the immense global cost of food waste. We destroy around four per cent of the gross world product through food waste.

How was this calculation made possible? The project leaders Adrian Müller and Christian Schader from FiBL’s Department of Socio-Economic Sciences explain: “In 2011 the Natural Resources Department of the FAO, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, approached us. People there wanted the impacts of converting global meat production to organic methods to be investigated in an internship thesis.” Schader and Müller soon saw that this brief would by far exceed the scope of an internship thesis, so they took on the task. Following a project application to the FAO a collaborative partnership was set up, the initial result of which was the Sustainability and Organic Livestock model (SOL-m) developed at FiBL. The thesis expanded into a project lasting several years.

The SOL model permits the appraisal of food availability, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, nitrogen and phosphorus balances, deforestation rates and pesticide use intensity. According to Schader, part of its complexity is that “it is about more than organic or non-organic”. One key question is that of the use of concentrated feed. It is generally assumed that livestock production using concentrated feed is more efficient and therefore more sustainable. However, he goes on, they were able to disprove this received wisdom with the first SOL-m aided calculations. Findings presented by FiBL at the 9th International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment

Food wastage costs USD 2.6 trillion per year

Approximately one third of the food produced worldwide is not actually consumed but is either thrown away or lost somewhere along the food value chain. This not only represents enormous wastage of food but also gives rise to considerable adverse environmental impacts and social costs. FiBL, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and researchers at the London School of Economics, calculated the cost to society of food wastage. The study reveals that the global full costs of food wastage amount to about USD 2.6 trillion per year, including USD 1 trillion of direct economic costs resulting from lost production, USD 700 billion of environmental costs and USD 900 billion of social costs. This is roughly equivalent to four percent of annual global gross national product. The environmental costs primarily relate to greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption, while social costs arise from health impacts, conflicts, and adverse effects on people’s well-being due to natural resource degradation.

While it was possible to arrive at reasonably reliable estimates of direct economic costs, the calculation of environmental costs is strongly dependent on underlying assumptions such as damage costs per ton of GHG emissions or water scarcity in different regions. To account for social costs was particularly challenging; the estimates are based on the loss of well-being in a range of sample populations. While the best available data were used for the study, there are still significant gaps. The actual cost of food wastage are likely to be higher than the estimate arrived at in the study.

In addition, the costs and benefits of a range of different measures to reduce food losses and waste were compared. It was shown that food waste avoidance should remain the primary objective: The performance of measures designed to avoid food wastage tends to be better than that of action to recycle food, even if recycling efforts are efficiently organized.

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in the Agri-Food Sector (LCA Food 2014) in San Francisco in October 2014 show that not using concentrated feed results in a more sustainable life-cycle impact inventory. However, less meat and milk in total is produced in this way – the environmental advantage can only be realised if consumers are prepared to make corresponding changes to their dietary habits. In the view of Schader and Müller, if that were to happen, it would not only reduce the negative effects on the environment, but it would also make more calories and protein available for human consumption – and a diet with a lower proportion of animal foods would be healthier, too.

SOL-m has subsequently also been used to determine the cost of food waste. A further application is a model calculation for converting agriculture worldwide to organic production. The FiBL researchers see the great advantage of the calculation model in objectifying debates that in the past have often been conducted emotionally and without differentiated arguments, such as those on whether or not organic farming can feed the world. Schader is convinced that "questions of global relevance like these can be settled with the aid of SOL-m".

Schader and Müller say that the aim is to integrate all data collected with SOL-m in a global repository. This databank would then enable every agricultural system to be analysed for its environmental sustainability, whether it be the production of asparagus in Peru or organic grass-fed beef in Switzerland. However, Müller and Schader are agreed that standardization of worldwide life-cycle assessment methods and with this the global comparability of results is still a long way off.

Learning and innovation networks

Traditional linear processes of knowledge transfer from the research community as a source of knowledge via education and advisory services to the farming community is no longer sufficient to meet the challenges of multifunctional, sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas.

Innovations arise from the combination of scientific findings with practitioners’ experiential knowledge. From 2011 to 2014, the EU-funded SOLINSA project developed new approaches to linking research, education, advisory services and agricultural practice in the most beneficial way. The project looked at networks as drivers of innovation and developed the Learning and Innovation Networks for Sustainable Agriculture (LINA) concept. This approach allows for the support of innovation processes within the farming community and among other rural stakeholders. FiBL acted as coordinator of the SOLINSA project which involved eleven research partners in eight countries.

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Market potential of traditional grains

Cereal production in Europe is dominated by wheat and barley. Continuous breeding efforts have aimed at ever higher yields of these species. In contrast, very little breeding work has focused on spelt, rye, oats, einkorn or emmer wheat even though these cereals are well-adapted to growing in less nutrient-rich soils and are popular with consumers due to their digestibility, flavour and the micronutrients they contain.

Under the HealthyMinorCereals EU project, breeding work is being conducted from 2013 to 2018 on oats, rye and spelt to improve their agronomic characteristics and nutritional/processing qualities. As part of the project, FiBL is assessing the market opportunities for these minor cereals. Initial results have shown that, in conjunction with consumer trends towards health considerations, regionality and tradition, these cereals do indeed have market potential. However, the benefits of these traditional grains only come into play in niche markets and with targeted consumer information. Processors should be involved at an early stage to ensure the successful introduction of cereal cultivars. Networks can help with genotype acquisition and improve the exchange of expertise on processing characteristics.

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Soil preparation: Less is ever more

In the practical part of a large-scale reduced tillage project, FiBL created a network of trial farms that are working with direct drilling and mulch drilling. These farms are testing and improving the techniques. The project received additional impetus thanks to the Swiss government’s new direct payment scheme for resource-conserving soil tillage.

Suitable machinery is important for reduced tillage: A discussion on a shallow cultivator’s pros and cons on the Breiter-Meier cooperative holding in Flaach in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland.

The organic sector and FiBL have been working with reduced tillage for some time. According to a widely accepted maxim in organic farming, the soil structure and profile should be disturbed as little as possible and remain as intact as possible so that soil organisms can thrive and are free to foster the decomposition of organic matter. In contradiction to this, however, the plough is often a substitute for the lacking herbicides in organic management.

Resolving this contradiction is one of the goals of FiBL agronomy consultants Hansueli Dierauer, Django Hegglin, Daniel Böhler and Maurice Clerc. Over the last two years they created a network of fifteen model farms in the key farming regions, which are to serve as vehicles for promoting reduced tillage in organic agriculture. Through intensive interaction with one another on the occasion of joint seminars and field days, they provide each other with mutual support and work on improving the techniques. Hegglin views these pilot farms as key promoters of progress: “All of these folks are highly motivated farm managers. Most of them have been working for a long time on improvements, and some have even designed or co-designed their own equipment,” states the FiBL agent. Wherever there is a need, he and Dierauer help design experiments. Two techniques are employed, namely: direct drilling and mulch drilling. Strip tillage is considered too labour- and cost-intensive and is therefore not being developed any further for organic agriculture. By far the most demanding, and therefore also the best compensated (250 Swiss francs per hectare plus an additional 400 francs per ha for not using herbicides) technique is direct drilling. Unlike their conventional colleagues, organic farmers do not have a broad spectrum glyphosate-based herbicide at their disposal to “wipe the slate clean” prior to sowing. They therefore need implementations that will mechanically damage the previous crop (for instance a green manure crop) in such a way that it cannot hinder the emergence of the successive crop. This is no easy undertaking, hence Hegglin rates weed control as the number one challenge in reduced tillage systems.

The technique most often used in organic agriculture is mulch drilling. Although it nets a “mere” 150 francs worth...
Reduced tillage spares earthworms. Plant roots can more easily grow down into the soil through earthworm channels.
Ukraine: Developing the organic market in difficult times

Ukraine’s fertile black soil (chernozem) is world-famous and offers optimum conditions for organic agriculture. Since 2004 FiBL has been supporting the development of organic farming in Ukraine on behalf of SECO, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs. This support includes conserving the valuable soil, creating jobs and promoting development in rural regions.

In recent years FiBL has collaborated with the local partner organizations to put in place the necessary market development structures at the production, processing and retail stages and to devise a certification system. In addition FiBL has helped the authorities to establish the statutory frameworks. The aim is both to make it easier for Ukrainian organic arable farms to access the international market and to promote the organic market at home, especially in the dairy products sector.

Owing to the very difficult political and economic situation since 2014, more and more farms are looking to convert to organic methods and to produce for export, as this offers better sales potential. Organic Standard, the local certification organization, which FiBL established on behalf of SECO, reports a record increase in organically produced grain and soya for the 2014 harvest.

The crucial factor for succeeding in the export market, besides advice on cultivation, is first and foremost direct personal contact between producers and international buyers. In this respect it was an important step for Ukrainian producers, processing companies and retailers to have their first joint stand at Biofach 2014, the world’s leading trade fair for organic food, supported by SECO and FiBL. We anticipate that the land area under organic cultivation, currently around 270,000 hectares, will increase substantially in the coming years.

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“Innovations? An insecticide made from oil and chilli peppers, for example”

SYPROBIO stands for diversified biological production systems. In this project mobile phones are just as important as the cooperation between researchers, farmers and development organizations. SYPROBIO focuses on soil fertility as well as on innovations in production technology and improvements in know-how in organic cotton production in West Africa.

How did FiBL get its bid accepted for the SYPROBIO project, which is funded by the EU?

EuropeAid, the EU’s development organization, initially invited tenders for this project directly from research institutes. The invitation focused on food security and the impacts of climate change. We made our submission in close cooperation with the aid organization Helvetas, which has been running organic cotton projects in West Africa since 1999, but as an aid organization did not meet the required profile. Our bid was then accepted in 2010.

What did Helvetas hope to gain from the collaboration with FiBL?

Although the organization has been involved in organic cotton growing for almost twenty years, it has not got to grips with the problem of declining soil fertility. That is why soil fertility is central to our joint submission.

How did you organize the project?

