

ÖMKi Newsletter

December 2011

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Introduction

The Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet - ÖMKi) was set up for the scientific advancement of organic farming in Hungary.

ÖMKi’s goal is to strengthen Hungarian organic farming research and development. Our principles are authenticity, innovation performed in close cooperation with producers, practice-oriented research, and effective knowledge transfer. We aim to scientifically ground and put into practice the potentials of organic farming in frame of Hungarian rural development, nature conservation and health prevention programs.

Our main activities are:

- **Conducting a PhD and postdoctoral scholarship program**
- **Operating an on-farm experimentation network**
- **Providing applicable research results**
- **Conducting consultancy services, facilitating know-how transfer**
- **Organizing conferences and vocational events**

ÖMKi is a partner of FiBL Switzerland, the internationally recognized institute of organic agriculture research.

For further information about our mission and activities, please visit our website www.biokutatas.hu (currently only in Hungarian) or contact us directly.

Our team:



Dóra Drexler
Landscape architect, PhD
Managing director
Mobile: +36 20 346 9120
dora.drexler@biokutatas.hu



Orsolya Papp
Horticultural engineer
Project leader in organic gardening
Mobile: +36 20 321 7014
orsolya.papp@biokutatas.hu



Mihály Földi
Horticultural engineer
Project leader in arable farming
Mobile: +36 20 975 7483
mihaly.foldi@biokutatas.hu



Tímea Pászti
Horticultural engineer
General project manager
Mobile: +36 20 321 5383
timea.paszti@biokutatas.hu



Zoltán Dezsény
Environmental engineer
PhD student
Mobile: +36 20 394 7971
zoltan.dezseny@biokutatas.hu

I. ÖMKi conference: The state of organic farming in Hungary – Trends and development opportunities

We are glad to announce our first conference, to be held on 2nd February 2012, entitled

The state of organic farming in Hungary – Trends and development opportunities

The aim of the conference is to assess the current situation of the Hungarian organic sector, and to conceive with all stakeholders involved a common agenda, describing the most important steps needed for the sector's further development.

The conference is based on our conviction that cooperation and the exchange of ideas are necessary for the successful development of organic agriculture in Hungary. As a new, independent research institute, we regard it as our task to provide a platform for professional discussions involving all the actors of the sector.

The detailed program of the conference will be announced soon.

We are launching an on-farm experimentation network together with organic farmers, to develop the Hungarian organic sector.

Become our partner in establishing a national organic on-farm network. The aim of the on-farm program is to set up a lively professional network of active organic farms and farmers, who are open to try new production technologies, varieties, and treatments authorized in organic farming.

In the network small-scale, simple experiments (e.g. variety comparisons, product testing) will be performed, for which we will provide regular technical advisory for farmers. In case of demand and according to previous agreement, we will organize professional events or field excursions to the participating farms. Thus, they will have the opportunity to become more known and recognized both by colleague farmers and consumers. Moreover, these events provide a platform for farmers to exchange experiences and know-how, through which they may prevent significant yield losses or make new contacts and market co-operations.

Organic farmers can directly apply in their everyday work the results of the researches performed in the network. The developed production technologies, the recommended varieties, and the independent evaluation of treatments contribute to the realization of a more successful and competitive Hungarian organic sector.

In order to promote a better recognition of Hungarian organic farmers the broader audience will also be informed about the results of the program and the activities of the network.

Take part in the innovation and join the on-farm network!

BioFach 2012 – ÖMKi will represent Hungarian organic farming research both at the congress and the exhibition ground of the Nuremberg international fair

Next year we will be present at the BioFach Exhibition and Congress (12th-15th February 2012) in Nuremberg, which is the traditional yearly fair of organic products from all over the world. We cordially invite you to participate on the event! For the first time a whole conference session will be dedicated to Central-Eastern-European organic farming on the

BioFach conference. Visit this event, where we will present Hungarian organic farming to the international audience!

We also welcome you to the stand of ÖMKi where you will find multilingual brochures, and daily programs promoting the establishment of new international relations!

Organic farming research in Hungary – results of our first questionnaire survey

In the first half of 2011, as the first step of its program, ÖMKi launched a questionnaire survey in order to assess the current situation of Hungarian organic farming research and development. In frame of the survey we managed to establish contacts with the leading research institutes, professional organizations and innovative enterprises dealing with organic farming. They gave information about their R&D activities and proposed further research topics for the development of Hungarian organic farming.

The results of the survey show that arable farming and nutrient management are the most commonly researched fields of organic agriculture in Hungary. Moreover, many projects deal with the effects of herbs and herbal products on agricultural production. Although grasslands represent about half of the area of organically farmed land in Hungary, the field of organic grassland management is barely researched, which is surprising.

The scale of the proposed research topics for the sector's further development varied according to the disciplines represented by the survey participants. Some of the suggestions were breeding of varieties for organic farming, analyzing the potentials of old Hungarian plant varieties for organic farming, developing and examining alternative agro-technical methods of plant protection, nutrient management, and weed management.

The questionnaires provide a lot of useful information regarding the future directions of Hungarian organic farming research. One of the important findings is that although agriculture has a long tradition and a very significant scientific basis in Hungary, it is only partially able to provide the stakeholders with the relevant, authentic, practically applicable information required for the more significant expansion of organic farming. The available scientific capacities are often unexploited due to the lack of financial resources, the cooperation and coordination between the stakeholders are in some cases insufficient and particularly interdisciplinary issues are unexplored.

These results also show that the activity of our newly established institute is long-needed, and fills a gap in the field of Hungarian organic farming.

ÖMKi in the media:

News and reports about ÖMKi published in November (available only in Hungarian):

- "BioHolMi" Magazine, November

- “Székelyhon” Newspaper: [Bringing back the healthy ancient – the facts of organic farming](#)
- “Népújtság” Newspaper: [The expansion of organic farming](#)

Contact us:

**Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet (ÖMKi)
Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture**

H-2100 Gödöllő, Isaszegi út 200, Hungary

Tel: +3628521490, Fax: +3628521491

www.biokutatas.hu

Partner of FiBL Switzerland

www.fibl.org

Ökológiai Mezőgazdasági Kutatóintézet Közhasznú Nonprofit Kft.

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Registered head office: H-1174 Budapest, Melczer utca 47., Hungary