



Goetheanum · Freie Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft
Section for Agriculture
Sektion für Landwirtschaft
Section d'Agriculture
Sección de Agricultura

Activity Report 2025



2025 – Towards the agriculture of the future!

Following the 100th anniversary of biodynamic agriculture in 2024, the year 2025 was entirely dedicated to the future: How can an agriculture emerge that supports the positive development of human beings and Earth in the long term? Through international conferences, new formats, and strong partnerships, we provided important impulses and developed a new working orientation under the guiding principle “*Re-think, Re-feel, Re-do Farming*”.

The Earth as a Living Being

Agriculture Conference 2025

The year began with the annual Agriculture Conference 2025, held from 5–8 February under the title “*The Earth as a Living Being*”, bringing together 700 participants from 47 countries. Based on Rudolf Steiner’s seven life processes, it became clear: future-proof agriculture arises where ecological, regional, and community-supported approaches are practiced. Inspiring examples from Egypt, India, and Central America demonstrated how this can succeed.

Further contributions showed how schools can be integrated into farms, with education directly interwoven with practical work (Ruskin Mill in Great Britain), or how a small biodynamic farm (Kollebloem in Belgium), situated within an industrial agricultural landscape, has created an independent future through community building.

Connecting science and wisdom

Third International Biodynamic Research Conference

In summer, from 31 August to 4 September, the third International Biodynamic Research Conference took place at the prestigious Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester. It was jointly organised by the Research Ring, the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International, the Biodynamic Association UK, and the Section for Agriculture. A total of 185 researchers from 28 countries demonstrated that biodynamic research is by no means lagging behind (see cover picture). On the contrary, it plays a pioneering role – particularly with regard to transdisciplinarity and diversity. Today, biodynamic research is broadly positioned both internationally and thematically, providing important impulses for the agriculture of the future.

Making the impossible possible

Thematic day “Greening the Desert”

With the new event format of the thematic day “*Greening the Desert*”, we opened a space for experience between practice, research, business, and art in October. Impressive reports from Egypt, Tunisia, and Western Sahara showed how fertile living environments can emerge even in extremely arid regions – and how agriculture here means far more than food production: it creates dignity, self-determination, and community.

The cooperation with the cultural festival Culturescapes, the Sekem Initiative, Agroecology Works, and the Section for Agriculture made this development tangible for the 100 participants at the Goetheanum.

Re-think, Re-feel, Re-do Sustainable Development

World Goetheanum Forum in Sekem

Another highlight was the World Goetheanum Forum 2025 in Sekem, Egypt. The Section for Agriculture developed the overall concept on behalf of the World Goetheanum Association and, together with twelve partner organisations, brought the initiative to implementation. Under the guiding theme “*Re-think, Re-feel, Re-do Sustainable Development*”, around 150 participants from 20 countries came together and developed an expanded understanding of sustainable development. In the light of global crises, it became clear: sustainability requires not only ecological, social, and economic aspects, but also a dimension of inner development and a spiritual embedding with regard to the shared path of development of human beings and Earth.

Healing Earth

Third Asian Biodynamic Conference

The series of major events concluded with the third Asian Biodynamic Conference “*Healing Himalayas*”, which took place in Nepal in November with the support of the Section for Agriculture at the Goetheanum, the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International, and several regional biodynamic and agricultural organisations. With nearly 200 participants from 20 countries – and numerous pre-events across different regions of Nepal – the conference offered the Asian biodynamic community a unique opportunity to connect and learn together. The focus was on the shared responsibility for healing Earth.

Developments in the fields of work and specialist areas

Training: The online course “*Human, Cosmos, Humus*”, consisting of three modules, provided inspiration for around 100 participants. Numerous guest lecturers from diverse fields such as education, medicine, and astrology built bridges to biodynamics and opened up new perspectives that participants can apply practically in their agricultural work.

Over the past year, we were also able to strengthen training initiatives worldwide – among other things through further training for “Formadores” in Latin America. Training teams in seven countries, with a total of 72 biodynamic trainers, were specifically coached and supported in planning and implementing their courses.