In each of the countries of Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin three partner organizations are working together: the national agricultural research institutes, the national cotton farmers’ organizations and Helvetas.
tional cotton producers’ unions and the local Helvetas programmes. Synergies arise here, because the project can make use of the researchers’ know-how and influence as well as the farming organizations’ value creation programmes.

In the first year we asked around among the farmers to get ideas for innovations. In Mali, for example, we came across a biological insecticide made from oil and chilli peppers that can be produced simply and cheaply on every farm. We also looked at the innovative on-farm crop trials of a range of varieties not bred specifically for organic farming. Then we selected nine innovations in each country and trialled them over two to three years in collaboration with the national research institutes.

How did you go about selecting the farmers?
In each of ten regions (four in Mali and three each in Burkina Faso and Benin) we asked the cooperatives to choose ten farmers to provide a field for on-farm research for a period of three to four years. We had no problem finding farmers to participate: they regard it as an honour to host this project. Meanwhile, on-station research is taking place in the three countries. In the largest trial we are comparing the humus content, yields and other parameters of organic and conventional cultivation systems, based on the model of our long-term DOK (biodynamic, organic and conventional) trial in Switzerland.

Are you achieving a widespread impact with the project?
Yes, there are frequent reports about it in the media as well. We always aim to show that organic cotton is viable, even though it can potentially be attacked by around 2000 insect species. We also had the opportunity, in Burkina Faso in fact, to compare organic cultivation with the cultivation of genetically modified Bt cotton. We haven’t got conclusive results yet, but we can demonstrate that you can achieve a comparable gross margin with organic cotton to that with the production of genetically modified cotton. However, that is only true of farms of up to four hectares; larger farms need additional mechanization for weed control. The necessary equipment is hard to come by, because the normal practice is still to manage the weed problem with herbicides.

How did the collaboration between farmers and researchers go?
The researchers were delighted by how much the farmers know. For their part, the farmers were delighted to receive a visit from researchers; they are usually a rare sight in rural areas, as it is a long way to travel and transport costs are high.

You also work with mobile phones: how are these used?
For just such things as communication between researchers and farmers. For example, a farmer can take a photo of a pest and send it to a researcher, who can then advise him how to control it. We also discovered that farmers use Bluetooth to swap music and entertainment. We tried to capitalize on that by making short information films on topics such as producing organic pesticides and compost and passing them on to our farmers. So we see the main use for phones as being for advisory services and for informing the farmers about the innovations. That means that we can avoid expensive and bureaucratic solutions.

And how successful have you been?
We have found that they shared these films with six other farmers on average, often even with ones who don’t farm organically. Although these farmers are interested in organic farming they don’t want to give up conventional aids. We can hope that in a few years’ time we will have reached 100,000 farmers in the West African region with our new and tested innovations.

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FIBL’s Department of International Cooperation operates in the following areas:

- **Agriculture in the Tropics and Agroforestry Systems:**
  Research and extension in support of environmentally sound farming methods

- **Market Development:**
  Development and support of sustainable business ideas along the value creation chains

- **Policy and Sector Development:**
  Promotion and improvement of statutory and institutional frameworks for high-grade agricultural production

*akr*
Organic and from the region – for sure!

Growth in the organic sector goes hand in hand with an increasing demand for certainty and professionalism. The more popular organic products become, the greater the risk of fraud. While producers can score well on confidence and transparency, this comes at high monetary cost and requires a great deal of expertise. In cooperation with partner institutes, FiBL Germany is working on practical solutions for suppliers to improve the traceability of the goods they offer.

“We are providing specialist support for a whole range of projects around the issue of safety and traceability right throughout the entire value chain from production to inspection”, Rolf Mäder, FiBL Germany’s expert on quality assurance and genetic engineering explains. This begins with the seed. The organicXseeds seed database (www.organicxseeds.de) has been in operation for more than a decade now. It’s an up-to-date platform for anyone offering or looking for organic, non-GM seed and planting material certified to EU Organic Regulation standard. Moreover, a German-language manual entitled "Bioprodukte ohne Gentechnik" (Organic products without genetic engineering) was produced; it outlines how producers and traders can avoid inadvertent contamination of organic products with genetically modified organisms. (www.bioXgen.de).

No genetic engineering through the back door

Critics have termed CMS technology (cytoplasmic male sterility) as "Genetic Engineering Lite". This is a technology used in modern plant breeding which makes it simpler to produce hybrid crop plants, e.g. for cabbage or chicory cultivars. Legal provisions, including the EU Organic Regulation, allow for the use of CMS cultivars and there is no labelling requirement. Growers therefore have no certainty of knowing whether or not seed they buy was produced using this method. German inspection and certification bodies such as Demeter, Bioland and Naturland have voluntarily committed to only using CMS-free seed. To ensure this commitment can be honoured, FiBL Germany developed a database (www.iqseeds.eu) listing cultivars produced without CMS technology. This database helps growers and farmers in selecting suitable cultivars, regardless of whether the seed was produced organically or conventionally. Production is the next step in the food value chain. FiBL has been producing an annual list of permitted agricultural inputs for organic farms in Germany ("Betriebsmittelliste für den ökologischen Landbau in Deutschland") since 2006. This positive list creates transparency and certainty as to the legality of the use of agricultural inputs on organic farms. It includes for example fertilizers, plant protection products, plant tonics and composts (www.betriebsmittelliste.de).

Undoubtedly regional

More and more consumers wish to purchase foods produced and processed in the region in which they reside. FiBL Germany is currently conducting two projects on the efficient assessment of the geographical provenance of foods. Each region experiences very specific growing conditions which are reflected in the foods’ chemical composition. Was this wheat produced in the Taunus region? Did these potatoes grow in the Rhön? Laboratory analyses can already answer these questions with great confidence for some foods. To this end, a database of reference values is required. For the "Wasserzeichen" (Watermark) project reference values were established for a range of foods, from wheat to apples to meats and milk, originating in different, defined regions of the state of Hesse. Thereafter a range of provenance-labelled sample products were purchased at retailers and assessed as to their provenance. The result: "Isotope analysis already allows manufacturers and traders to efficiently check and guarantee a product’s regional origin", Rolf Mäder explains. The downside is that it is quite expensive and onerous to establish the reference data for a region. In a new project called Isotrace a cheaper variant is being trialled. Under this model, producers of provenance-labelled foods submit reference samples which can be used to authenticate random samples of raw materials and products attributed to the same producer.
Onwards and upwards in the value chain we move on to processing: The FiBL list titled "Ökoverarbeitung" (www.oeko-verarbeitung.de) is an aid for processors, allowing them to check, for example, whether disinfectants, auxiliary inputs or additives have been used in the production process in keeping with legal requirements.

**Always up-to-date on certification**

Does my supplier still hold a valid certificate? There have been cases of operators continuing to supply products for six or even twelve months after losing certification. It is for this reason that FiBL Germany in cooperation with a range of organic certifiers and IFOAM is maintaining the bioC directory (www.bioc.info/de). The directory allows processors to check at any time whether their suppliers hold authentic, validated certificates. In a password-protected area, processors and traders can compile supplier lists. If a supplier’s certification status changes, the list owner will receive an e-mail notification to this effect, thus lessening the administrative burden on processors by removing the need to collect and manage certificate copies, and always keeping buyers up-to-date.

**Creating trust**

FiBL Germany has developed a technical solution for complete traceability to ensure certainty across all links in the value chain. It allows for the identification of all those involved in the value chain right back to the producer and also covers composite products such as fruit yoghurts or beer. The all-encompassing system is rigorously used, for example, by the Allgäu-based Feneberg supermarket chain for their regional organic “Von Hier” (From here) product range. The “Bio mit Gesicht” (Organics face to face) initiative (www.bio-mit-gesicht.de) allows consumers to check on who produced their potatoes, beer, or cheese for example and also allows for composite products to be traced right down to the level of individual raw materials. An “Organics face to face” portrait furnished with meaningful photographs gives consumers the opportunity of a virtual visit to the farm holding or processor.

FiBL Germany, in cooperation with its partners, has thus developed into a centre of excellence for quality assurance in the organic food sector. Rolf Mäder summarizes the situation: "Our aim for the future is to establish a comprehensive system of safeguards, based on the components we have already set up, which will allow quality assurance personnel and the certification bodies to efficiently safeguard the value chain.”

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**Activities and projects in the area of quality assurance.**
Diversity at nursery schools

Children are little explorers, as well as being the gardeners, farmers and consumers of tomorrow. That is why the gardening for nursery schools project “Kinder-Garten im Kindergarten – Gemeinsam Vielfalt entdecken” aims to get children excited about nature and species conservation. FiBL Germany has set up a nationwide network of 200 nursery schools.

In a garden designed to approximate natural conditions, children discover the diversity that makes up the plant and animal kingdoms and how in an ecosystem everything is interrelated. Within the network of participating nursery schools the good ideas already in practice are collated and organised to make them available to all interested parties.

The project offers half-day workshops on the topics of gardens, nature study and food to teachers in the network and from nearby nursery schools. The emphasis is on structural measures that are easy to implement and environmentally valuable – from planting a wildflower bed, making a log pile for beetles or constructing a raised vegetable bed to building a wild bee house.

Eating and drinking is about more than just providing nutrients. If children are learning about food, then the best way to go about it is to use all their senses. At the food workshops the participants are given ideas on how to help the children to appreciate the vast array of foods and tastes.

What’s that creepy-crawly? Children want to, and should, experience the diversity of nature without formal teaching. The workshop shows teachers how that can be done, with the focus always on the children’s spirit of discovery.

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There is a monthly newsletter with information about dates of workshops and examples of best practice. For instance, nursery schools in the network report how they have funded their gardens, how they cope with having a bumblebee’s nest right next to the sandpit, or how they are building an insect house.

www.kinder-garten.de
Organic excellence from field to fork

For FiBL Austria the integration of research, advisory services and practice, and the target group-specific preparation of materials, are of equal importance in creating the essential conditions for successful exchange of knowledge.

Knowledge is in the field

For some years the Bionet and MUBIL projects have formed the main pillars of project activities in arable crop production at FiBL Austria. The MUBIL project monitors and analyses the long-term impacts of converting a 140-hectare arable farm with no livestock to organic farming methods. The project involves close cooperation with the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), using selected indicators (soil fertility, nutrient, humus and water balance, species diversity, etc.). This represents important basic research by FiBL Austria, BOKU and their other project partners.

