



## Potential partners

Ministry of Rural Development, Hungarian Biokultúra Alliance, Hungarian working group of the IFOAM EU Group, Biokontroll Hungária Inspection and Certification Non-profit Ltd.

## FiBL Switzerland

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, socio-economics, 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.

## Contact

### Project management



Dr. Dóra Drexler  
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Dóra Drexler is a landscape planner. She graduated from the Corvinus University of Budapest and conducted her PhD research at the Technical University of Munich. She is an associate of FiBL since December 2010.



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Zsolt Kanyó is an agronomist with a focus on rural development and landscape management. Since 1996 he is working as a project manager on several agricultural innovation projects in Hungary. He started to work at FiBL in January 2011.

### Project supervision and support



Prof. Dr. Urs Niggli  
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Urs Niggli is the director of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). He is honorary professor of the University of Kassel Witzenhausen and a board member of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM).

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# Advancing Organic Agriculture Research in Hungary



a turn to organic



## Introduction

Organic agriculture is a production system that aims to sustain the sound state of soils and ecosystems and the health of human beings. It relies on natural processes and avoids the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition with science and innovation in order to realize an environmentally sound agricultural sector, which takes both social and economic aspects into consideration and fosters a healthy lifestyle for all involved (IFOAM).

Organic agriculture is one of the world's most dynamically developing agricultural systems. In the European Union within the last 25 years, the area of organic farming has grown from 125 thousand hectares to 9.3 million, and the number of organic farms increased from 8 thousand to 260 thousand. Today nearly 5 percent of the EU's total agricultural area is utilized for organic farming. In Hungary, in the frame of the organic controlling system, more than 2,000 enterprises on approximately 140 thousand hectares of land produce more than 100 million euros equivalent of foodstuff annually.

Due to environmental, social and economic challenges facing humankind on a global scale, the research and development of organic agriculture and food production has become an increasingly important field of scientific endeavour. For Hungary, organic farming is one of the greatest opportunities to renew its agricultural sector and ensure its long-term sustainability. Organic farming has been developing fast in Hungary due to its early adoption in the 1980s. However, its advancement has stagnated since the new century. In order to bring back dynamics to Hungarian organic agriculture, the enhancement of scientific research, professional consultancy, and strategic market development is of key importance.

## Aim and available instruments

The strategic aim of our project, launched in 2011, is to foster scientific research of international standard in the field of organic agriculture and food production in Hungary.

The 2 million euros allotted to our project enables us to create an efficient system for the advancement of scientific research and consulting in Hungarian organic agriculture. Included will be innovative research projects that will substantiate the development and competitiveness of Hungarian organic agriculture and food production in the long run through practically applicable results.

## Planned activities

### Short-term:

Review of the current state-of-the-art and the development potential of organic agriculture and food industry research in Hungary through a survey of the concerned research institutes, professional organisations and innovative enterprises (conducted in spring 2011.)

### Mid-term:

Funding of Hungarian research projects of outstanding quality that scientifically ground and advance the contribution of organic farming to the achievement of sustainable agriculture, a healthy lifestyle, food safety, the protection of biodiversity and climate stability (first call for proposals to be launched in summer 2011.)

### Long-term:

Establishment and maintenance of an institute for the advancement of internationally competitive research and development in the field of organic farming in Hungary.

## Expected results

- An up-to-date overview of the current research capacities, demands and development possibilities in Hungarian organic agriculture and food industry.
- Partnerships with the leading Hungarian research institutes, professional organisations and innovative enterprises of the field.
- An upswing of Hungarian research on organic agriculture.
- Stronger cooperation between the actors of organic agriculture, food industry and the R+D sector.
- Improvement of the efficiency of internal information exchange and outward communication in the organic sector.
- A new project-coordination and research centre for the advancement of Hungarian organic farming sciences.