

# Focus on analysing sustainability

Over the past few years FiBL's research activities and advisory services have been strongly focussed on sustainability throughout the entire food sector. The aim is to ensure that organic farming can continue to lead the way forward. In addition, FiBL has intensified its international networking activities and its international initiatives in order to contribute to the growth of organic farming worldwide.

The development of organic farming in Europe is on a good trajectory: Austria has a share of 20% organic farmers, Switzerland 11.5% and Germany 4%. Organic farming benefits from public financial support in all EU countries and in Switzerland. According to the Swiss government's plans for its agricultural policy for 2014-2017, the support measures will be continued because organic farming is a holistic sustainability strategy. Similarly, in the EU the legislative proposals presented by Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolo for the pending reform of the Common Agricultural Policy give preferential treatment to organic farming.

This shows that organic farmers must take the issue of sustainability very seriously if they wish to continue to lead the way in terms of environmentally and socially benign family farming and long-term economic sustainability. Over

the past few years therefore, FiBL's research activities and advisory services have been strongly focussed on analysing the sustainability of agriculture, the food industry, and food consumption. We have done this not only in Switzerland but also at our other institutes in Germany and Austria. Similarly, we have intensified our research into greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and soil fertility in organic farming compared to other agricultural methods and we are measuring these parameters in numerous field trials.

## Making organic farming mainstream worldwide

Unfortunately, if we look beyond the immediate horizon we can see that on a global scale organic farming is still struggling. Just about 1% of the global agricultural area, or 37 million hectares, are managed in accordance with organ-

## Income and expenditure of FiBL Switzerland in 2011 and 2010

(in Swiss francs)	2011	2010
<b>Income</b>		
Research	6 748 416.94	6 847 412.58
Federal service mandate	4 720 000.00	4 720 000.00
Advice and training/education	1 586 867.63	1 492 136.29
Communication	1 276 347.08	1 336 045.31
International	3 586 466.35	2 822 113.79
Research farm	46 262.04	47 157.62
Restaurant, internal services	581 725.30	565 118.68
Donations, miscellaneous income	584 693.61	572 797.13
<b>Total income</b>	<b>19 130 778.95</b>	<b>18 402 781.40</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Expenditure on personnel	12 068 978.53	11 712 896.61
Operational costs		
Materials for trials, consumables laboratory, analytics, project costs	4 872 615.19	5 066 301.51
Expenditure on premises, office supplies, other administrative and IT expenditure, advertising	1 296 048.49	1 339 098.97
Financial expenses	423 621.50	356 818.05
Depreciation	839 775.95	659 199.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>19 501 039.66</b>	<b>19 134 314.14</b>
<b>Extraordinary revenue</b>	<b>382 247.15</b>	<b>734 301.85</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>11 986.44</b>	<b>2 769.11</b>



FiBL activities are well covered by the media.

ic standards. While the figure of 1.4 million organic farmers sounds quite good, they do represent only a tiny minority. Year after year Helga Willer, FiBL's statistician, meticulously compiles the area under organic management, the number of organic farmers, the proportions of the most important crop types, and the development of the markets for organic produce in every country of the world. The results are published in the book entitled "The World of Organic Agriculture". Given the many examples of organic farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America who have been able to improve their yields

and family incomes, the very slow expansion of organic farming is lamentable. In the context of numerous research and advisory projects FiBL has considerably expanded its cooperation with organic farming organizations, UN organizations, governments and experts in the field.

Organic farming is a farming method based on agroecology which can respond at local level to global challenges such as food crises, climate change, or biodiversity decline. However, organic farming can only really be taken seriously if it continues to expand in area. This expansion needs in-