The Bionet training project focuses on an ever-growing network of organic arable farmers and vegetable growers. Working closely with farm managers, consultants and scientists, it examines the latest research findings and farmers' experiences for their practical value, initiates field trials and delivers comprehensive training services (www.bio-net.at). The efficient exchange of knowledge is also a priority for the Biokompetenzzentrum Schlägl centre of organic excellence in Upper Austria, which was founded by FiBL Austria, the Bioschule Schlägl organic school and the school's alumni association. It provides practical training courses and carries out growing trials, the results of which are made available to the Bioregion Mühlviertel eco-region.

Of bees and wildflower strips

One aspect of the project to extend and improve sown wildflower strips and biodiversity areas was to study the suitability of the strips for encouraging pollinating insects. Project manager Peter Meindl and his team conducted a telephone survey of 400 predominantly conventional farms, studied around seventy wildflower strips on thirty farms for their botanical composition and recorded the numbers of individuals and species of wild bees on selected plots. The results show that these areas are often established very half-heartedly and provide too few flowers for wild bees.

In order to develop and optimize these areas, the project team conducted trials of seeds, planting techniques and management of the strips, and developed a "FiBL wildflower strip mixture". Factors in successful cultivation are a higher number of plant species in the wildflower strip, the use of local seed and better distribution of the strips across farmland. FiBL Austria is firmly committed to raising awareness among farmers and plans to use training schemes and information material to provide practical guidance and advice on promoting biodiversity on agricultural land.

Bio-Wissen (organic knowledge): diverse, exciting, unconventional

Organic farming involves not only science, technology and practical skills, but also a philosophy of life and a dietary style. That is why it is complex and knowledge-intensive. Consumers look for reliable information and sound knowledge about organic production. The consumer information team aims to get the special nature of organic farming across at several levels:

In over forty tasting forums to date people were able to taste the special quality of organic foods in a wide range of categories and at varying degrees of processing.

In the Bio-Wissen project, FiBL Austria has been working with cultural scientists and designers for a number of years to create visualizations of agricultural knowledge. A series of sixteen posters, exhibitions, unconventional events and the website www.bio-wissen.org are some of the highlights of the project. Schoolteachers often incorporate the material on the Bio-Wissen website in their lessons, as it deals with relevant issues surrounding organic farming – and beyond - comprehensively and in an original way.

Children and young people are also targeted through a "School of Food" and a project to research individual eating habits.
Bringing science and school closer together was one of the main intentions of the McKioto project, in which pupils, teachers and scientists (BOKU Division of Organic Farming, FiBL Austria, gutessen consulting, Pädagogische Hochschule [University of Education] Vienna) spent an academic year working together on a study of the impacts of young people’s eating habits on health and climate.

The pupils from two Year 8 classes were both the subjects of the research and the researchers in the study. They documented their consumption habits and the cultural framework that influences eating habits. They used questionnaires to ask other pupils about their eating habits, whether they thought that our diet affected the climate, and if so, how. Data was collected from around 800 young people, and the findings were analysed descriptively and discussed. On the basis of the survey, carbon footprints for selected products were calculated and discussed, to establish how individual eating habits impact on the climate and other global aspects of sustainability. A carbon calculator developed by the group allowed a very practical approach to the subject matter. “We can use it with selected foods to identify hotspots of greenhouse gas emissions in food and to calculate simplified individual carbon footprints,” Elisabeth Klingbacher and Theresia Markut, who were responsible for the climate part of the project, explain. The young people gained an insight into scientific evaluation of sustainability and product-related carbon footprinting, with the aim that they will understand the long-term impacts of individual dietary styles at a personal as well as global level. The findings were made public, including in the form of short videos produced by the young people. The project received a 2013 EDUARD Education Award.

The vision of the “Schule des Essens” project is to establish a food studies department in Austrian schools. “We want to make children enthusiastic about sustainable food. No finger-wagging - just lots of ‘eureka moments’ from the enjoyment of trying things, the experience of taste and fascination for good food,” stresses Theres Rathmanner, who is responsible for the project.

In order to allow wider access to the subject of food, the project includes the dimensions of health, the environment, industry and society. The children should cook, taste and enjoy. They should learn how, when and where something grows, what sets organic food apart, how important quality is and how it can be recognized. In an initial one-year phase of the project, existing school activities with similar points of access will be identified, the syllabus and organization of the School of Food drafted and its feasibility assessed.

**Project:** MUBIL (monitoring of the impacts of converting to organic farming);
**Funding:** Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

**Project:** Bionet;
**Funding:** Austrian Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007–13, supported by the Austrian federal government, Austrian provinces and the European Union

**Project:** Development and improvement of requirements under the Austrian Agri-environmental Programme (ÖPUL) project “Wildflower strips and biodiversity areas”;
**Funding:** Austrian Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007–13, supported by the Austrian federal government, Austrian provinces and the European Union

**Project:** McKioto – biocultural diversity, impacts of young people’s eating culture on climate and health;
**Funding:** Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (“Sparkling Science” research programme)

**Projects:** FiBL Tasting Forum, Bio-Wissen, School of Food;
**Funding:** Austrian Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007–13, supported by the Austrian federal government, Austrian provinces and the European Union
Lots of new solutions in the making

In-depth discussions on future pathways for global organic agriculture commenced in 2013 under the title of “Organic 3.0.” FiBL very actively engaged in these debates and even more strongly advanced its international commitment in the areas of research and advice. As a result of FiBL’s creativity and capacity for innovation, lots of tangible new solutions are now in the pipeline. It is due to FiBL’s creative force that 2014 saw the institute become more firmly established in the research community and also saw a strengthening of its financial position.

In 2013, discussions on the future development of the organic sector commenced all over Europe under the title of “Organic 3.0”. These discussions were triggered by the discrepancy between healthy organic sector market growth in many European countries on the one hand, e.g. in Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Germany, and a reluctance of organic farmers in those countries to convert to organic farming on the other hand. Increases in organic imports from Eastern Europe and from developing countries have been evident everywhere, prompting intense discussions on regional production. Similarly, experts became concerned with the minor significance of organic agriculture in developing countries. Would organic farming not be particularly advantageous in the tropics or in dryland areas where sustainable increases in food production could be achieved without the risks associated with industrial-style intensive production? These different contexts brought about an in-depth discussion on future pathways for the sector, and FiBL was in the midst of it, not just in Switzerland but at the global level. The discussions addressed both the rediscovery of traditional farming knowledge and the application of the latest research findings as well as new practical solutions. FiBL’s maxim of “Nature plus high-tech” at times caused some friction in the discussions; the two aspects may appear to be as difficult to reconcile as the “delicatessen niche” with “feeding the world”. While organic agriculture offers good opportunities for both, there are also conflicting challenges to be addressed.

Capacity and consistency

With its 145 scientific and technical staff at the end of 2014, FiBL Switzerland

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Income and expenditure of FiBL Switzerland in 2013 und 2012 (in Swiss Francs)</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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offers strong and comprehensive expertise for the work on Organic 3.0. Many organic farmers are already looking for innovative solutions. FiBL has more tangible new solutions in the making than ever before. FiBL’s consistency and persistence in its work is bearing fruit. However, as a result of the high proportion of project-related funding, FiBL is vulnerable. Only 25% of the institute’s funding are provided by its consecutive four-year performance contracts with the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG). In 2013 for example the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme for research and innovation ended under which FiBL had drawn down significant project funding in competition with numerous European universities. This funding was used, for example, to develop bark and other plant extracts for the natural control of fungal infections in potatoes, grapevine and vegetables, as well as drug-free treatments for gastro-intestinal nematodes in pastured livestock. The FOAG applied to the Swiss parliament for a supplement grant and increased FiBL’s funding – without this, the institute would not have been in a position to continue its work on these and numerous other issues. Further important research partners, such as Coop, also safeguarded FiBL’s research work by providing significant additional funding in 2013. FiBL is most grateful for these investments in its work, not least because it meant that a “brain drain” could be averted and activities did not have to be curtailed.

FiBL’s position in the research community strengthened

The year 2014 was marked by negotiations with the FOAG on FiBL’s future position in agricultural research. This process of clarification was prompted by the submission made by Stefan Müller-Altermatt (of CVP, the Christian Democratic People’s Party of Switzerland) to the National Council of a motion calling for an increase in the federal financial contribution to FiBL. In an FOAG working group it quickly became clear that FiBL’s entrepreneurial dynamic, its great research freedom and creativity offered significant advantages to the Swiss agricultural research community. As a result, the Federal Council decided in December 2014 to continue funding for FiBL and to substantially increase the institute’s baseline funding. As part of the same decision, research and innovation in organic agriculture in general were given a boost – a clear commitment to the Swiss farming sector. Due to its small-scale structures and close linkages with local communities and consumers, organic agriculture is of great benefit to the sector.

Our activities gained greatly from our cooperation with some 300 minor and major donor organizations. It allowed for progress to be made in family farm practices, with manufacturers of environmentally-friendly aids and appliances, in processing and packaging, and in trade in organic products. In addition to the authorities, associations, trusts and companies who provided funding for FiBL’s work, many individuals also contributed. We hold the greatest appreciation for our supporters and patrons and we are also looking at crowdfunding to extend the circle of our private supporters. With the support of many individuals, wild ideas capable of transforming society can be turned into reality!

