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| |  | | --- | | Dear Members and Friends,  In the beginning of May we held the first [African Biodynamic Conference](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=a6f1ae063e&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank) in Egypt. We welcomed around 150 participants from 16 countries in [SEKEM](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=7af678a973&e=5b6a150364) and witnessed how biodynamic agriculture is not only working in Europe but is successfully implemented all over the African continent. Having seen how relevant biodynamic practices are for Africa and the whole world, we could experience the power of a community and the impact that the relations between people and nature have.  Biodynamic agriculture offers the most productive and efficient methods for a sustainable interaction with nature and for the development of people and a fair economy. It acts as a cultural impulse for co-creation between humans and nature, which makes it the most regenerative and sustainable way of interacting with nature. However, although we are celebrating 100 years of this innovative and advanced approach, only 2% of the world's agricultural land is managed organically (biodynamic agriculture included).  In this reality lies the challenge, and our mission for the future. We need to find ways to transfer our knowledge and conviction of biodynamic agriculture into the mainstream. The easiest language in which to do this is via the fact that biodynamic agriculture produces the cheapest and best quality food, which can be proven when True Cost Accounting methods are applied. In SEKEM, we are able to reward our farmers for sequestering carbon and producing the healthiest food so that they can improve their livelihoods. Within our “[Economy of Love](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=4b1476dec8&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank)” system, we want to expand and reach 250,000 farmers in Egypt within the next four years.  However, when I met my African brothers and sisters recently, I realized again that having a master plan is not the only tool for success and a system change. The connection between people, nature and the spiritual world is the key. I learned about Ubuntu, an African concept which describes how people are connected and part of a larger societal, environmental, and spiritual world. It says: I am because you are!  This realisation was also the result of a survey that we did with our new Biodynamic farmers in Egypt. Having assumed that their biggest advantage of shifting to Biodynamic agriculture and becoming part of the “Economy of Love” network would be the higher income, to our surprise, the majority stated that being part of a community is what they appreciate the most. They have become visible, are taken seriously, and feel that someone cares.  Biodynamic agriculture gives us all this. It nurtures soils and souls and enables a real co-creation between nature and humans. Although we are still a relatively small community, we have a real connection and a vision that leads us, and I am confident that thereby we can make a change. | |
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| |  | | --- | | Respectfully,  *Helmy Abouleish, President of the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International & CEO of SEKEM.* | |
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| |  | | --- | | **Newsletter Information**  It is possible to translate the newsletter into different languages. When you receive the newsletter:   * Open it in your browser * Click on 'Translate' in the top right corner, and select your language. * A Google search link will appear on the top left with your selection. Click on the ‘search' function and the newsletter will be translated automatically.   Enjoy the reading! | |
| |  | | --- | | **Table of contents**  **News from the Federation** Advisory, Research and Training I 100 Years Celebration I Policy and Public Relations  **News from the Section for Agriculture**  Agriculture Conference I Events of the Section I 100 Years Celebration I Nutrition department  **News from the Member Organisations**  Austria I Brazil I Egypt I United States  **News from the World**  Asian Biodynamic Training and Networking Conference I Biodynamic farming in Tunisia | |
| |  | | --- | | **News from the Federation** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Advisory, Research and Training** | |
| |  | | --- | | **“Learning Biodynamics as a Path of Self-Discovery”** *Handbook and Online Sessions for Biodynamic Trainers & Teachers* | |
