



Call for Contributions to the Agriculture Conference 2025

The Earth as a Living Being

Join us at the Agriculture Conference 2025, where we will delve into the future of biodynamics. This conference marks the culmination of a trilogy that began with a retrospective in 2023 and continued with a deep exploration of the Agriculture Course at the anniversary conference 2024. Now, we look forward to 2025 and beyond, envisioning the future in our central theme: The Earth as a Living Being.

During the previous anniversary conference, our focus was on a profound understanding of the biodynamic impulse, viewing it through the lens of the farm organism and its individuality as a place where cosmos, earth and human connect through agriculture.

In the upcoming conference, we want to turn our view to an outward expression, one that expands the individual place on earth onto the whole earth. We turn our attention from the farm organism to the earth as a living organism - a living being. This opening gesture leads us to regard life itself, to co-experience the living.

For instance, spraying a biodynamic preparation at sunrise allows us to sense the Earth's breathing with the sky and cosmos, or observe how plants form a living skin that evolves with the seasons. These experiences lead us out of materialistic intellectual thinking and towards an enlivened perception of reality that takes place on another level. Can we experience the Earth as a living being? Can we conceive of her as a living being? Can we connect with the Earth through its living gesture and work with her in a new, harmonious way? These questions guide our exploration.

Our approach is inspired by the Michaelic impulse, as highlighted in the current Michael Letter: the descent of human consciousness into Ahrimanic intelligence and its re-ascent through enlivened thinking. Cultivating liveliness in thinking and perception is essential for future viability, resilience, and hope. This connection between work with living forces, enlivened thinking and the future of biodynamics is crucial as we enter the second century of biodynamic agriculture.

The seven life processes as the foundation of the conference

To fully perceive the Earth as a living being, we begin by using our senses, which connect us to the external world. Life flows through all sensory experiences—seeing, hearing, touching—and life is differentiated into various, not just one, life processes. Rudolf Steiner called our attention to the Sense of life, through which we perceive our own vital state. But life is also differentiated within us. The very life that flows through us can allow us to perceive the Earth as a living being.

Rudolf Steiner provided an approach to understanding the living through the seven life processes: breathing, warming, digesting, individualizing, maintaining, growing, and reproducing. These processes are all found in aspects and areas of living systems, including agriculture, medicine, education, and social life. In the first three processes, something is taken in from the outside; in the fourth process, individualizing or separating, what has been taken in is transformed. In the last three processes, inner forces are mobilized from the transformed matter, which in turn give birth to something new.

By observing these processes within ourselves, in our physical-etherical body, soul, and spirit, we can then extend this understanding to the farm organism and, as a third step, ultimately to the Earth itself. Then, a deep understanding of the Earth as a living being can emerge. In this threefold approach, the trilogy of the three conferences shines through—the personal-biographical as retrospective, the farm organism as an individual place on earth, and envisioning the living Earth as a future outlook.

Invitation to contribute

We invite contributions for the upcoming conference that engage with these themes. We aim to make the life processes experientially accessible and applicable in three ways—within the conference community through lectures, in small groups through workshops, and individually through a process of individualization. Detailed formats for contributions are explained in more detail below.

If this theme resonates with you, we warmly welcome your proposal for a contribution. We look forward to your insights.

With warm regards from Dornach,



Ueli Hurter
Section for Agriculture
Executive Council, General
Anthroposophical Society



Eduardo Rincon
Section for Agriculture



Kalle Huebner
Conference Management

Conference Formats

Lecture or Panel Contribution to the Plenary

If you are available to give a lecture or participate in a discussion panel, we look forward to receiving your proposal.

Workshop in the Morning

The 3-day workshops in the morning invite participants to become aware of the seven life processes and to work through them on the basis of a theme. The first day is dedicated to the first three processes (outside to inside), the second day to the fourth process (individualization) and the third day to the last three processes (inside to outside). The life processes can be taken as a methodical basis if the topic is not focused on the seven life processes themselves. Time: 10:45 to 12:30.

Workshop in the Afternoon

The 3-day workshops in the afternoon are open to any topic. Their purpose is a collaborative development of a chosen topic over a three-day period. These workshops shall include an artistic or meditative element such as painting, eurythmy, music, language, meditation, perceptual exercises, or phenomenology. The intention of these workshops is to engage with the forces of the living on a perceptual or creative level. The afternoon workshops replace the artistic courses and open spaces offered at previous conferences. Time: 14:00 to 15:30.

Performance

During the daily afternoon break, we wish to offer performances that can be attended without prior registration. A performance could be a contribution with music, folklore, dance, poetry, drama, or another artistic format, or also an interactive discussion with a group. Performances are meant to reflect the diversity and initiative of the worldwide biodynamic movement at the Goetheanum. Time: 15:30 to 16:30.

Submitting a Proposal

Proposals for Contribution

Please submit your proposal for contribution on the conference website: www.agriculture-conference.org. When you submit your details, you will also be asked about your preferences for a room setup and your requirements for materials and equipment. This helps us arrange the required resources well in advance.

Schedule

Deadline for submission of proposals: **31 July 2024**

Agricultural Conference: 5 to 8 February 2025 at the Goetheanum

Professional Group Meetings: 4 and 5 February 2025 at the Goetheanum

Annual Theme

The 2024-25 annual theme is "The Earth as a Living Being." The conference website provides a detailed description of the theme.

Michael Letter

The following Michael Letter belongs to the current annual theme: "Michael's Task in the Sphere of Ahriman" with the three leading thoughts No. 106 to 108. From: Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts (GA 26).