Urs Niggli,
Director of FiBL Switzerland
### Significant events in 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **January** | - New EU project SOLMACC (Strategies for Organic and Low-input Farming to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change).  
- Start of preliminary work on a modern teaching aid on organic agriculture for agricultural colleges (Bio Suisse, FiBL, Coop and publisher of teaching aids Edition LMZ). |
| **February** | - Establishment of the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM (TIPI) at the occasion of the Biofach organic fair in Nuremberg. Discussion on a global research agenda to support organic agriculture. Urs Niggli and Helga Willer are members of the TIPI board.  
- In Brussels, EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolo and Research Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn launch the new European Innovation Partnership programme at the interface of agricultural research and practice. Urs Niggli is a member of the steering committee.  
- Cooperation agreement between Moroccan organic association Amabio, Ministry of Agriculture and FiBL. |
| **March** | - Negotiations with FOAG and discussion with Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann on the federal contribution. |
| **April** | - Agreement with the Haute école du paysage, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Genève (Hepia) on close cooperation in research and education of horticulturalists specialized on vegetable production. |
| **May** | - Establishment of the company Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) by the "three FiBLs" (Germany, Austria and Switzerland). The company will continue the development of software for sustainability assessments of food and farming operations. |
| **June** | - Signing of the contract with the Korean National Academy of Agricultural Science for a research project on promoting beneficials in fruit production. This is the first FiBL project with a Korean research partner. |
| **July** | - IFOAM organizes the first Organic Leadership Course at FiBL. |
| **August** | - FiBL's 40th anniversary. Open day attracts 4000 visitors.  
- FiBL is co-organizer of the third national agroforestry congress in Bolivia. |
| **September** | - Closing event for the Coop project on sustainable feeding of culinary fish.  
- Joint media conference with UNCTAD in Geneva on the publication of the "Wake Up Before it is Too Late" study on the situation of global agriculture and the environment.  
- Urs Niggli visits Chinese tea research institute in Hangzhou and deepens cooperation agreement. |
| **October** | - Publication of global analysis of the contribution of organic agriculture to climate change mitigation.  
- Fourth Scientific Conference on Organic Agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe (ICOAS) in Hungary, organized by ÖMKI and FiBL. Opening of the conference at the Hungarian Parliament by Dora Drexler and Urs Niggli. |
| **November** | - ProEcoOrganicAfrica project on cost-effectiveness of organic agriculture commences in Ghana and Kenya. |
| **December** | - Publication of results of long-term comparative trial of cotton in India (Madhya Pradesh). |

### Significant events in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong></td>
<td>- FiBL restructuring: The former eight divisions are restructured into six new departments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **February** | - Nine Ukrainian organic companies take part in the Biofach fair in Nuremberg (FiBL's Ukraine project) for the first time.  
- FiBL kicks off the discussion on the future development of organic agriculture (Organic 3.0). Urs Niggli gives presentations on same at a range of conferences and gives interviews to professional journals. |
| **March** | - FAO Ministerial Conference in Budapest on the International Year of Family Farming with a keynote by Urs Niggli. |
| **April** | - For the International Year of Soils (2015) FiBL cooperates with the international Save our Soils campaign. |
| **June** | - FiBL becomes a partner of the journal Agrarforschung Schweiz. |
| **July** | - Successful conclusion to one-week peer review.  
- Publication of comparative study of organically and conventionally produced arable crops in British Journal of Food Science (project managed by the University of Newcastle). |
| **August** | - Conference at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) on on-farm and participatory research in agriculture. |
| **September** | - Swiss TV documentary (SRF) on Bioland Schweiz (Switzerland as a hub of organic farming) with Urs Niggli and others |
| **October** | - Publication of “Food Waste” study commissioned by the FAO.  
- Completion of project on promoting organic agriculture at universities in south-eastern Europe.  
- 18th IFOAM World Congress in Istanbul with numerous presentations by FiBL staff.  
- Annual international conference of manufacturers of organic plant protection products (ABIM) in Basel with 800 participants. |
| **November** | - Federal Councillor Schneider-Ammann presents the results of the FiBL evaluation to the Agricultural Research Council.  
- Joint research conference at Changins by Agroscope and FiBL on organic arable farming. |
| **December** | - Decision by the National Council on the submission by Councillor Stefan Müller-Altermatt of his motion calling for a CHF 3 million increase in the federal financial contribution to FiBL and the provision of a further CHF 2 million for promotion of organic farming research through open invitations to tender.  
- Negotiations with the EU on five new EU projects to run from 2015 onwards. |
Interests and aims of FiBL Switzerland’s Foundation Council members

Martin Ott
President of the FiBL Foundation Council, biodynamic farmer, Stiftung Fintan (Fintan Foundation)
“On the Foundation Council I advocate that FiBL and its staff are provided with the human, financial and infrastructural conditions that it needs for the continuing development of organic agriculture. It should remain a dependable partner for farmers on the key issues of agriculture.”

Urs Brändli
President of Bio Suisse
“As the President of Bio Suisse it is enormously important to me to participate actively in shaping the partnership with FiBL. Together we have already achieved a great deal, but a great deal also remains to be done. As an organic farmer I want to bring in the concerns and wishes of farmers and, at the same time, ensure that practice-based research continues to be pursued directly on the farms.”

Erol Bilecen
Head of Communication for Investment Solutions and Specialist in Sustainable Investments, Notenstein Privatbank AG, Basel

“On the principle that ‘not going forwards is going backwards’ I want to contribute to the continuing development of organic agriculture. This substantive debate under the banner of Organic 3.0 presents an upcoming challenge. Otherwise, constructive dialogue with Migros and consolidation of cooperation on the research side are important matters to me.”

Manfred Bötsch
Head of QM/Sustainability, Federation of Migros Cooperatives
“On the principle that ‘not going forwards is going backwards’ I want to contribute to the continuing development of organic agriculture. This substantive debate under the banner of Organic 3.0 presents an upcoming challenge. Otherwise, constructive dialogue with Migros and consolidation of cooperation on the research side are important matters to me.”

Dr. Peter Felser
Lecturer on branding, consultant, business owner
“Many challenges of our time call for genuine innovations. Top-level research can help to change the world in a positive way. However, for this to happen, it is essential that new insights filter through into practice. FiBL combines solution-focused top-level research and rapid knowledge transfer in an exemplary way.”

Dr. Claudia Friedl
Vice President of the Foundation Council, National Councillor, environmental scientist
“FiBL is the only research centre in Switzerland that has specialized completely in organic agriculture. This is the secret of the high quality of its research. I especially appreciate that aside from its scientific publications, the results are passed on to farmers quickly and comprehensively in the form of technical guidance papers. The financial foundations must continue to be strengthened for the future, including support from public budgets.”

Nikolai Fuchs
Management Board of GLS Treuhand
“On the Foundation Council I advocate sufficient public financing of the work FiBL does with a public-benefit emphasis. Alongside this I am committed to a balanced relationship between scientific research excellence and transdisciplinary research; I consider this mixture to be FiBL’s ‘growth formula’. Last but not least, we on the Foundation Council want to listen carefully to staff concerns; staff motivation is one of FiBL’s valued assets.”

Susanna Küffer Heer
Board of the Demeter Federation Switzerland, the Association for Biodynamic Agriculture and of Demeter International e.V., Member of the Agricultural Research Council
“FiBL is a unique, excellent research institute with a superb reputation which understands how to combine research and practice. For the continuing development of organic agriculture, its comprehensive and forward-looking research is indispensable. This is only possible, however, if FiBL and its staff have the necessary economic resources at their disposal. Ensuring this is one of the tasks of the Foundation Council.”
Rudolf Locher  
*Journalist, nutritional consultant*

“My special interests are the dissemination of knowledge about organic agriculture and raising public awareness of the necessity of this production method, every aspect of which is environmentally sound and conserves soil quality. The same principles apply to species-appropriate livestock management and consumer-friendly marketing.”

Dr. Urs Gantner  
*President of Bioterra*

“As a member of the Foundation Council it is important to me that FiBL develops sustainable and practically relevant solutions for the agricultural and food sector in general and the organic sector in particular. In that regard it is especially relevant that the Foundation Council and FiBL periodically rethink their research and implementation strategies, and reaffirm or reorientate them in response to changing external conditions. For FiBL should stay at the forefront of research, development and implementation!”

Rolf Gerber  
*Head of the Landscape and Nature Office of the Canton of Zurich*

“I speak up for the interests and needs of consumers in Zurich, Switzerland’s most highly populated Canton. The Canton of Zurich has always been an important supporter of organic agriculture. Furthermore I want to make an important contribution to optimizing FiBL’s allocation of work in coordination with the Agroscope research organization, the agricultural schools and the Agridea extension service. Along with others I help to ensure that FiBL receives the necessary resources to be operated on a healthy financial basis.”

Dr. Rolf Gerling  
*President of the Gerling Foundation*

“At FiBL the future of organic agriculture is taking shape right now. Far from sticking to a narrow focus, its approach encompasses many different fields of knowledge. Thus, thinking and acting within complex systems is becoming a key strategy. Furthermore, FiBL must be largely self-financing. All together, that is a major challenge which deserves support.”

Dr. Ulrich Siegrist  
*Former Canton of Aargau State Councillor, former National Councillor*

Dr. Felix Wehrle  
*Projects for the CEO, Coop*

“Organics are successful in the long run if large numbers of consumers consciously choose organics. Therefore at FiBL we mainly commission research projects which contribute to the quality and enjoyment of foods and/or open up new sources supplying organic quality produce. It follows that the linkage of research and practical implementation is especially important to me on the Foundation Council.”
Clients and donors of FiBL Switzerland 2012/2013