**Events and milestones in 2011**

January	New EU FOODLINKS project on linking research and policy in the area of sustainable food production and consumption. New EU SOLINSA project on learning and innovation networks in agricultural knowledge systems (coordination by FiBL). Participation in the "2 Grad" (Two Degrees) exhibition in Basel with a contribution on organic farming and climate change.
February	Participation in the BioFach World Organic Trade Fair with a stall, presentations and workshops. Start of a project supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for the development of an internet-based Bachelor degree programme in "Organic Farming" in cooperation with five Central and Southeast European universities.
March	New photovoltaic system on FiBL's roof. Participation in the development of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture's new Swiss agricultural research strategy.
April	The German Federal Government's Council for Sustainable Development positions organic farming as the "gold standard" of agricultural sustainability. Urs Niggli is one of the experts.
May	EHEC crisis: Background information for the media; participation in the news magazine show "Frontal21" on German television (ZDF).
June	Conclusion of project on climate-neutral arable crop and vegetable production (Klimaneutraler Acker- und Gemüsebau) on the Schlatthof farm in Aesch, Basel-Land, in cooperation with Coop.
July	Bio-Offensive – proactive organics: Establishment of a network of 33 reference farms that can be visited by farmers interested in converting. For the third time, Urs Niggli is invited by Prince Charles as an expert to a brainstorming session on sustainability in food consumption and land use. FiBL together with the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), FAO and IFOAM organize a workshop on organic farming at the conference of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Rome.
August	Eric Wyss, Deputy Director, leaves FiBL.
September	Presentation of manual on organic farming in Africa at the occasion of the IFOAM World Congress in South Korea. FiBL participates in the meeting of OECD, FAO, UNEP and UNCTAD for the preparation of a joint position paper on "The Greening of Economy with Agriculture" in Paris. The conference is supported by FOAG and the result is taken into account at the Rio+20 Conference.
October	Establishment of the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKI). New 'Syprobio' project on improving production techniques in Mali, Burkina Faso and Benin. Prof. Dr. Philippe Matile, FiBL Founder Member, passed away.
November	Urs Niggli advises the state research institute MTT in Mikkeli, Finland on matters relating to establishing a new research institute for organic farming.
December	Conclusion of SASA project on market development in Albania. Conclusion of CaLas project on climate and organic agriculture. Conclusion of ECROPOLIS project on documenting sensory properties of a range of organic foods.

novation, building on the farmers' practical knowledge, on keen observation of nature and a willingness to learn from it, and meaningful and responsible application of scientific and technical progress. Over the past two years we have engaged in intensive discussions as to what this means for FiBL. Opinions often vary considerably but the FiBL team utilizes these tensions creatively. During the next decade numerous new production technology solutions will become available and these will bring with them major economic benefits, making the conversion to organic farming a more attractive proposition. After all, we want to see organics become mainstream!

### Top-class research has its price

In terms of its own economics, FiBL Switzerland is currently on a roller coaster. As usual, we have a lot more ideas than we have money to make them reality. 2010 was not a good year and we had to sell the "family silver" of the Swiss Foundation for the Promotion of Organic Agriculture which founded FiBL in 1973. The 2011 balance sheet was much

better, thanks to project commitments from companies and trusts, successful EU tenders, donations and a bequest. For many years now, the basic funding provided by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture has stagnated at a level of CHF 4.7 million per annum which in 2011 covered a mere 25% of FiBL's cost of research activities and advisory services.

Experimental research involving plants or animals and measurements of environmental impact parameters have become very expensive. However, the FiBL team is ambitious and wants to carry out innovative top-class research. The knowledge thus generated is made available for free to the public and especially to organic farmers. FiBL is quite unique in the world in that it carries out expensive open-source and open-access research as a private, non-governmental institution. With this annual report and in deep gratitude we garland the many private and public sponsors who make our work possible. The FiBL team is very happy to work for you and with you.