Innovative impulses were also set through an experimental “*High-Impact Course Development Lab*”. In collaboration with the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International and Dr Ambra Sedlmayr, new forward-looking approaches for anthroposophical adult education were developed.

Nutrition: The “Dynamic Nutrition Network”, founded the previous year, gained momentum. The quarterly online meetings, where nutrition professionals from around the world exchange ideas, attracted an average of 60 participants. In addition, monthly articles on current nutrition topics were published, and various lectures and workshops were held across Europe.

Research: Alongside the International Biodynamic Research Conference described above, another key focus was the development of an online platform for members of the biodynamic movement – as a space for social exchange and knowledge sharing. The platform is currently in a testing phase and already has more than 200 members. Study reports were also published regularly throughout the year.

Associative economics: In view of current challenges facing organic markets and biodynamic farmers, the economic working group addressed the question of how resilience can be strengthened and crises overcome through collaborative action. This resulted in the pub-

lication *We Never Farm Alone. Do We Trust in the Power of Community?*.

Sustainable development: During the World Goetheanum Forum mentioned above, the book *On the Earth We Want to Live – Anthroposophy’s Contributions to Sustainable Development* was published by the prestigious publisher Springer Nature. More than 75 authors – including scientists and companies – examine the role of anthroposophy in sustainable development and develop an extended perspective that concretely integrates inner and spiritual dimensions. The Section for Agriculture served as editor and also contributed its own articles.

Communication: The number of followers on our social media channels continued to grow, now exceeding 10,000. In addition, two further issues of the magazine *Living Farms* were published, and – after a pause in 2024 – the podcast of the same name was relaunched.

Annual theme 2025/26

The working theme “*You Never Farm Alone. Living Communities for the Future*”, in preparation for the Agriculture Conference 2026, placed the central importance of community in agriculture at the forefront. In the light of current social, economic, and ecological challenges, it highlighted that agriculture cannot succeed in isolation, but only through collaboration.

The developments of 2025 thus clearly demonstrated: biodynamic agriculture is not merely a practice, but a global project for the future – supported by research, community, education, and a deep responsibility for human beings and Earth.

Publishing information

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The Section for Agriculture

The main task of the Section for Agriculture is to coordinate and inspire the biodynamic movement worldwide. Through courses, seminars, working groups, conferences, lecture tours and publications the Section creates opportunities for people looking for an anthroposophical spiritual scientific deepening in connection to agriculture. Ideas and suggestions for self-determined activity in farming and horticulture, processing, retail and nutrition, and for inner work and public relations are particularly important. The Section maintains and develops an active, global network of individuals and societies, Demeter companies, research institutions, foundations and more.

The Section is led by Ueli Hurter and Eduardo Rincón. The Section team currently consists of nine people. There are also freelance co-workers working on projects. The Circle of Representatives of the Section represents the biodynamic movement in all its regional and professional diversity at present through 80 people in 25 countries.

Contact

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Financially, the Section rests on several pillars. The following income/expenditure accrued for 2025:

Income 2025	CHF
Donations from individuals	17'986
Donations from institutions and project funding	617'641
Revenue from events	439'859
Release of reserves	43'357
Goetheanum*	130'332
Total	1'249'175

Expenditure 2025	
Staff	689'592
Events and projects	559'583
Total	1'249'175

* Annual basic contribution from the General Anthroposophical Society arising from donations and membership fees

Donations

We welcome your donation!
Bank details and donating online under "Donations" at:



The 2025 Section team

Back row: Johannes Kronenberg: "Sustainable Development" project / Lukas Maschek: Research communications and coordination / Kalle Hübner: Event organisation

Middle row: Ueli Hurter, Section head / Dr Jasmin Peschke: Nutrition Department / Anna Storchenegger: Communications, public relations, event marketing

Front row: Eduardo Rincón: Section head / Jacqueline Reimann: Administration, finances / Sarah Sommer: Training, counselling, specialist groups