Administration des Services, LU-Luxembourg
AGNI, Remetschwil
AGNI, Schinzach
AGRANA, AT-Pichelsdorf
AGRANA, AT-Vienna
Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft GmbH, Bonn
Agridia, Lausanne
Alnatura, DE-Bickenbach
Amann Werner, Gontenschwil
Amt für Landwirtschaft, Pfäffikon
Amt für Umwelt und Energie, St. Gallen
Andermatt Biocontrol AG, Grossdietwil
ARGE FiBL Türkei, Frankfurt
Arima B.V, NL-Helmond
Balsinger M., Riggisberg
Barilier J.P., Romanel
Barry Callebaut, BE-Lebbeke
BBZ Arenenberg, Salenstein
Beratungs- und Gesundheitsdienst für Kleinwiederkäuer (BGK), Herzogenbuchsee
Berner Fachhochschule, Zollikofen
Bezirksgericht, Arlesheim
Bio Austria, AT-Linz
Bio Austria, AT-Vienna
Bio Genève, Bellevue
Bio Austria, AT-Vienna
Bio Genève, Vandoeuvres
Bio Grischun, Scharans
Bio-Suisse, Basel
Bio.inspecta, Frick
Biofarm Genossenschaft, Kleindietwil
Bioland e.V., DE-Augsburg
Bioland e.V., DE-Mainz
BiomaschinenFabrik, Adliswil
Bundesamt für Berufsbildung und Technologie (BBT), Bern
Bundesamt für Energie, Bern
Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft (BLW), Bern
Bundesamt für Umwelt (BAFU), Bern
Bundesamt für Veterinärwesen (BVET), Bern
Bundeskasse, DE-Halle
Cambridge Ltd., GB-Cambridge
Canton de Vaud, Morges
Centre de Recherche, Belvaux
Centre de Recherche, Contreux
Centro Inderdipartimentale, IT-Pisa
CFPPA, FR-Montmorot
CFPPA, FR-Rouffach
CIP, Peru
Comvet.ch, Kloten
Coop Genossenschaft, Basel
CSCF, Neuenburg
Departement Volkswirtschaft und Inneres, Aarau
Departement Volkswirtschaft und Inneres, Glarus
Desbiolles P. & Ph., Meierin
Dienststelle für Landwirtschaft, Sion
Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA), Bern
Domaine de la Treille, Fouenex
EAG, Sursee
Eidgenössisches Institut für geistes Eigentum, Bern
EPFL, Lausanne
Estonian Waste, EE-Tallinn
ETH, Zurich
European Commission, BE-Brussels
European Consortium, Frick
Evolvo SA, Reinach
Executive Agency for Plant Variety, BG-Sofia
Fachstellen Landwirtschaft, Grčânien
FAO, IT-Rome
Fenaco, Puidoux
FiBL Deutschland, DE-Frankfurt
FiBL Österreich, AT-Vienna
FiBL Projekte GmbH, DE-Frankfurt
Flemish Government, LU-Brussels
Fondation Philanthropia, Lausanne
Fondation Rurale Interjurassienne, Loveresse
Fondation Sur-la-Croix, Basel
Fruhre GmbH, Buchs
Fruhre GmbH, Felben
Gartenbauamt, St. Gallen
Gärtnerei Gensetter, Landquart
Gauch A. & B., Niederwil
Gemeinde Arlesheim
Gesellschaft für Ressourcenschutz, DE-Göttingen
GFA Consulting Group GmbH, DE-Hamburg
GIZ GmbH, DE-ESchborn
Global Sustainability AG, Lucerne
Greencef, Zurich
Gut Rheinau, Rheinau
GVZ Rossat AG, Oetingen
Hauert AG, Grossaffoltern
Helmholtzzentrum, Neuerberg
Hiscia, Verein für Krebsforschung, Arlesheim
HIVOS, DK-Den Haag
Hofmann AG, Butzberg
IBLA Luxemburg, LU-Munsbach
IBMA, Basel
IFOAM, DE-Bonn
IGCP, PT-Lisbon
Imhofbio AG, Volketswil
Imhofbio, Schwerzenbach
Impact Events Inc., USA
Inforama Rütti, Zollikofen
INRA, FR-Nantes
INRA, FR-Paris
Institut for Agricultural, BE-Merelbeke
Institute for Sustainable Development, SI-Ljubljana
IP-Suisse, Zollikofen
Isara, FR-Lyon
ISCB Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology, Lausanne
Kalkfabrik Netstal AG, Netstal
Kantonale Psychiatrische Dienste, Wil
KIKOM, Bern
Knecht Max, Vouvy
Kysil Andrii, UA-Kiev
Landwirtschaftliche Schule Strickhof, Lindau
Landwirtschaftliches Zentrum Ebenrain, Sissach
Landwirtschaftsamt, Glarus
Landwirtschaftsamt, Neuhausen
Landwirtschaftsamt, St. Gallen
LBBZ Schleuchthof, Cham
LED, FL-Vaduz
Liegenhschaftsamt St. Gallen
Life Circle Nutrion, Wangen
Louis Bolk Institut, NL-Driebergen
Mäder Kräuter, Boppelsen
MAVA Fondation pour la Nature, Montricher
Meier Hanspeter, Full
Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, Zurich
Ministry of Agriculture, BG-Sofia
Naturkost Weber, DE-Munich
ORC Elm Farm, GB-Newbury
Papst AG, Hefenhofen
Philipp A., Zuckenriet
Pro Natura, Basel
ProSpecieRara, Aarau
PROTABACO AG, Burg
PSR, St. Gallen
Rathgeb Biolog AG, Unterstammheim
RHI International, Zurich
Ricola AG, Laufen
Rural, South Korea
S.C.KDF Energy, RO-Bucharest
Sahli Fritz, Uettligen
Sampo, Initiative zur Förderung anthroposophischer Forschung und Kunst, Domnach
Sandoz, AT-Kundl
SAV, Bern
Schaette GmbH, DE-Bad Waldsee
Schöni Finefood, Oberbipp
Schweizer Bauer, Bern
Schweizer Braunvieh Genossenschaft, Zug
Schweizer Nationalfonds (SNF), Bern
Schweizerische Vogelwarte, Sempach
Scuola Sant’Anna, IT-Pisa
Scuola Superiore, IT-Pisa
Service Public Wallonie (SPW), BE-Namur
SLU, SE-Uppsala
SMGP, Lucerne
SMGP, Wädenswil
SNV-Netherlands, AL-Tirana
Software AG, DE-Darmstadt
Soil Association, GB-Bristol
SÖL, DE-Bad Dürkheim
SPW, BE-Namur
Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft (SECO), Bern
Stadtgärtnerei, Basel
Stadtgärtnerei, Lucerne
Stadtplanungsamt, St. Gallen
Ställer Suisse SA, Zofingen
Staldler R., Vanoise
Stiftung Avina, Hurden
Stiftung Binding, Basel
Stiftung BioRe, Rotkreuz
Stiftung Corymbio, Uetliberg
Stiftung Dreiklang, Basel
Stiftung Endress, Reinach
Stiftung Ernst Göhner, Zug
Stiftung für Eidgenössische Zusammenarbeit, Solothurn
Stiftung für Menschen mit Behinderung, Stein
Stiftung Gerling, Zurich
Stiftung Haldimann, Aarau
Stiftung Mahle, DE-Stuttgart
Stiftung Malou, Zurich
Stiftung Mava, Gland
Stiftung Mercator Schweiz, Zurich
Stiftung Pancavis, FL-Vaduz
Stiftung Parrotia, Zurich
Stiftung Paul Schiller, Laden
Stiftung Singenberg, Basel
Stiftung Werner Steiger, Untersiggenthal
Stiftung zur internationalen Erhaltung der Pflanzenvielfalt, Brumen
Stiftung zur Pflege von Mensch, Mitwelt und Erde, Münsingen
Strafin Foundation, Basel
SubtainTec GmbH, Frick
Swissgenetics. Zollikofen
Swisssem Saatgut Produzenten-Verband, Delley
Swissser GmbH, Uster
SZV, Bern
SZZV, Bern
The Progressive Farming Trust, GB-Newbury
Thünen Institut, DE-Braunschweig
Troyan Cherry LTD, BG-Debnevo
Unitpoint AG, Ossingen
United Nations Office, Geneva
Universidad de Barcelona, ES-Barcelona
Universita Rome, IT-Rome
Universtita Ancona, IT-Ancona
Universität Hannover, DE-Hannover
Universität Hohenheim, DE-Stuttgart
Universität Innsbruck, AT-Innsbruck
Universität Kassel, DE-Grebenstein
Universität Kassel, DE-Witzenhausen
Universität Lausanne, Lausanne
Universität Vienna AT-Vienna
Universität Arhus, DK-Arhus
University Estonian, EE-Tartu
University Newcastlge, GB-Newcastle
University of Wageningen, NL-Wageningen
Verein biologischer Produkte, NL-Zeist
Verein Bio-Ostschweiz, Flawil
Verein Fair-Fisch, Winterthur
Verein für biologisch-dynamische Landwirtschaft, Liestal
Veterinärmedizinische Universität, AT-Vienna
Videncentret, DK-Aarhus
Vier Pfoten, AT-Vienna
Vier Pfoten, Zurich
Ville de Lausanne, Lausanne
Vogt Obstbau, Remigen
VSGP, Bern
Vykumy Ustav Rostl., CZ-Prague
Weleda AG, Arlesheim
Weleda, DE-Schwäbisch-Gmünd
Zalf, Müncheberg
Zeltner E., Niederbuchsiten
ZHAW, Wädenswil
Zuckerforschung Tulln GmbH, AT-Tulln
Zweton Georgie, Lugano
Direction and administration

From left: Urs Niggli (Director), Dominique Barjolle (Deputy Director), Beat Droll, Sabine Götschi, Stefan Williner, Carmen Winter, Rudolf Rickenbach, Carolin Möller, Anne Merz, Erika Bayer, Stefanie Leu, Roman Friedrich, Beat Rickenbacher. Missing: Erkut Agac, Ulrich Hoffmann.

Restaurant and conference centre


FiBL Farm and wine production

From left: Alfred Schädeli, Lina Suter, Samuel Martin, Bronya Dehlinger, Philip Gallati, Andreas Tuchschmid, Dominik Schaffner.