*Urs Niggli, Director of FiBL Switzerland*

#### Events and milestones in 2012

January	New EU OrganicDataNetwork project on organic market information. New EU Co-free project: New strategies for reducing use of copper in organic production. New CORE Organic project: Reduced soil cultivation and use of green manures in organic arable crops (TILMAN-ORG, Managed by FiBL). Establishment of the company SubstainTEC GmbH for provision of services at the interface of research and product development.
February	Film premiere <i>Zwischen Zorn und Zärtlichkeit – Die Geschichte des Biolandbaus in der Schweiz</i> (Somewhere between anger and tenderness – A history of organic farming in Switzerland) at Cinema Monti in Frick, Switzerland. Participation in the BioFach World Organic Trade Fair with a stall, presentations and workshops.
March	Co-organization of Second World Conference on Organic Beekeeping in Mexico.
April	FiBL receives the 2012 Swisscanto Prix NATURE for its contribution to the development of organic farming in Switzerland. Concluding event of the Feed no Food project at the Gut Rheinau estate, Canton Zurich, in cooperation with Coop.
May	Extension of organic aquaculture research. Dominique Barjolle is appointed as new Deputy Director. Urs Niggli meets representatives from the areas of policy, research and organic farming in Konya (Anatolia, Turkey) with a view to establishing an organic region and extending organic research.
June	Co-organization of the first organic tillage farming day at the Strickhof farm, Canton Zurich. The Green Liberal Faction of the Swiss Federal Assembly visits FiBL. Second phase of organic market development project in Ukraine commences. Urs Niggli participates in the Rio+20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. IFOAM and FiBL announce the formation of a new international organic research network (TIPI). National Councillor Stefan Müller-Altermatt submits a motion to the National Council calling for an increase of the federal financial contribution to FiBL. The motion is supported by 40 other National Councillors.
July	Innovation is becoming a focal theme of EU agricultural and research policy. FiBL takes part in a number of events organized by the IFOAM EU Group and the European Commission.
August	The Swiss National Science Foundation presents the results of its project on genetic engineering and co-existence (Gentechnologie und Koexistenz (NFP-59)) in which FiBL had participated. FiBL study on soil carbon sequestration resulting from organic farming methods is published in the renowned US American journal <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)</i> . National Councillor Stefan Müller-Altermatt gets two legislative amendments passed in the National Council's Committees for Economic Affairs and Taxation which place federal funding for FiBL on a firmer footing.
September	After the Federal Council supported the motion by Councillor Müller-Altermatt, the National Assembly also approves the motion in its autumn session. The EU Commission begins its hearings on the status of organic farming. The discussions cover the EU Organic Regulation as well as support measures, research, market development, the import regime, and consumer safety. Three to four FiBL representatives participate in the hearings.
November	Urs Niggli is conferred an honorary Doctorate at the Estonian University of Life Sciences in Tartu. At the occasion of IFOAM's 40th anniversary, the organizations' Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network (SOAAN), in which Urs Niggli (President) und Christian Schader are active, presents proposals for the further development of organic agriculture worldwide towards sustainability.



**FiBL Switzerland: a thumbnail sketch**

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) was founded in 1973 and has been based in Frick since 1997. FiBL Switzerland currently employs around 130 staff. Their specialisms include sustainable soil management, crop production, holistic animal health, animal ethology and animal husbandry appropriate to local conditions, socioeconomics, analysis of the organic market and organic food processing. Many of the projects and surveys take place on more than 200 farms throughout Switzerland. The close links between different areas of research and the extensive exchange of knowledge between research and practice are regarded as particular strengths of FiBL.

FiBL is also committed to the development of organic agriculture at international level. The development of ecological research services and of advisory and certification services is being addressed in numerous projects in eastern Europe, India, Latin America and Africa.

**FiBL Switzerland – some figures**

	2011	2012
No. of visiting groups (persons)	27 (570)	36 (615)
No. of courses (participants)	32 (671)	27 (905)
Visitors to <a href="http://www.fibl.org">www.fibl.org</a>	214 207	218 430
Visitors to <a href="http://www.bioaktuell.ch">www.bioaktuell.ch</a>	284 692	312 030
New publications (technical guides)	19 (55)	12 (47)
Updated publications		
Views on FiBLFilm channel on YouTube (new videos)	4298 (12)	28 331 (26)

# Employees of FiBL Switzerland

## Secretariat, accounting and administration

The secretariat is the hub of our operations. Here contacts with representatives of research, advisory services, industry, trade, associations, foundations and official bodies are coordinated and maintained. The accounting department ensures that the financial aspects of the numerous and often complex projects are handled smoothly. The administration

department is the first point of contact with the institute. Telephone or e-mail enquiries receive skilled and friendly replies. The secretariat is also responsible for organizing courses and looking after the many visitor groups that arrive from all over the world.



**Niggli Urs**  
Prof. Dr. sc. ETH  
Director of FiBL  
Switzerland and  
Responsible for Quality  
Management



**Droll Beat**  
Member of board of  
directors, head of finance  
and accounting



**König Monika**  
Secretariat, visitors



**Sander Bernhard**  
Project Assistant



**Barjolle Dominique**  
Dr. Ing.-Agr.  
Deputy Director, Rural  
economy research



**Merz Anne**  
Administration, Head of  
secretariat, Organisation  
ABIM, Quality  
Management



**Leu Stefanie**  
Workshop secretariat,  
secretariat



**Schönknecht Maja**  
Finance and accounting



**Bayer Erika**  
Secretariat,  
trainee supervision



**Rickenbach Rudolf**  
Administrative trainee



**Williner Stefan**  
Human resources,  
finance and accounting



**Friedrich Roman**  
Support trainee



**Rickenbacher Beat**  
EDPV



**Winter Carmen**  
Administrative trainee



**Götschi Sabine**  
Finance and accounting

## Restaurant and conference centre

The team caters for the wellbeing of the staff – more than 200 in number – who work for FiBL, the inspection body bio.inspecta and the organic consultancy Agrofutura as well as the many guests from Switzerland and abroad. The remit includes running the restaurant, the conference centre with