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| |  | | --- | | We want to share with all biodynamic trainers and teachers a recently published handbook "Learning Biodynamics as a Path of Self-Discovery" (download [h](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=ba383fd617&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank)[ere](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=1cf5e41a27&e=5b6a150364)). This handbook aims to provide trainers with inspiration and to help them design meaningful biodynamic training courses. The handbook is also intended to guide trainers along with their own learning and development paths.  The handbook includes a collection of rich and diverse experiential exercises developed by biodynamic trainers and teachers around the world. These exercises aim to engage the threefold human being (thinking, feeling and willing) in deep experiences of encounters with the various fields of biodynamics. Based on a variety of methods and training approaches, these exercises seek to awaken the student’s inner enthusiasm for the learning experience, whilst offering insightful ways to awaken new faculties and skills.  The handbook also offers a knowledgeable chapter on how to design meaningful learning processes for adults. This includes practical tips on how to create a good learning atmosphere and a conscious ending. The foundations of adult learning from an anthroposophical perspective, including Coenraad van Houten’s work on the “Seven Life Forces as an Adult Learning Process”, are described in detail in this chapter.  We invite trainers and teachers in our international community to experience this handbook and to integrate and adapt its contents for their own training realities. To accompany this process, we invite trainers to a series of online sessions exploring the foundations of adult learning processes whilst exchanging experiences and perspectives with colleagues on different training approaches and methodologies. Some of the experiential exercises shared in the handbook will be practiced live during these sessions so that trainers can engage with the exercises and offer perspectives on their applications.  More information about these sessions will be shared closer to the date. In the meantime, I invite you to save these dates and register on the following links:   * September 12 at 2 pm CEST: “The Foundations of Adult Education based on Anthroposophy”. The seven vital learning processes as a path for learning and development, by Ambra Sedlmayr. Registration [here](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=ad1a659d29&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank). * October 22 at 2 pm CEST: "Awakening the Will through Biodynamic Training". How to engage head, heart and hands in training, by Simone Helmle. Registration [here](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=d44683c148&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank). * November 28 at 2 pm CET: “Building Capacities through Biodynamic Training”.  The Goethean Path and the awakening of inner capacities through training, by Liron Israel. Registration [here](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=948f8028f3&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank).   If you would like more information about the handbook or the online sessions, please contact Maria Paz Bernaschina at: [paz.bernaschina@demeter.net](mailto:paz.bernaschina@demeter.net). | |
| |  | | --- | | **100 Years Celebration** | |
| |  | | --- | | **World Biodynamic Day**  *Worldwide celebration* | |
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| |  | | --- | | On May 28, the world celebrated World Biodynamic Day! Of course, this year's celebration was dedicated to one hundred years of biodynamic farming; one hundred years of working in harmony with nature, producing good food and healing the planet. It was an opportunity to look back to the beginnings and to take a look towards the next hundred years with a focus on the crucial role of nature.  From the start, biodynamic farming has been about understanding and working with nature in all its aspects: soil, plants, animals and humans, but also insects, birds, and everything that lives and surrounds the farm. In nature, all elements are interconnected and nothing stands in isolation, but works and interacts with each other. Nature is the foundation of everything, and every economic activity finds its source in nature through the soil, the water, the minerals, the forests, etc.  Beyond this crucial work with nature, biodynamic farming also considers the fundamental social dimensions that are part of farming: the importance of placing the farmer at the centre, and the role farming plays within our communities. This is why the respect of nature goes hand in hand with the empowerment of farmers and the creation of resilient communities.  To find out more, take a look at the full article on our [website](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=92dfd89312&e=5b6a150364) and on our social media channels ([Facebook](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=a05da0cdd0&e=5b6a150364), [Linkedin](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=33c1fe6ed7&e=5b6a150364), [Instagram](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=12d8aea5f1&e=5b6a150364) and [X](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=27f6c6ef77&e=5b6a150364)).  For further information, please reach out to Clara Behr at: [clara.behr@demeter.net](mailto:clara.behr@demeter.net). | |
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| |  | | --- | | **100 Years Celebration - Fifth Benefit**  *Climate Action* | |