Department of Soil Sciences


Department of Crop Sciences

Department of Livestock Sciences


Department of Socio-Economic Sciences


Department of Extension, Training and Communication


Department of International Cooperation

Education from 2012 to 2014

Internships
Alexandridou Lisa
Armangot Laura
Arndt Marie
Ayrle Hannah
Ballesteros Redondo Maria Isabel
Barendegt Christoph
Baumgartner Livia
Baumgartner Micha
Bautze David
Bautze Liv
Beerli Olivia
Bickel Samuel
Boisbras Angèle
Borràs Gelonch Gisela
Brainard Scott
Braun Thomas
Buser Andrea
Castro Castro Iria
Cravero Virginia
De Goff Ulysse
De Gregorio Julia
Dezsény Zoltán
Dorn Katharina
Emmert David
Fenn Alexander
Flubacher Moritz
Gerber Barbara
Graas Noémie
Gratteau Laurette
Grohmann Markus
Grohmann Marlene
Hauenstein Samuel
Hertig Tal
Hobi Andrea
Hofer Sheila
Hong Sung Jun
Hudelist Philipp
Janz Céline
Kaplan Friederike
Keck Hannes
Kreuzer Sarah
Kündig Christoph
Lèbre Amélie
Léchot Jonas
Lee Byungmo
Ly Jeannine
Marbach Simone
Mark Jennifer
Martinez Haruco Uechi
Mátray Silvia
Maureaud Clémentine
Möller Carolin
Mosimann Carla
Mutschler Lisa Maria
Nae Seo Sung
Navájos Cheyenne
Nepužlan Jana
Paláez Sarah
Pancheco Matilla Enrique David
Park Jongho
Richner Dominik
Rossier Raphaël
Rudin Sophia
Rudolf von Rohr Ramona
Saratsis Anastasios
Schmid Fabian
Schranner Marissa
Seitz Benjamin
Shim Chang-Ki
Studerus Kevin
Tanquerey-Cado Anaëlle Tkaczick Ann Christin
Tonni Claudia
Wenzel Leonore
Wondermagengehu Bekele
Eshetu
Wurtz Marion

Students producing diploma thesis
Bachmann Florian
Baumgartner Anne-Cathrin
Beerli Anna
Bischoff Tinetta
Bougoûin Hélène
Bradley Kathinka
Bulliard Sarah
Buol Amanda
Cravero Virginia Maria
Dallo Aline
Dom Katharina
Govednik Anton
Graas Noemi
Häfliger Janine
Hobi Andrea
Hofer Veronika
Hofmeijer Merel
Holzner Laura
Jacquot Grégoire Jorch Veronica
Kaspar Michael
Kochlik Bastian
Kreft Cordelia Sophie
Kuntz Marianne
Lehmann Katrin
Lorimer Matthias
Mair Lisa
Mannigel Christiane
Margreiter Simon
Marty Laura
Meier Rahel
Mertenat Doréane
Millner Dominik
Moos Sebastian
Mosimann Carla
Mosimann Pia
Niedermann Silvana
Nigsch Laura
Ostermaier Miriam
Reuge Stefan
Reussler Jolanda
Ries Elke
Rissi Marion
Rüegg Johanna
Schenk Isabel
Schmalz Hanna
Schmidt Uta
Schmitt Emilia
Schulz Veronika
Schwab Seraina
Schwegler Patrizia
Schweizer Steffen
Siegenthaler Martina
Spengler Muriel

Student guests
Aebischer Alice
Chapalay Isabelle
Grand Gregor
Horvat Andreja
Kollmann Stefanie
Krug Uwe
Müller Emanuel
Munyangabe Adolphe
Nussbaumer Meryl
Ramel Christina
Roggli Martin
Steinemann Beatrice
Thiers Katharina
Tschanz Anna
Walder Florian
Weiss Eduard

Trainees
Agac Erkut
Schaffner Dominik
van der Molen Milena

Visiting Scientists
Bonefeld Peterson Majbritt
Hansen Sissel
Jacobi Johanna
Mayer Maria
Verma Rajeev
Stocker Christian

Community services
Ackermann Nick
Basler Andreas
Urech Christian
Networks facilitate optimum utilization of knowledge, resources and personnel. In cases where FiBL coordinates such cooperation we can offer our clients “one-stop-shop” services. Our experience with this kind of networking has been very good over the years and we can rightly say that teamwork is our strength. We differentiate between networking at the following levels:

- Informal networks are not assured through contractual agreements and are not always visible from the outside. Nonetheless such networks can be very successful and marked by strong commitment. A handshake agreement with a partner one has known for years or even decades and whom one trusts can create as binding a commitment as a multi-page contract.

- Formal networks without new legal structures, a good example of which is the FiBL network itself: there is close and continuous cooperation between the institutes in Switzerland, Austria and Germany respectively. They are also connected by their common name and joint vision, without there being a higher level legal structure. Another such example is the Network for Practical Research in Organic Farming (Verbund Ökologische Praxisforschung VÖP) which was jointly established by the Foundation Ecology & Agriculture (Stiftung Ökologie & Landbau, SÖL) and the organic associations Bioland, Deme-

### Networks: Teamwork for success

FiBL Germany often deals with projects encompassing several links of the value chain. Such tasks can best be addressed if we establish networks with other players in the sector.

### Income and expenditure of FiBL Germany (FiBL Deutschland e.V. and FiBL Projekte GmbH)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FiBL Deutschland e.V.</th>
<th>FiBL Deutschland e.V.</th>
<th>FiBL Projekte GmbH</th>
<th>FiBL Projekte GmbH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and development</td>
<td>1’498’012</td>
<td>1’627’211</td>
<td>691’831</td>
<td>917’820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>28’977</td>
<td>5’274</td>
<td>216’330</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
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<td>1’632’485</td>
<td>691’831</td>
<td>1’134’150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Personnel expenses</td>
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<td>823’894</td>
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<td>291’675</td>
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<td>704’774</td>
<td>410’603</td>
<td>712’773</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premises, offices supplies, other administration expenses, IT and advertising</td>
<td>179’112</td>
<td>92’432</td>
<td>24’563</td>
<td>109’960</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>10’350</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>1’204</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
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<td>1’631’450</td>
<td>678’809</td>
<td>1’115’612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating result</strong></td>
<td>9’498</td>
<td>1’035</td>
<td>13’022</td>
<td>18’538</td>
</tr>
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</table>
The objectives of this network are to coordinate research activities and to improve knowledge transfer from the research community to the farming sector and vice versa.

Networks with new structures. Especially when there is a need to set out rights and obligations within a network with a business orientation, the formation of a limited liability company, i.e. a GmbH in the German context, is warranted. FiBL Projekte GmbH is of particular significance in this context. The business activities of the non-profit FiBL e.V. were transferred into this company so as not to compromise the association’s charitable status. The shareholders include FiBL, SÖL and the organic associations Bioland, Demeter and Naturland. FiBL Germany and FiBL Switzerland both hold a 13 percent share in the Bio mit Gesicht GmbH (Organics face to face), with the other shareholders being Naturland, Marktgesellschaft der Naturland Betriebe, Bioland Markt, Bioland, Demeter, tegut..., Feneberg and ecocinform. The objective of “Organics face to face” is to use the internet to generate transparency as to the provenance of organic products, their production and processing.

FiBL Germany in cooperation with its sister organizations in Switzerland and Austria established sfs Sustainable Food Systems Society GmbH which is going to be a service provider in the field of sustainability assessment. FiBL Switzerland holds 55 percent of sfs shares, with the remainder being equally shared by FiBL Austria and FiBL Germany. While FiBL only holds 14 percent of bioC GmbH, its offices are co-located with FiBL in Frankfurt, Germany. bioC GmbH maintains a directory of certified organic operators. Its customers can compile password-protected supplier lists and can consult the bio-C directory to check whether a supplier holds a valid certificate.

The Regio.Marketing GmbH was established with a view to offering services in the area of regional marketing. Its shareholders are FiBL Projekte GmbH (40%), the marketing company Gutes aus Hessen (40%) and Regionalfenster e.V. (10%).

It is a significant challenge, given these diverse structures, to generate synergies and ensure that the overall structure acts in concert. It is for this reason that the activities are under the central control of FiBL Deutschland e.V. (FiBL Germany), the executive board of which represents a major proportion of the organic food industry and the organic farming research community. Moreover, when managerial positions are filled, care is taken to ensure that the person hired is concerned not just with the well-being of the individual company but works towards the benefit of the structure as a whole.

Robert Hermanowski,
Managing Director, FiBL Germany

### Significant events in 2013

| January | Contract awarded for the trainee programme. |
| February | Regionalfenster (a label for food of regional provenance) at the Biofach fair. |
| March | Organizational support for the Wissenschaftstagung Ökologischer Landbau, the German-language scientific conference on organic agriculture, in Bonn. |
| April | Bioland, Demeter and Naturland become shareholders in FiBL Projekte GmbH. |
| May | The Kinder-Garten im Kindergarten project (Children’s garden at the kindergarten) commences. |
| June | Continuation of the “Pastures of the Wetterau” project |
| July | First PhD completed at FiBL Germany: Dr. Albrecht Flake. |
| August | KonKom project on training and staff development for organic inspectors commenced. |
| September | Presentation of results of evaluation of the Regionalfenster label in Berlin. |
| October | Commencement of Wasserzeichen (Watermark) project |
| November | Presentation of SMART tool at a special event held at the Ökohaus Frankfurt. |
| December | EU Project SOLMACC and project on climate mitigation on organic farms commenced. |

### Significant events in 2014

| January | Re-launch of organicXseeds completed. |
| March | FiBL Deutschland e.V. becomes a member of the German Agricultural Research Alliance (DAFA). |
| April | Won tender for Tierschutz-Kompetenzzentrum (Centre of Excellence in Animal Welfare). |
| May | Forum on regional marketing in Saxony. |
| July | Practitioners’ day in Lower Franconia. |
| August | Project on cleaning and hygiene management commenced. |
| September | Grant application approved for support facility for organic plant breeding research. |
| October | Won tender for training programmes in food production. |
| November | Establishment of Regio.Marketing GmbH. |
Dr. Alexander Gerber
CEO of Demeter e.V.

“Organic agriculture and organic food represent sustainable innovations. Farming practice needs strong service providers and partners for research and development projects. This is where FiBL plays a prominent role. On the FiBL Board I speak from the perspective of Demeter farmers, processors and traders in order to support FiBL in its strategic approach to questions about the future.”

Jörg Große-Lochmann
Managing Director of Marktgesellschaft mbH, part of Naturland Betriebe

“Organic agriculture’s competence to solve our society’s problems can best be developed if organic farming and practice-oriented research join forces to contribute effectively to dialogue within society. FiBL plays a central part here in terms of both its competence and its network.”