its six training rooms and the guesthouse, cleaning and maintaining the entire infrastructure, caring for the surroundings, managing the vehicle fleet and organizing passenger transport.



**Amsler Thomas**  
Head of group, Frick  
conference centre



**Bircher-Herzog Erika**  
Restaurant,  
domestic services



**Hummel-Wüthrich Iris**  
Restaurant,  
domestic services



**Schär Lisbeth**  
Restaurant,  
domestic services



**Hunziker-Krebs Trudi**  
Restaurant manager  
domestic services



**Cafaro Immacolata**  
Domestic services



**Salinas Hohl Celia**  
Domestic services



**Ackermann Anita**  
Restaurant



**Hajdarpasic Ahmo**  
Transports,  
domestic services and  
maintenance



**Sandmeier Daniel**  
Restaurant

### FiBL farm

Since 2010 the 37-hectare FiBL farm has been run biodynamically. Both arable and livestock farming are practised on the farm, and specialty crops are also grown. Twenty per cent of the land is given over to nature conservation and bio-

diversity. The farm has a dairy herd of 22 cows and a breeding bull. It is also home to a small group of pigs and some laying hens. FiBL researchers conduct studies and trials in every branch of farming.



Dehlinger Bronya  
Farm manager



Schädeli Alfred  
Farm manager

### Cross-cutting issues

#### Food quality



Bickel Regula  
Dr. Dipl. Lm.Ing. ETH  
Head of food quality

#### Sustainability assessment



Schader Christian  
Dr. sc.  
Head of sustainability  
assessment

#### Organic farming and climate



Gattinger Andreas  
Dr. sc. agr.  
Head of organic farming  
and climate

### Soil sciences

The soil is of key importance in organic farming. In long-term field trials and on farms the soil sciences division investigates the efficiency of organic and conventional farming systems in terms of fertilizer and energy use. Of particular interest in this context are the microorganism communities in the soil and their role in the mineralization of organic matter and the formation of humus. To help maximize yields in agriculture and horticulture while also saving natural resources, the group explores reduced tillage systems, the use of beneficial soil bacteria and mycorrhizae and ways of improving nutrient cycles through crop rotation. Plant breeding for organic agriculture is another important area of research

and goes hand in hand with improvements to plant varieties and cultivation systems. Work on soil and climate includes quantifying greenhouse gas emissions from soil use in order to identify ways of mitigating climate change. Research is also conducted into ways of managing agricultural land that promote adaptation to climate change.

#### Research priorities

- › Efficiency of cultivation systems
- › Strategies for optimizing yields
- › Seed and the environment
- › Climate and soil



Mäder Paul,  
Dr. phil,  
Dipl. Ing. Agr. ETH  
Head of group, DOK-trial



Arncken-Karutz Christine  
MSc ETH  
Cereal quality, breeding



Gattinger Andreas  
Dr. dipl. Ing. Agr.  
Leader climate protection  
& organic farming



Perrochet Frédéric  
Dipl.-Ing. Agr. FH  
Field trials (DOK, preparats  
trial, reduce tillage trial)



Berner Alfred  
MSc ETH  
Soil tillage, fertilizers



Krauss Maike  
Dipl. Geoökol.  
Climate Change and  
Organic Agriculture



Scheifele Michael  
Dipl. natw. ETH  
Climate Change and  
Organic Agriculture



Berset Estelle  
MSc ETH  
Soil biology, mycorrhiza



Messmer Monika  
Dr. sc. Agr.  
Plant breeding for  
organic agriculture



Skinner Colin  
Dipl. Geogr.  
Climate Change and  
Organic Agriculture



Fliessbach Andreas  
Dr. sc. agr.  
Soil biology, soil ecology



Nieltispach Bruno  
Lab technician  
Laboratory, Analytics



Thonar Cécile  
Dr. Sc. ETH  
Plant symbiosis and plant  
nutrition

### Plant protection and biodiversity

The division investigates and develops practical methods of controlling pests and diseases in fruit-growing, viticulture, vegetable-growing and crop-farming. In tackling disease the focus is on the use of copper compounds on stone fruit, vines and potatoes and on controlling disease indirectly by promoting soil health. Improvements in pest control are brought about by two means: firstly, by growing carefully selected, ecologically useful plants in and around the planting area to promote the development of beneficial organisms,