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| |  | | --- | | For the celebration of one hundred years of biodynamic farming, we continue to shed the light on a particular benefit of biodynamic farming every month and look further into how biodynamic farming provides solutions to the many challenges of today. In June, the focus lies on [Climate Action](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=dba2410406&e=5b6a150364)!  Biodynamic farming recognizes the central role agriculture plays in the preservation of our planet´s resources and in tackling climate change. Whilst agriculture contributes substantially to greenhouse gas emissions, it also has substantial potential to reduce and even reverse emissions. To this purpose, biodynamic farming commits to addressing the severe multiple crises affecting our world - such as soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and pollution - by mitigating climate change.  In this regard, a healthy soil is crucial. The building up of a humus layer through crop rotations, animal or green manure, or cover crops, binds CO2 emissions and fixes carbon in the soil, contributing in this way to achieving climate mitigation.  Contact Clara Behr ([clara.behr@demeter.net](mailto:clara.behr@demeter.net)) if you would like access to the communication materials on the 100 Years Celebration, including the 100 Years style guide, the 12 Benefits campaign materials including the 12 Benefits brochure, the 2024 world days calendar, the social media contact list, and the FAQ 'Biodynamics in the critics'.  Find out more on the 100 Years Celebration on our [website](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=ca60887acc&e=5b6a150364) and social media accounts. Don't forget to use the 100 Years hashtags on social media: [#InTheRhythmOfChange](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=2d3fb30c25&e=5b6a150364), [#100YearsOfBiodynamics](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=8719bf87f7&e=5b6a150364) and [#100YearsOfBiodynamicFarming](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=df613547d9&e=5b6a150364). | |
| |  | | --- | | **Policy and Public Relations** | |
| |  | | --- | | **All eyes on the Council of the European Union**  *New GMOs, Seeds and Green Claims*  While the Parliament is taking a break until the EU elections taking place at the beginning of June, the Council of the European Union is working on the different legislative files followed by the Federation, namely the proposal on new genomic techniques - simply referred to as 'new GMOs' -, the seed marketing reform, and the green claims directive, with the aim of finalising their position before the end of the Belgian presidency in place until the beginning of July.  The Belgian presidency tried a new attempt to gain a majority on the [new GMO proposal](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=2e99255e75&e=5b6a150364) in the Agriculture Council, where the 27 agriculture ministers are represented. So far, their attempt was not succesful, with several countries still questioning or blocking the file among which are Poland, Romania, Germany, Austria, Croatia and also Hungary. It is becoming more and more likely that the file will be passed on to Hungary, who will hold the next presidency of the Council from  the beginning of July until the end of the year. Hungary is known for its opposition to the new GMO proposal, therefore it is clear that this will be the way forward.  The [seed marketing reform](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=2288c5e06f&e=5b6a150364) is also being discussed by the Agriculture Council. However, as the file is rather long and technical, the negotiations are taking time. So far, the changes introduced by the Council are not as progressive as in the Parliament's position (see our [press release](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=b6f91bdbdb&e=5b6a150364)). Therefore, the Federation is working with its allies to secure the provisions for organic breeding, the conservation networks and the farmers' seeds exchanges. The file will in any case not be concluded under the Belgian presidency but will be continued in autumn under the Hungarian presidency.  Meanwhile, the Environment Council is negotiating the [Green claims directive](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=d8f75e1d5f&e=5b6a150364), aiming to reach a position before the end of June. They have introduced quite some changes to the original proposal. While at the beginning the ministers supported an exemption for the private organic standards from the directive, it is no longer certain that this will be maintained in the final version. This would mean that private labels such as Demeter would in the future need to obtain a certificate of conformity to place their products on the market and to substantiate all explicit environmental claims going above the EU organic regulation. Along with the other private organic standards, the Federation is working towards the Council to improve the current proposal.  For further information, please contact Clara Behr at: [clara.behr@demeter.net](mailto:clara.behr@demeter.net). | |
| |  | | --- | | **News from the Section** | |
| |  | | --- | | **New magazine of the Section for Agriculture** | |
