



Goetheanum · School of Spiritual Science  
Section for Agriculture  
Sektion für Landwirtschaft  
Section d'Agriculture  
Sección de Agricultura

# Activity Report 2023/24



## 100th anniversary of biodynamic agriculture

### Preparations and events

2023 was a year of preparation for the 100th anniversary of the biodynamic impulse that came into being at Whitsun 1924 with Rudolf Steiner's Agriculture Course, given on the Koberwitz estate. A range of publications and a free online course enabled all those interested to prepare the material for the anniversary. In addition, two special occasions were planned: the large international anniversary conference in February 2024 and a regional anniversary celebration at Whitsun.

The Circle of Representatives of the Section for Agriculture met in autumn 2023 in Donji Kraljevec in Croatia. This was Rudolf Steiner's birthplace, as his father was an official who worked at the railway station there. The Genius loci helped us to gather the strength to delve into the depths and connect to Rudolf Steiner's momentous stream of creativity, as some of the contributions in the Circular 124 show.

### International anniversary conference with around 1,000 participants

Sun – Earth – Human. 100 years of the Agricultural Course

As a prelude to the Agriculture Conference 2024 the professional groups and Sarah Sommer organised a fantastic tasting evening to celebrate biodynamic quality. On 7 February 2024 the time had come: the big anniversary

conference began. The conference, which ran until 10 February, was a sell-out, with around 1,000 participants from 51 countries in attendance. The «seed» to help society rediscover agriculture for the future was shared through lectures, panel discussions, workshops, Open Spaces, artistic courses and exhibitions. It spread in the hearts of all the participants at the Goetheanum, which was positively humming with life and human warmth. We wish to thank all the visitors, contributors, sponsors and supporters as well as the Goetheanum team for this wonderful celebration!

### Open doors day on Whit Sunday 2024 – bringing biodynamics to life

Earth – Plant – Animal – Human. Celebrating 100 years of biodynamic agriculture together

The international anniversary conference in February was followed by a regional anniversary celebration on Whit Sunday, 19 May 2024. Around 800 people took up the invitation from the Garden Department and the Section for Agriculture to celebrate the centenary of biodynamic agriculture and to honour the earth and everything that it gives us. The aim of the celebration was to bring biodynamics to life through workshops on the natural kingdoms of earth, plant, animal and human, tours through the Goetheanum garden park and a market with regional biodynamic products. The beaming faces of the visitors were proof of what a success this was (see cover image, photo: Xue Li).

Agriculture Conference 2024. Photo: Xue Li





## Well attended online course

### Training

As preparation for the anniversary, we offered a free online course «Biodynamics and anthroposophy», led by Jean-Michel Florin, Ueli Hurter and Sarah Sommer, with 600 registrations from across the world. Further courses on the topics of «Associative economics», «Animals» and «Food» continued the online course programme that was launched in 2021. Within three years a kind of mini online university has emerged, with the courses attracting keen interest.

## Successful development of the international research platform

### Research communication and coordination

Research communication has made great progress: the international Biodynamic Research Platform was set up in 2023 and now has over 170 members from around 20 countries. In the run-up to the anniversary conference the members met for a Biodynamic Research Day, which will now take place annually. In addition to this meeting, there have been online seminars on current research topics and study reports have been published at regular intervals.

## Further development and deepening of «dynamic nutrition»

### Nutrition department

Published for the anniversary conference, the new handbook by Dr. Jasmin Peschke «From Food System to Food

Organism» describes a transformation and includes exercises for success. In addition, Dr. Jasmin Peschke gave various seminars, (online) courses and lectures throughout the world on the topic of food, and jointly published regular articles on current topics in nutrition in four languages with the nutrition advisor, Lea Sprügel.

## New professional direction

### Sustainable development

The research co-worker Johannes Kronenberg joined the Section team, bringing with him the new professional area of «Sustainable Development». He is currently working on a compendium, which will present the contributions by anthroposophy to sustainable development by means of case studies from anthroposophical institutions and companies.

## A wide range of publications

### Communications

The book «Biodynamisch! Geburtsstunde der biodynamischen Landwirtschaft am Ausgangspunkt der Ökobewegung» (Biodynamic! Birth of biodynamic agriculture at the starting point of the environmental movement) by Rudi Bind and Ueli Hurter was published in June 2023. The objective description of the historical development of the biodynamic impulse combats current attacks by the media and served as preparation for the anniversary. The Living Farms project also produced 22 podcast episodes with interesting personalities from the Section's worldwide network. And as the third new development we are pleased to announce the enclosed Section for Agriculture Magazine: here you can read more detailed information on our activities mentioned in the Review.

Agriculture Conference 2024, Blackboard drawing exhibition. Photo: Xue Li



## Legal notice

General Anthroposophical Society  
Section for Agriculture  
Hügelweg 59  
4143 Dornach, Switzerland  
Phone +41 61 706 42 12  
email: [landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch](mailto:landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch)  
[www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org](http://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org)

Edited by: Anna Storchenegger  
Layout: Johannes Onneken,  
Atelier Doppelpunkt GmbH, Münchenstein  
Print: Wir machen Druck, Schweiz AG,  
Neuhausen am Rheinfall

## 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 Jean-Michel Florin and Ueli Hurter. 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 70 people in 18 countries.

## Contact

Section for Agriculture, Hügelweg 59, 4143 Dornach,  
+41 61 706 42 12, [landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch](mailto:landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch)

The Section has a number of sources of income. The income and expenditure for 2023 were as follows:

<b>Income 2023</b>	<b>CHF</b>
Individual donations	31'603
Donations from institutions and project	509'616
Income from events	304'749
Goetheanum*	91'505
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>937'473</b>
<b>Expenditure 2023</b>	
Wages and salaries	595'236
Events and projects	342'237
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>937'473</b>

\* Annual basic contribution by the General Anthroposophical Society from donations and members' contributions

## Donations

Thank you in advance for your donation! Bank details and online donations under «Donations» at [www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/donations](http://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/en/donations)

### The Section team 2023/24

**Back:** Anna Storchenegger: Communications, Public relations work, Event marketing / Kalle Hübner: Event organisation / Lukas Maschek: Research communication and coordination **Middle:** Ueli Hurter, Section leader / Dr. Jasmin Peschke: Nutrition department / Sarah Sommer: Training, consulting, professional groups **Front:** Jean-Michel Florin: Section leader / Jacqueline Reimann: Administration, finances / Johannes Kronenberg: Project «Sustainable Development»

