



Sektion für Landwirtschaft
Section for Agriculture
Section d'Agriculture
Seccion de Agricultura

International Professional group Herbs and medicinal plants

NEWSLETTER 4 December 2018

Dear members and friends of the Professional Group Herbs and medicinal plants,

This year, we started the work on our mission statement with the topic «What is a biodynamic medicinal plant?». A first initial debate took place at the Agricultural Conference 2018 (see Newsletter 3).

Professional group meeting during the Agricultural Conference 2019

During the next Agricultural Conference on the subject of «Land and economy – agriculture between the farm and the world» at the Goetheanum, the mission statement work will thus be the focus of our Professional group meeting. We want to deal with the «cultivation of medicinal plants in the field of tension between quality and quantity». In addition, there should be room for exchanging experiences, initiatives and future projects.

The meeting will take place on 8 February 2019, from 15.15 to 16.30, in the Glashaus.

All interested are welcome!

Mission statement as a research task

In the near future we want to deepen the following questions: What do we mean by biodynamic medicinal plant? How does the essence, the archetype of a medicinal plant, express itself? What role do the active ingredients play? Which quality criteria should be developed?

Who would like to participate? Which students would be interested in certain questions for their research?

Website

On the website of the Section for Agriculture, the Group now has its own section under «Thematic areas». The newsletters, reports and protocols can be downloaded at:

<https://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/arbeitsfelder/kraeuter-heilpflanzen/>

Change in the steering group

Since September we have Sarah Sommer as new contact person at the Section; she works there as a Group and project assistant. We thank Jasmin Peschke, who was previously our link to the Section, for her work in the steering group. She will continue to focus on her field of work «International Coordination of Nutrition» at the Section.

Country report from Norway

Following Karin Mecozzi's report from Italy, here comes the account of the only Norwegian Demeter herb grower Ola Aukrust, who also belongs to the steering group:

«We are in the Norwegian mountains. Our village Lom is located at 500 meters above sea level, the mountain directly behind the farm rises up to 2068 meters. With a rainfall of 350 millimetres per year, we are the driest place in Northern Europe. The prerequisite for farming at all is artificial irrigation.

Great interest in herbs and medicinal plants led to the creation of a show garden in the 1980s. This was followed by a 20-year collaboration with a Norwegian organic herbal cooperative. After an enthusiastic start, however, it turned out that the distribution was not as easy to do as you first thought. Since the turn of the millennium, we have been building our own brand, as is widely used in the wine industry. In this way, better sales opportunities can be created in the long term.

Our «Seter-Te» (alp tea) is served in the only Norwegian 3-star restaurant Maaemo in Oslo. All ingredients come from wild collection: birch leaves, epilobium flowers and leaves, dried blueberries, roots, leaves and seeds of the Norwegian angelica and red clover flowers. The Norwegian angelica is a traditional medicinal plant in Norway. Here, it grows wild up to 1500 meters between the highest mountains; already in the Viking Age it was considered an important crop.



For seven years the herbs have been our livelihood. We are a big family with five children, two to four interns and two employees. The goal for the coming years is the further development of our gardens in conjunction with our new cultural center.

Come to visit us !

Contact: aukr@online.no,
www.aukrust-nordgard.no

Little reminder: It would be nice if more short country reports followed.

Who would like to report next?

Note: The Group will attend the next summer excursion of Hortus Officinarum and Netzwerk Kräuter. It will take place May 25th and 26th, 2019 near Marburg (DE), among others at the Krebsbachhof. Further details will follow in the next newsletter.

The next newsletter will be published in spring 2019. If you have any contributions, ideas or concerns, please contact us by the beginning of April at: info@odilienzeit.ch

Best regards

Michaela Spaar (coordinator) with Ola Aukrust, Bettina Billmann, Henrik Hoeren, Bettina Pfeffer and Michael Straub