Jan Plagge
Bioland President

“Supporting FiBL, the largest institutional network of private organic agriculture research worldwide, and taking responsibility for its future are my interests. The more significant organic agriculture becomes in society, the reader the organic movement must be to answer questions about the future, from systemic questions to the use of new technologies. For this we need a research institute with international aspirations and an international network, working jointly with stakeholders to develop answers for Organic 3.0.”

Wolfgang Gutberlet
Chair of the Supervisory Board of W-E-G Stiftung & Co., KG

“Organic is the only quality designation that not only evaluates the finished product but also pays due regard to how it was produced. For this reason, FiBL’s research fills an important gap. For we are increasingly conscious of the influence of species-appropriate production on quality, in its impact on our vitality and on that of animals and plants.”

Beate Huber
FiBL Switzerland, Head of Department of International Cooperation

“Organic agriculture provides approaches to improve food security and to combat poverty and undernourishment in developing countries and emerging economies. My interest is that FiBL enhances this potential of organic agriculture.”

Prof. Dr. Urs Niggli
Director of FiBL Frick, Chairman of the Board

“The networking of FiBL’s three entities is a major interest of mine. It is our privilege as a private institute to be able to pull together across borders towards our common aims.”

Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann
Director of the Institute for Organic Farming at the Thünen Institute, President of ISOFAR, member of the World Board of IFOAM

“I like to bring the viewpoint of government-department research into Board discussions and be a reliable partner in furthering the progress of organic farming. This calls for more resources, and strategic alliances which function on the basis of trust.”

Dr. Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein
Chairman of the Board of the German Organic Food Industry Federation BÖLW, farmer

“In view of the low level of resources that have been dedicated to research into organic agriculture and food production in recent decades, it is likely that our production practices still offer considerable undiscovered development potential. FiBL must lead the way with projects which build networks among researchers from a wide range of disciplines and farming practitioners. And it must contribute to giving such projects more weight within the breadth of agricultural research.”

Dr. Uli Zerger
Executive Director of the Foundation Ecology & Agriculture

“Our most important goal of the next few years, as I see it, is the task of strengthening and improving efforts towards the future sustainability of organic agriculture. We urgently need to come up with new yet convincing solutions for responding to society’s expectations of agriculture.”
Clients and donors of FiBL Deutschland e.V.

A
Verdis Rainer Roehl & Dr. Carola Strassner GbR, Münster
Abtei Münsterschwarzach, Münster-
Anja Erhart Agentur für Ernährungsfragen, Frankfurt am Main
ARGE FiBL Türkei, Frankfurt am Main
Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelher-
steller e.V., Bad Brückenau

B
Behinderten-Werk Main-Kinzig e.V.,
Gelnhausen
Bio mit Gesicht GmbH, Frankfurt am Main
bioc GmbH, Frankfurt am Main
Biokreis e.V., Verband für ökologischen
Landbau und gesunde Ernährung, Passau
Bioland Beratung GmbH, Mainz
Bioland e.V., Mainz
Biopark e.V., Güstrow
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wirtschaft e.V., Berlin
Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Bonn
Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und
Ernährung, Bonn
Bundesministerium für Ernährung und
Landwirtschaft, Bonn
Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit, Berlin
Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren e.V., Berlin
Büro Lebensmittelkunde & Qualität, Bad Brückenau

D
Demeter e.V., Darmstadt
Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, Osnabrück
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Bonn
Deutscher Sojaförderung beim Landw. Technologiezentrum Augustenberg
E
coland e.V., Wolpertshausen
ECOVIN Bundesverband Ökologischer Weinbau e.V., Oppenheim
Europäische Kommission, Brussels
Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V., Gülzow-Prüzen
FiBL Projekte GmbH, Frankfurt am Main
Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau, Frick
Gäa e.V. - Vereinigung ökologischer Landbau, Dresden
Greenpeace e.V., Hamburg

H
HA Hessen Agentur GmbH, Wiesbaden
Hessisches Ministerium für Umwelt, Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz, Wiesbaden
Hoehenschule für nachhaltige Entwicklung Eberswalde, Eberswalde
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements EU Group, Brussels
Landwirtschaftskammer Nordrhein-Westfalen, Münster

M
map: public relations GmbH, Bonn
Marktgemeinschaft mbH der Naturland Betriebe, Hohenkammer
MGH GUTES AUS HESSEN GmbH, Friedberg

N
Naturkost Ernst Weber, München
Naturland – Verband für ökologischen Landbau e.V., Gräfelfing
Öko-BeratungsGesellschaft mbH, Hohenkammer
Regierung von Unterfranken, Würzburg
Regionalenstler e.V., Friedberg
riha WeserGold Getränke GmbH & Co. KG, Rinteln

S
Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft, Dresden
Software AG-Stiftung, Darmstadt
St. Josefshaus Herten, Rheinfelden
Stiftung Nieder-Ramstäder-Diakonie, Mühltal
Stiftung Ökologie & Landbau, Bad Dürkheim
Stiftung Warentest, Berlin

U
Universität Göttingen, Göttingen
Verbund ÖkoHöfe e.V., Stadt Wanzleben-Börde
Wetteraukreis, Friedberg
Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft, Bochum
FiBL Austria is a non-profit association and is funded exclusively through projects and the provision of services. Economically, 2012 was a positive year with income in the order of € 948,000 and expenditure of about € 936,000. In the 2013 financial year, income and expenditure came to € 960,635 and € 962,425 respectively.

Since 2005, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management has been funding projects in the areas of innovation, research and education. The state governments of Lower Austria and Upper Austria as well as the Chamber of Agriculture of Lower Austria supported education and on-farm research for the advancement of crop production methods and for research into aspects of livestock feeding in organic systems. Sustainability assessments of foods were funded by private clients while public sector funding was made available for work on promoting biodiversity with the aid of flowering strips for beneficials as well as on more general aspects of organic agriculture.

We would like to express our gratitude to our public sector clients at the federal and state levels, the food retail trade, the Chambers of Agriculture, and the organic farming bodies. We are also very grateful to our Swiss and German colleagues for their active support of FiBL Austria.

Andreas Kranzler, Managing Director FiBL Austria

### Income and expenditure of FiBL Austria in 2012 and 2013 (in Euros)

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<td>Income</td>
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<td>Research and innovation</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
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<td>Expenditure on personnel</td>
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<td>Operating result</td>
<td>11,437</td>
<td>–1,790</td>
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### Significant events in 2013

- **February**: Bionet: Symposium on flowering strips for beneficials and symposium on grain legumes; Project on sustainability in the AMA Quality Seal programme (Nachhaltigkeit im AMA-Gütestiegelprogramm): Completion of Part 1, Qualitative assessment of existing AMA Quality Seal standards and production rules with a view to sustainability.
- **April**: EDUARD 2013 Education Award for the McKioto project.
- **May**: CORE Organic project IMPROVE-P (improved phosphorus resource efficiency in organic agriculture) commences.
- **June**: Closing event of the McKioto project; MUBIL field day: Results on winter wheat and nature conservation.
- **September**: 20th FREILAND Conference on “The freedom to exercise good animal husbandry”.
- **October**: MUBIL field day: Soil fertility on an organic crop farm; Symposium Biodiversity Assessment on Agricultural Farms.
- **November**: Bionet seminar on arable farming.
- **December**: 2013 Bionet conference on vegetable production; Publication on the macro-economic benefits of organic agriculture for Austria; Project on sustainability in AMA Quality Seal programme (Nachhaltigkeit im AMA-Gütestiegelprogramm): Completion of Part 2: Key areas and measures for greater sustainability in the AMA Quality Seal programme.

### Significant events in 2014

- **January**: Concluding workshop with farmers on biodiversity as part of the EU project SOLID.
- **February**: Bionet symposium on organic soy; Final project report on the further development and improvement of existing conditions for sown wildflower strips and biodiversity areas under the Austrian agri-environmental programme (ÖPUL).
- **March**: Website re-launch: www.bio-wissen.org; Schule des Essens (Culinary school) project commences.
- **April**: Project activities commence in the area of sustainability assessments with a socio-economic and regional focus.
- **May**: Launch of website for Biokompetenzzentrum Schlägl www.biokompetenzzentrum.at.
- **June**: Concluding event in the Haubensache Bio series of exclusive organic culinary events.
- **August**: Sustainability assessment of horticultural operations using the FiBL SMART tool.
- **September**: 21st FREILAND Conference on “Animal husbandry and enrichment”.
- **October**: 2014 Bionet conference on vegetable production; Presentation of MUBIL project results.
- **December**: 10th anniversary of FiBL Austria; Sustainability assessment of tillage farms in Upper Austria using the SMART tool.
Prof. Dr. Werner Zollitsch  
*Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Chairman of the Board of FiBL Austria*  
“I am convinced that common efforts by research and practice are necessary for the continuing development of organic agriculture. FiBL assumes important functions in this regard: applied research projects produce knowledge directly, which is implemented practically. The continuation and development of the functions that FiBL carries out in this area are especially important to me.”

Eva Hieret  
*Organic farmer*  
“My task at FiBL Austria is to bring in farmers’ viewpoints and to help develop and inspire creative new ideas in the interplay between organic agriculture – research – rural development and social work on the farm.”

Mag. Andreas Kranzler  
*Director of FiBL Austria*  
“My task at FiBL Austria is to make organic agriculture in Austria part of international networks. We would like to lay the foundations to support the exchange of knowledge, experience and interests between farmers, researchers and consumers.”

Dr. Urs Niggli  
*Director of FiBL Switzerland*  
“Currently there is mounting excitement over the modernization of organic agriculture under the catchword ‘Organic 3.0’. The three FiBL organizations can contribute to this by means of their innovative projects.”

Alexandra Pohl  
*Quality Management at the firm Landgarten*  
“Organic agriculture is dynamic – and FiBL keeps it dynamic. Over the years it has dealt with far-reaching themes which include all aspects of organic production and their importance for solving societal problems, and which also serve as a basis for political decisions.”

Martin Preineder  
*Federal Councillor, Head of the LFI Rural Training Institute, Lower Austria*  
“In years to come, FiBL should continue to fulfil its bridging function between practice and research. I would like to encourage and support developments and establish and improve contact with state organizations.”