and secondly by experimenting with the deliberate release of organisms that are beneficial against problem pests. The division is also working on a range of methods for increasing the contribution to nature conservation made by organic farms.

#### Research priorities

- › Controlling plant pests and diseases
- › Evaluating new auxiliary substances and technologies
- › Promoting nature conservation in farming



Tamm Lucius  
Dr. phil., MSc ETH  
Head of group,  
phytopathology



Daniel Claudia,  
Dr. agr.  
Biological pest control



Luka Henryk  
Dr. phil., Ing. agr.  
Biodiversity, taxonomy



Schärer Hans-Jakob  
MSc ETH  
Phytopathology,  
seed pathology



Balmer Oliver  
Dr. phil.  
Functional biodiversity



Fuchs Jacques  
Dr. sc. ETH  
Phytopathology, compost



Oberhänsli Thomas  
Dr. sc. ETH  
Molecular biology, plant  
pathology, microbiology



Speiser Bernhard  
Dr. phil.  
Potatoes, auxiliary  
inputs, slugs and snails



Belz Elodie  
MSc  
Fonctional biodiversity



Ludwig Mathias  
B.Sc.  
Field trials, laboratory



Pfiffner Lukas  
Dr. phil-nat, Dipl.-Ing.  
Agr. ETH; Biodiversity,  
nature conservation,  
habitat management



Thürig Barbara  
Dr. phil.  
Phytopathology,  
induced resistance

### Crop production

Growing special crops such as fruit, berries, grapes, vegetables, herbs and ornamental plants poses major challenges for organic farms. The division explores practical solutions to the key problems associated with these crops. In fruit-growing we test new plants and old varieties under organic conditions, improve yield stability and cost-effectiveness with preventive, system-stabilizing techniques and optimize fruit quality. In viticulture the focus is on suitability for cultivation and vinification of mould-resistant grape varie-

ties. With new preparations and better forecasting models we are also improving stability of yield for traditional European varieties. Important aspects of vegetable-growing are cultivar trials and the use of green manure as a source of nutrients.

#### Research priorities

- › Fruit and berries
- › Viticulture and vinification
- › Vegetables and ornamental plants



Weibel Franco  
Dr. sc. ETH  
Head of group,  
varieties and production  
techniques



Gallati Philip  
Dipl.-Ing. Oenologie  
Vineyard FiBL



Koller Martin  
Dipl.-Ing. FH  
Vegetable production



Toschini Giovanna  
Fruit trainee



Frei Joel  
Trainee vine dresser



Giordano Ignazio  
Dipl. Ing. FH; Fruit  
and berry production,  
experimental trials



Léville Dominique  
Dipl.-Ing. IUUV  
Viticulture, oenology



Tuchschild Andreas  
Ing. HTL  
Manager FiBL vineyard

### Animal Science Division

The Animal Science Division carries out research on the well-being and health of all livestock categories on organic farms, safeguarding health and welfare at various levels. Sustainable livestock breeding, ethologically sound livestock management, bioactive feeds as well as complementary medical treatments are assessed as to their effectiveness and economics.

### Research priorities

- › Sustainable livestock breeding
- › Animal welfare and the environment
- › Animal health and sustainability
- › Parasite control
- › Epidemiology and preventive animal health strategies
- › Complementary medicine for animals
- › Aquaculture



Maurer Veronika  
Dr. sc. ETH  
Head of group,  
ectoparasites, list of  
approved substances



Abb Katharina  
med. vet.  
Animal Health



Amsler-Kepalaite Zivile  
Dipl. Agroecology  
Field trials, laboratory,  
poultry