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| |  | | --- | | The new Living Farms magazine has arrived! We lay it in your hands and also your hearts, as we want to create a connection between readers and writers, and prepare a fertile soil for the continued expansion, deepening and development of biodynamics.  We took a risk for the centenary and replaced the conference documentation and our Circular with a magazine in order to reach a wider readership. The magazine Living Farms is free of charge and will be published in German and English, in print and online, at the beginning of June and the beginning of December. The June issue includes articles on the Agriculture Conference, while the December issue focuses on the various fields of work of the Section and the global biodynamic movement.  [Click here for the online edition!](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=eb50289aba&e=5b6a150364)  If you would like to order the print edition and distribute it in your farm community, institution, association, or organization, please get in touch with us at [sektion.landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch](mailto:sektion.landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch).  The Section for Agriculture is also happy to provide you with the content and layout if you would like to translate the magazine or articles from it into your national language. | |
| |  | | --- | | **Agriculture Conference** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Call for Contributions Agriculture Conference 2025** *The future of biodynamics*  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 in 2024.  Now we look forward to 2025 and beyond, envisioning the future in our central theme: The Earth as a Living Being. We turn our focus from the farm organism to the earth as a living organism, to examine life itself, to co-experience the living.  Can we connect with the Earth through its living gesture? Can we experience her as a living being? In 3-day morning workshops, we want to explore the conference theme through the lens of Rudolf Steiner's seven life processes.  The 3-day afternoon workshops offer an open format for experiencing the living on an artistic or meditative level. During the extended afternoon break, we welcome artistic performances and discussion groups. If the conference theme resonates with you, we look forward to your ideas and proposals for contribution.  [Call for contributions](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=c849866cda&e=5b6a150364) & [Submit a proposal](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=8cfaffe4b9&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank) | |
| |  | | --- | | **Events of the Section for Agriculture** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Monthly online courses ‘Agri-culture: rhythms and rituals’**  *With Jean-Michel Florin and Eduardo Rincon*  Rhythm is life. The cosmos in which our planet is embedded moves in rhythmic patterns that influence all life, from plants and animals to humans. Life cycles, including those of the earth, are deeply connected to these rhythms. How can conscious rituals in the rhythm of the year help us to connect with other living beings, maintain our balance and thus strengthen resilience on the farms?  **June course ‘Co-creation and resilience’** *Monday, June 10, 2024, 14:00–15:30 CEST*  The next course in the ‘Agri-culture: rhythms and rituals’ series will focus on the different qualities of time that are particularly noticeable in agriculture. We will look at the significance of the summer solstice in different regions and the opportunities farmers have to help shape it, for example through the use of biodynamic preparations on their farms.  **July course ‘Discovering the soul of the earth’** *Monday, July 8, 2024, 14:00–15:30 CEST*  The vitality of the earth is essentially revealed through vegetation, i.e. the growth, reproduction and decay of plants. It shows its soul in the blossoming of plants, their colourfulness and, above all, through the enormous diversity of the animal world. Rudolf Steiner draws our attention to the fact that the ‘astrality’ of animals is an essential supplement for a healthy agricultural organism.  In this course we will explore the specificity of the earthly summer state and the astral atmosphere of the earth, as well as looking at animals as key elements for the resilience of agricultural goods and large landscapes.  We look forward to exciting insights and a lively exchange with you! The main language is English, translation into Spanish is organised.  Registration and payment are possible via the website. You can also find the topics and dates of the following courses on our website.  [Find out more and register](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=ecb7225bf0&e=5b6a150364) | |
| |  | | --- | | **100 Years Celebration** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Festivities in Australia and New Zealand** *100 Years Celebration*  Ueli Hurter was invitedas a guest speaker to various anniversary events in Australia and New Zealand. In the following travelogue, you can find out how biodynamics has developed in ‘Down Under’ in recent years and what challenges it currently faces.  [Read more](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=555c5a7120&e=5b6a150364) | |
| |  | | --- | | **Nutrition department** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Ripening is part of growth** *New article by Dr Jasmin Peschke and Lea Sprügel*  The development of plants involves the formation of mass as well as differentiation, which is reflected in the secondary plant substances they contain and represents ripeness. Studies show that cultivation plays an important role in this balance. Ripening is also a key element in further processing and contributes to the quality and wholesomeness of the food.  [Read more](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=c1f9bd176f&e=5b6a150364) | |