Dr. Elisabeth Stöger  
*Veterinarian*  
“FiBL makes the connection between science and practice, and I therefore give my full backing to the work of FiBL Austria. The theme of sustainability is highly relevant now and creates the opportunity to take a look at the complex factors that influence production.”

Mag. Josef Renner  
*Director of Bio Ernte Steiermark, the Styrian organic farmers’ organization*  
“My greatest interest is to further the development of organic agriculture by building networks among the most diverse organic organizations. Thanks to my work on the Board of FiBL Austria, I see the possibility of forging a stronger link between Bio Ernte Steiermark, the Styrian chamber of commerce and FiBL. In Styria we are planning to establish an ‘organic impulse hub’ for farmers and consumers at the Alt Grottenhof organic agricultural school. In this enterprise I hope for strong cooperation with FiBL within the framework of joint projects.”

Gerhard Zoubek  
*Organic farmer*  
“On our organic farm in the Vienna metropolitan area we run a direct marketing operation by delivering organic boxes to subscribers and attending markets. This keeps us in very close contact with consumers. We are also connected with them through our commitment to sustainable agriculture that will serve future generations, and equally sustainable forms of marketing. As a FiBL Board member I would like to work for the ongoing development of these objectives nationally as well as internationally.”
Staff of FiBL Austria

Management

Biokompetenzzentrum Schlägl
At the Biokompetenzzentrum Schlägl centre of excellence for organic farming, which is co-located with the Bioschule Schlägl organic agricultural college in Upper Austria, the emphasis is on applied research.

Sustainability Assessment and Climate Protection
The Sustainability Assessment and Climate Protection Team analyses and assesses aspects of sustainability in food production and identifies potential for optimization. As part of life-cycle assessments of food products, the team identifies areas where action is needed, from production right through to trade. They also determine where savings and reductions can be achieved, e.g. with respect to greenhouse gas emissions and water usage. Moreover, the team analyses the biodiversity potential of agricultural holdings.

Crop and Vegetable Production
The Crop and Vegetable Production Team addresses topics with strongly practical applications. The team is working on a very diverse range of projects in arable crop and vegetable production in the context of which networks of representatives from the farming, advisory and research sectors are formed, practical issues of current interest in the field are tackled and field trials initiated (Bionet project). The team is also conducting long-term monitoring of the impacts of converting to organic farming (MUBIL project), works on developing reduced tillage methods for organic production (TILMAN-ORG project), and delivers comprehensive education services.

Biodiversity and Nature Conservation
Maintaining and increasing biodiversity on farms and improving the contribution of farms to nature conservation are important objectives in organic agriculture. In the area of biodiversity and nature conservation, FiBL Austria aims at raising awareness among farmers by delivering training courses and providing information material as well by helping farmers with practical advice on how they can promote biodiversity in the agricultural landscape.
Consumer Information and Sustainable Nutrition
At various different levels, the Consumer Information Team aims at getting interested consumers to appreciate just how special and unique organic agriculture is. The team publishes a variety of media (e.g. the Bio-Fibel magazine on organic farming knowledge, the Bio-Wissen series of consumer-oriented posters, and other media), conceives and organizes a range of events (tastings, conferences, exhibitions), visualizes agricultural knowledge and puts it up for discussion www.bio-wissen.org). “Schule des Essens” (School of Food) is a new project addressing children, i.e. tomorrow’s consumers.

International
The International Team provides agricultural extension services and conducts applied research projects in developing and newly industrialized countries. The team strives to improve both the living conditions of the local people and the conservation of natural resources. The focus is on establishing sustainable farming methods and approaches, especially with a view to holistic land use and regional development. Tools include on-farm trials, participatory research, knowledge transfer and stakeholder networking. The team also cooperates closely with FiBL Switzerland’s International Cooperation Department.

Animal Husbandry Team
In addition to practice-oriented projects, e.g. on organic broiler production, FiBL Austria and the FREILAND Association jointly host the annual FREILAND Conference, one of the leading conferences on applied livestock ethology in the German-speaking world.

Computer administration Ferdinand Altnöder.

FiBL Austria’s clients and financial backers

A
grammarkt Austria Marketing GesmbH, Vienna
Association for Animal Welfare Education (Tierschutz macht Schule), Vienna
B
ternational Team
Bio AUSTRIA, Vienna
Biohof ADAMA, Glinzendorf
Delacon Biotechnik GesmbH
European Union, Federal Government and Federal States
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Vienna
Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Vienna
FiBL Germany, Frankfurt
FiBL Switzerland, Frick
Freiland Association, Vienna
Hofer KG, Sattledt

J
at Naturally Naturprodukte Ges.m.b.H., Wiener Neudorf
Lower Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, St. Pölten
Lower Austrian State Government Offices, St. Pölten
Ombuds Office for Animal Protection of the City of Vienna (Tierschutzombudsstelle Wien)
Pädagogische Hochschulen (teacher training colleges) in Vienna and Upper Austria
PUR Bioprodukte VertriebsgmbH, Waidhofen/Thaya
Rural Further Training Institute Burgenland (Ländliches Fortbildungsinstitut Burgenland), Eisenstadt
Rural Further Training Institute Austria (Ländliches Fortbildungsinstitut Österreich), Vienna

S
ONNENTOR Kräuterhandels GmbH, Sprögnitz
SPAR Österreichische Warenhandels-AG, Salzburg
Technical University Berlin, Germany
Toni’s Handels GmbH, Glein
University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt, Wieselburg
University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna
Upper Austrian State Government Offices, Linz
Vienna Institute for Economic Development (Wirtschaftsförderungsinstitut Wien, WIFI Wien)
Werner Lampert Beratungsge.m.b.H., Vienna

Reinhard Geßl, Elisabeth Klingbacher, Theres Rathmanner.
Andreas Kranzler, Rainer Weisshaidinger.
Reinhard Geßl.
Support FiBL

Become involved as a sponsor and patron of FiBL, invest in organic farming and a sustainable future.

Charitable donations and contributions to FiBL Switzerland and FiBL Germany are tax deductible, and can also be made online via our homepage (http://www.fibl.org/en/about-us/donate.html). A receipt for donations can be issued on request.

Your donations and legacies to all three FiBL organizations are used as follows:

- To fund innovative research and consultancy projects for which funding sources have not yet been found.
- Donations and legacies are also important in providing FiBL with the freedom and independence to address vital issues of major relevance to society. Such issues include the contribution made by organic farming to climate change mitigation, the conservation of nature and biodiversity thanks to sustainable management practices, matters of animal welfare, nutritional habits and human health.
- Financing state-of-the-art research infrastructure and trial systems without taking recourse to banks.

If you have any queries relating to donations and legacies, the directors of FiBL Switzerland, Germany and Austria will be pleased to help (see contact details below).

FiBL Switzerland

The Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture (Schweizerische Stiftung zur Förderung des biologischen Landbaus) has charitable status in a number of cantons. The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), too, is registered as a charitable organization in the canton of Aargau. The Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture handles donations and legacies for FiBL activities. These donations are tax-exempt. Details of the charitable donations account of FiBL Switzerland are as follows:

Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture, CH-5070 Frick, Account No: 80-40697-0

Transfers from abroad (euro area) to the Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture in Frick may be made free of charge via:
Swiss Post, PostFinance, Nordring 8, CH-3030 Berne
IBAN CH93 0900 0000 8004 0697 0
SWIFT: POFICHBE

Contact: Prof. Dr. Urs Niggli, Director FiBL, Tel. +41 62 865 72 70, e-mail urs.niggli@fibl.org

FiBL Germany

Details of the charitable donations account for FiBL Germany are:

FiBL Deutschland e.V.
Account No: 0200334620
Frankfurter Sparkasse, Bank sort code 5050201

Transfers from abroad (euro area) to FiBL Germany should be addressed to FiBL Deutschland e.V.:
Swift-Bic: HELADEF 1822
IBAN: DE49 5005 0201 0200 3346 20
Contact: Dr. Robert Hermanowski, Director, FiBL Germany, Tel. +49 69 713 76 99-73, e-mail robert.hermanowski@fibl.org

FiBL Austria

Bank details for FiBL Austria are:
Account No:676.452, BLZ 32000
Raiffeisenlandesbank NO-Wien AG

Transfers from abroad (euro area) to FiBL Austria should be addressed to:
IBAN: AT33320000000676452
BIC: RLNWATWW

Please address any queries relating to tax deductibility to Andreas Kranzler, Director, FiBL Austria, Tel. +43 1 907 6313, e-mail andreas.kranzler@fibl.org
### Weblinks and imprint

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>shop.fibl.org</th>
<th>All information leaflets, reports and other FiBL publications can be found in the FiBL Shop online at <a href="http://www.fibl.org/nc/en/shop-en/products.html">www.fibl.org/nc/en/shop-en/products.html</a></th>
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Editorial  Cheap food has too high a cost  1
Soil Sciences  Using microorganisms specifically for plant nutrition  2
Climate Sustainability  Sustainability assessment has market potential  4
Crop Sciences  Making urban parks and soccer fields "green"  6
Livestock Sciences  "Broad-leaved dock was a major surprise"  8
Socio-Economics  Food waste, world food supply: Reckonings of global issues  10
Extension, Training and Communication  Soil preparation: Less is ever more  12
International Cooperation  "Innovations? An insecticide made from oil and chilli peppers, for example"  14
Quality Assurance  Organic and from the region – for sure!  16
Environmental Education  Diversity at nursery schools  18
FiBL Austria – Projects  Organic excellence from field to fork  19
FiBL Switzerland  Chronology and finances  21
FiBL Switzerland  Foundation Council members  24
FiBL Switzerland  Clients and donors  26
FiBL Switzerland  Employees  28
FiBL Switzerland  Education  30
FiBL Germany  Chronology and finances  31
FiBL Germany  Board  33
FiBL Germany  Clients and donors  34
FiBL Austria  Chronology and finances  35
FiBL Austria  Board  36
FiBL Austria  Employees  37
FiBL Austria  Clients and donors  38
FiBL Switzerland, Germany and Austria  Support FiBL  39
Weblinks and Imprint  40