Bieber Anna  
MSc. agr.  
Breeding cattle



Biegel Ulrike  
med. vet.  
Mistletoe therapy  
for dogs and cats



Bludau Maren Jana  
med. vet.  
Udder health



Christen Ophélie  
Dr. med. vet.  
Mistletoe therapy  
for horses



Heckendorn Felix  
Dr. Sc. ETH  
Endoparasites  
in ruminants



Holinger Mirjam  
MSc. agr. ETH  
Fattening of boars



Isensee Anne  
Dipl. Agrobiology  
Husbandry, health cattle



Krenmayr Ilse  
Dipl.-Ing. agr.  
Veterinary parasitology  
lab



Leiber Florian  
Dr. sc. nat.  
Animal nutrition



Lutz Bianka  
Dipl. Agr. Biol.  
Basic research  
homeopathy  
(maternity leave)



Maeschli Ariane  
Dr. med. vet.  
Health of dairy cows



Notz Christophe  
Dr. med. vet.  
Health of dairy cows



Perler Erika  
Lab technician  
Field and laboratory  
trials



Probst Johanna  
MSc. agr.  
Animal husbandry



Spengler Neff Anet  
Dr. agr.  
Breeding,  
animal husbandry



Stadlander Timo  
Alexander  
Dipl. Biol.  
Aquaculture



Stamer Andreas  
Dr. agr.  
Aquaculture



Steiner Manuel  
Lab technician  
Laboratory assistant  
in homeopathy



Walkenhorst Michael  
Dr. med. vet.  
Health of dairy cows



Werne Steffen  
MSc. agr.  
Endoparasites in  
ruminants



Wohlfahrt Jens  
Dr. rer. nat.  
Aquaculture

### Socio-economics

One of the issues being addressed by the socio-economics division is the question of how different parameters of agricultural policy impact on organic farming. The group is also exploring what core competencies – in areas such as business skills and sustainable management – will be required by farmers in the future. We use qualitative methods of consumer research to analyse the behaviour and confidence of consumers who buy organic products only occasionally. We also study what society requires of sustainable agriculture and what form efficient certification systems should take.



**Stolze Matthias**  
Dr. sc. agr.  
Head of group



**Home Robert**  
Dr. sc. nat.; Agricultural knowledge systems, agricultural innovation networks



**Moschitz Heidrun**  
Dr. sc. ETH  
Rural sociology



**Schmid Otto**  
MSc ETH, Rural development, standards



**Bickel Regula**  
Dr. Dipl. Lm.Ing. ETH  
Leader of food quality



**Jahrl Ingrid**  
Dipl.-Ing.  
Rural sociology



**Müller Adrian**  
Dr. sc. nat. ETH  
Climate protection, carbon offset mechanisms



**Stolz Hanna**  
MSc  
Consumer & market research



**Geier Vanessa**  
Dipl.-Ing. Agr.  
Biodiversity, Life Cycle Assessment



**Jawtusich Julia**  
MSc  
Ecolabels, certification systems



**Oehen Bernadette**  
Dipl. Bot., MAS ETH,  
Technology assessment, environmental risk analysis



**Hecht Judith**  
Dr. agr.  
Model-based policy analysis



**Meier Matthias Samuel**  
Dr. sc. nat. ETH  
Sustainability analysis, LCA



**Schader Christian**  
Dr. sc.  
Leader of sustainability analysis

### Extension

While the cantonal offices deal mainly with the conversion to organic methods on farms, FiBL advisors focus on special areas and bring their knowledge to bear country-wide. In addition to answering questions on technical production issues they help farming families with whole-farm optimization and new business ventures. To this end they provide information by telephone, visit individual farms and hold group advice sessions. FiBL advisors also support demonstration trials on farms.

### Research priorities

- › Policy impact assessment
- › The future of farming
- › Consumer behaviour
- › Agriculture and society
- › Efficient certification systems
- › Sustainability analysis

### Priority areas

- › Arable farming and specialty crops
- › Animal husbandry and feeding
- › Farm management
- › Marketing
- › Standards
- › Training