| |  | | --- | | **News from the Members Organisations** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Austria** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Happy Birthday Demeter Austria!**  *100 Years Celebration* | |
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| |  | | --- | | *Copyright: Demeter Österreich /Robitsch*  We also celebrate the biodynamic jubilee in Austria! With various events and audiences, we came together for this anniversary and informed about Demeter’s work inside and outside Austria.  For our kick-off event we gathered in the south of Austria – at Wurzerhof in Carinthia – the oldest Demeter farm which is still actively working (since 1927). It was an exciting day where we looked at the Agricultural course and its important impulses for biodynamic agriculture in retrospect. The question “can we eat ourselves to heaven?” was discussed and the guests were offered a heavenly menu.  On Whit Saturday, May 18, one century after Steiner recited in Koberwitz, Demeter Austria celebrated ‘100 years of Biodynamics, in Loosdorf castle with 130 guests. It was a beautiful warm and sunny day full of inspiring impulses, exciting talks and warm-hearted encounters. After our chairman Andreas Höritzauer and the host Gabriel Piatti opened the event and welcomed everyone, we were honored to hear the story of Alfons Piatti about how he found his way to Demeter farming over 4 decades ago. More speeches followed: Prof.Dr. Ulrich Köpke (Koberwitz. Contemplating the evolution), Helmy Abouleish (Economy of Love, SEKEM, BFDI) and young Austrian Demeter-farmer Tristan Spalt (Why Demeter is my way) all shared their thoughts and visions about the past, present and future of biodynamic agriculture. | |
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| |  | | --- | | *Copyright: Demeter Österreich / Robitsch*  The festive ambience of Loosdorf castle in the north of Lower Austria, the wide surrounding landscape, the insights into the biodynamic work of the Piatti family, the reunion of Demeter pioneers of the past decades and the delicious Demeter food made the day unforgettable. The guests left fulfilled and with new visions and goals for their lifes.  One week later, Gilbert hotel, Vienna: A wine-get-together with 32 Demeter wine growers, friends of Demeter and gourmets in which we discussed the special characteristics of biodynamics along with a glass of Demeter wine and a Demeter dinner.  We will continue raising awareness and spreading knowledge about Biodynamics in public as well as spreading the love for good quality Demeter products in our communities. | |
| |  | | --- | | **Brazil** | |
| |  | | --- | | **The animal kingdom in agriculture**  In the anthroposophical worldview, we are active at all levels and realms. We have the mineral kingdom, the vegetable kingdom, the animal kingdom, the human kingdom, and spiritual hierarchies - and these levels interconnect, creating intermediate levels. We can observe different qualities of a union between two distinct kingdoms, different from those of each kingdom involved in this connection individually. Water, a mineral, takes on different shapes and qualities depending on where it touches, be it a bed of rocks in a river or the plants on its banks. This is a metamorphosis that creates new characteristics according to the relationship that is taking place. From this encounter, a new spiritual reality is formed, a divine spark that takes us to the divine spirit.  So what happens to the union of the animal kingdom with the human kingdom?  It's incredible to watch the behavior between a horse and its rider. In that instant of connection, they end up creating a new kingdom, something that didn't exist before the meeting. There, the divine manifests itself, revealing the essence of each being, which brings us new realities of essence and responsibility.  However, our society has normalized, as a rule, the emancipation of the human kingdom from other kingdoms. We position ourselves as beings that are alien to (and superior to) the various interactions that take place in nature, as a kingdom separate from the others. A supra-kingdom that uses nature as a substrate to live, not being a part of it.  We seek to understand the different kingdoms with the purpose of using the possibilities that each of them allows us. Today we forget the existence of these kingdoms and we stop noticing them, turning our attention to our daily lives and focusing each day on material tasks that consolidate our dominance on the planet. We disconnect from the planet, so to speak.  This is so clear within current society that, as a form of (escape) redemption, we started to adopt animals as objects within our homes. There is a feeling that we are not reaching our essence in our lives, that we lack a higher purpose in our daily lives, and, in an attempt to rescue the formation of this intermediate kingdom between man and animal, to get closer to the divine.  In some cases, we imagine that these animals are like an escape valve, and we want to say that they are part of our family, treating them as and even calling them "children". Without a doubt, there is a responsibility on our part towards animals, and it is necessary to understand this responsibility by giving them the life that is necessary for them to fulfill their role in the process of living together within society, although in a different condition than a family member.  In the case of our responsibility towards animals, we must be aware of the ways in which this animal kingdom manifests itself.  *Nelson Jacomel & Rodrigo Jaskulski* | |