**Obrist Robert**  
MSc ETH  
Head of group, projects in the regions



**Chevillat Véronique**  
Dipl. Biol.  
Biodiversity, coordination training courses



**Früh Barbara**  
Dipl.-Ing. FH  
Feedstuffs, non-ruminants



**Meili Eric**  
MSc ETH  
Milk & meat production



**Bircher-Jegge Richard**  
Master farm manager  
Sustainability, biodiversity



**Clerc Maurice**  
MSc ETH  
Tillage production farm network (Western Switzerland)



**Häseli Andreas**  
Dipl.-Ing. Agr. HTL  
Fruit production, viticulture, plant protection



**Schneider Claudia**  
Dr. agr.  
Ethology cows, feedstuffs



**Böhler Daniel**  
Dipl.-Ing. Agr. (FH)  
Arable farming, extensive meat production



**Dierauer Hansueli**  
MSc ETH  
Arable farming, weed control, feed production



**Kupferschmid Cornelia**  
B.Sc. Agronomie  
Organic seeds, Arable farming



**Schürmann Stefan**  
Processing and marketing; advisory development



**Lichtenhahn Martin**  
MSc ETH  
Vegetable & herb production



**Tschabold Jean-Luc**  
MSc ETH  
Fruit production, viticulture (Western Switzerland)

### Communication

FiBL delivers communication services tailored to specific target groups. Together with Bio Suisse, we publish “bioaktuell”, the magazine of the Swiss organic movement. For teachers, trainers and extension agents, we produce technical guidance notes, manuals and audiovisual media.

We use various dedicated websites to disseminate research findings, practical experience and data to scientists and farmers. These include [www.bioaktuell.ch](http://www.bioaktuell.ch), [www.organic-research.net](http://www.organic-research.net), [www.organic-africa.net](http://www.organic-africa.net) and [www.organic-world.net](http://www.organic-world.net).

FiBL is involved in developing and contributing to an array of research groups and knowledge networks.



**Kilcher Lukas**  
MSc ETH  
Head of group,  
training materials



**Bär Markus**  
lic. phil. I  
Editor for bioaktuell



**Kleine-Herzbruch Natalie**  
Dipl.-Ing.  
Internet



**Weidmann Gilles**  
MSc ETH  
Editor, technical leaflets,  
manuals



**Alföldi Thomas**  
Dr. sc. ETH  
Research networks,  
photo, video



**Gorba Daniel**  
Graphics, layout designer



**Schlatter Bernhard**  
Dipl. Biol.  
consultancy of statistics  
and data



**Willer Helga**  
Dr. rer. nat.  
Statistics organic  
agriculture, internet



**Baker Brian**  
Dr.  
Editor, research networks



**Kirchgraber Claudia**  
Diplom-Grafikerin  
Graphic design



**Schmutz Res**  
Dipl.-Ing. Agr. HTL  
Editor [www.bioaktuell.ch](http://www.bioaktuell.ch),  
technical leaflets,  
manuals

### International Division

This division, with its advisory and research mandates, operates mainly in developing and transition countries. Our vision is the development of sustainable systems of farming and nutrition that will ensure that all people have access to sufficient food of good quality and at fair prices. Through technical research and advice we demonstrate how ecological practices can conserve resources and improve profitability, thereby helping to reduce poverty. Our work includes, for example, a long-term comparison of different cultivation systems in Kenya, India and Bolivia, support to research and

advice organisations in eastern Europe, and contracts for advisory services in Latin America. Plans are in hand to develop cotton production in Africa to promote adaptation to climate change.

### Priority areas

- › Sustainable production systems/  
sustainable food production (research and extension)
- › Market development
- › Policy advice



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Dipl.-Ing. agr. (FH)  
Head of group, organic  
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MBA, MSc  
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**Kägi Nora Melina**  
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Research sustainable  
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**Schneider Monika**  
MSc ETH  
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Dr. Phil. Agr. & Envir.  
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**Forichi Kadzere Irene**  
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MSc ETH, Region: Eastern  
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development



**Jiří Urban**  
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**Forster Dyonis**  
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**Garibay Salvador**  
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Latin America,  
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# Comings and goings 2010–2012

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 Geier Vanessa  
 Giordano Ignazio  
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 Leu Stefanie  
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 Müller Jana Léonie  
 Naspetti Simona  
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 Sandmeier Daniel  
 Scheifele Michael  
 Schlatter Bernhard  
 Schürmann Stefan  
 Skinner Colin  
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 Thonar Cécile  
 Toschini Giovanna  
 von Koerber Hellmut  
 Wohlfahrt Jens

## Staff departure

Baumgart Lukas  
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 Belloli Erika  
 Billmann Bettina  
 Bolognese Daniele  
 Botero Valencia Juan Carlos  
 Buess René  
 Cobo Borrero Juan  
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 Wyss Eric  
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 Sägesser Janine  
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 Grohmann Marlene  
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