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| |  | | --- | | **African Biodynamic Conference**  *Report, May 10th to 12th* | |
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| |  | | --- | | The 1st African Biodynamic Conference took place at [SEKEM farm](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=6906e70d17&e=5b6a150364) and [Heliopolis University](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=255916224f&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank) from May 10 to 12. It marked a significant milestone in the journey towards sustainability and regeneration on the African continent. With a daily focus on one of the three pillars of sustainability – Ecology, Education, and Economy – the conference brought together 150 participants from 16 countries, representing farmers, experts, students and academics, to engage in collective dialogue and action.  The conference served as a catalyst for collaboration and innovation, with attendees actively participating in workshops, panel discussions, and hands-on activities centered around biodynamic principles and practices. Participants contributed their unique perspectives and experiences to the dynamic combination of ideas and initiatives. At the heart of the conference was a shared commitment to shaping a better future for all Africans and for the globe. Through the lens of biodynamics, participants explored holistic approaches to farming, land stewardship, and community development, recognizing the interconnectedness of ecological, social, and economic systems.  Egypt, with its rich history and fertile lands, served as the perfect backdrop for this groundbreaking event. As the gateway to more biodynamic practices in Africa, the conference created a movement towards greater sustainability and the Economy of Love – a concept championed by SEKEM founder Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, emphasizing cooperation, empathy, and solidarity in all human endeavors. One of the highlights of the conference was the collaborative spirit that embraced every aspect of the event. Participants worked together to co-create a vision for the future, establishing strong curriculum frameworks, and laying the groundwork for continued collaboration and knowledge-sharing across borders and generations.  As the conference drew to a close, there was a sense of optimism and excitement about the possibilities that lie ahead. The momentum generated during those three days will serve as a driving force for action and transformation, inspiring individuals and communities to embrace biodynamic principles and work towards a more sustainable, equitable, and harmonious world for present and future generations, for all projects and those putting their words into action. In conclusion, the African Biodynamic Conference was not just a gathering of like-minded individuals; it was a rhythm for change, a celebration of diversity, a network and a testament to the power of collective action. Together, we have taken the first steps towards a brighter biodynamic and regenerative future, and the journey ahead promises to be filled with hope, creativity, and possibility. | |
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| |  | | --- | | **Agricultural Course, Centennial Celebration**  *June 7  & 10 to 16* | |
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| |  | | --- | | To commemorate 100 years of biodynamic agriculture, and looking forward to our work into the future, we warmly invite you to participate in a series on how Rudolf Steiner’s ‘Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture’ has inspired various practitioners to develop their relationship to the land, their communities, and themselves.  Each day, June 7 and 10 to 16 (in direct relationship to the dates Steiner offered the original lectures 100 years ago), a new biodynamic practitioner and artist will work together to offer lively experiential sharings and artistic exercises that can help us all live more fully into the gifts contained in these foundational lectures that have inspired a worldwide movement. There will also be time for conversation to share your own inspirations.  Having various simple art supplies (paper, pencils, coloring materials such as colored pencils, crayons, or pastels) and a space to do a little movement at hand is encouraged to be able to participate in the exercises.  Recordings will be sent out to registrants after each session. If you register after the sessions begin you will have access to all the recordings.  [Register Here!](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=a7327207ea&e=5b6a150364) (Donation-based, pay what you can) | |
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| |  | | --- | | **Reimangining agriculture**  *Social - Spiritual - Scientific* | |
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| |  | | --- | | November 22 to 24, 2024. Join hundreds of farmers, gardeners, educators, students, business people, and others from across the US - and beyond.  Celebrate 100 years of biodynamics. Reimagine the future of agriculture by exploring how biodynamics can weave together the social, spiritual, and scientific to nurture new possibilities.  More information coming soon! [Subscribe](https://demeter.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c0b9c992c6387f820f11fba22&id=c31752c622&e=5b6a150364" \t "_blank) to our e-news for updates. | |
| |  | | --- | | **News from the World** | |
| |  | | --- | | **Asian Biodynamic Training and Networking Conference**  *Philippines, November 2024* | |
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| |  | | --- | | Young farmers in the Philippines found the gap between the first Asia Pacific Biodynamic Conference in Malaysia 2022 and the proposed next Asian conference in 2025 too long and took the initiative to organize the “Asian Biodynamic Training and Networking Conference Philippines 2024”, which is scheduled for late November this year.  The conference is set to assemble agricultural practitioners, researchers and consumers from many Asian countries in Puerto Princesa, the capital city of Palawan - the island which is considered “the last frontier of the Philippines”. Several introductory workshops from August until November are planned in different parts of the country and with different highlights in order to give newbies from the Philippines, especially from government and academe, the chance to learn the basics of biodynamics, so that conversations during the conference can happen on common ground. Leading up to the conference is also a preparations-making workshop featuring Binita Shah from November 23 to 26.  The actual conference is scheduled for November 28 to December 1. It is structured along the seven learning processes and leaves much open space for spontaneously arising topics and personal encounters. The presentation of academic research will be as much part of the conference as exposure to biodynamic and artistic practices or perception exercises.  Individuals wanting to contribute, especially with presentations of latest research, or financially,  please refer to: [biodynamicphilippines@gmail.com](mailto:biodynamicphilippines@gmail.com). | |
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| |  | | --- | | **Biodynamic farming in Tunisia**  *Report on the current situation* | |
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| |  | | --- | | *Copyright: Stéphane Cozon*  In a country that is rapidly becoming desertified and mineralised, where rain-fed agriculture is no longer viable, biodynamic practices and visions offer a way of creating and retaining green water, and represent hope for the future.  In Tunisia, organic farming remains marginal, representing just 3% of total agricultural production. It is concentrated on two products: olive oil (the world's leading organic producer) and dates. Most of these products are marketed outside the country. However, they come up against European protectionism for olive oil and have to fight to gain a foothold in this market, especially as the state monopoly on Tunisian oil has only recently been lifted.  Biodynamic farming is practised by a few hundred producers, most of whom work small areas and are members of groups linked to a dozen or so processor-exporters who, in addition to the Demeter label, often benefit from national labels and fair trade.  A biodynamic development programme is underway, run by a German consultancy as part of a cooperation project between Africa and Europe (Alliance for product quality in Africa). The programme includes the organisation and running of meetings, workshops, training and monitoring, including marketing. There are also plans to set up a national centre for the production of biodynamic preparations in conjunction with the national Organic Farming Technical Centre. | |
| |  | | --- | | In the future, their experience could provide valuable lessons for producers on the southern fringes of Europe, who, in the coming years, will have to face climatic conditions equivalent to those currently prevailing in Tunisia. If this dynamic development of biodynamic farming in Tunisia is to continue, the Demeter market in Europe must grow, in the hope that one day Tunisian biodynamists will also be able to produce for their fellow citizens.  Overall, biodynamic farming is well received, as it recognises, rehabilitates, extends and adapts traditional practices. The various local groups and players are in the process of joining forces to create a national biodynamic association. Many of them have moved on from a primary motivation of enhancing economic value to an in-depth and dynamic integrative ecological approach, with strong social involvement.  From our point of view, there are a number of avenues to explore:   * Greater use of biodynamic preparations, particularly the 500. * Wider use of shredding for composting and the use of pits to ensure that windrows are semi-buried and retain their moisture for longer. * Use of less mature compost. * Grazing ewes in grassed olive groves, protecting the trunks of the trees. * The oasis system could be an inspiring model for olive-growing areas. * Using palm fibre to preserve preparations.   *Stéphane Cozon and Marion Haas, authors, biodynamic trainers and coaches* | |
| |  | | --- | | **International Contacts** | |
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