



Biodynamics in the world

Newsletter July 2018

Dear members and friends of Biodynamic farming,

Peter Proctor's favorite quote was the one next to this editorial.

It is a daily challenge for us working in organizations: what is our impact for the real practical life on the farms and in the companies? Are we inspired and can we inspire?

Our yearly member's assembly is always an occasion to reflect on this together. With the focus on training and marketing our meeting in Switzerland tried to find answers to real needs.

It was inspiring to work with more than 60 people from 21 countries.

If you feel inspired by our newsletter, let us know if you want to continue receiving it.

Christoph Siegfried

Agricultural Section at the Goetheanum

- 2nd International Olive Growers Meeting in Greece**
 In April 2018 the professional group of olive growers met in Greece. They were hosted by the Epikouros company in Kalamata region and Kontogiannis family in Korinthos.
- Founding of the World Goetheanum Association**
 On 17th and 18th May 2018 the heads of 75 enterprises and institutions as well as people working independently founded the World Goetheanum Association at the Goetheanum. It is aimed at overarching, international collaboration of the partners and the School for Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum, which is active world-wide.

- Conference Report: Agricultural Conference 2018 – The Preparations**
 Now available in German, English and French.
- Further Training: Dynamic Perspectives on Nutrition**
 Jasmin Peschke is offering personally tailored further training programmes on the theme of Dynamic Perspectives on Nutrition.
- New co-worker at the Section for Agriculture**
 Since October 2017 Johannes Onneken has been working with us part-time.
- Associative Economics - How does the organic sector finance itself?**
 Already in its sixth year, the Economy Council of the Section for Agriculture came together. Nearly 70 participants spent three days discussing on issues of financing, ownership and capital as well as the future of associative economics in the organic sector.

*"Seek the truly practical material life
 But seek it so that it does not numb you to the
 spirit which is active in it.
 Seek the spirit, but seek it not in passion for the
 super-sensible.
 Seek it because you wish to apply it selflessly in
 practical life in the practical world.
 Turn to the ancient principle,
 Matter is never without spirit, spirit is never without
 matter
 In such a way that we say
 We will do all things in the light of the spirit,
 And we will so seek that light of the spirit that it
 evokes warmth for us in our practical activities."*

Rudolf Steiner

Demeter-International

Board

- Helmy Abouleish is new president of Demeter-International
Demeter-International General Assembly elected a new board and worked out strategies for future development of standards, certification, training, marketing and policy activities.
- Thomas Lüthi and Susanna Küffer leave the Demeter-International Board
The pioneers of Demeter-International have left the Board after 21 years of dedicated work.
- Jim Fullmer and Lapo Cianferoni stepped down from the board of Demeter-International on June 19th.
The board of Demeter-International is very thankful for the long-term participation of Lapo Cianferoni and Jim.
- Mapping worldwide training for Biodynamics
At the Demeter-International Members Assembly a working group worked on the fundamentals of a strategy for capacity building and training for the coming 7 years.

Standards Committee

- SC-Meeting Members Assembly 2018 – Switzerland
Main topic was the second phase of a revised DI standard finished as a voting version for the MA in 2019.

Lobby

- The new EU organic regulation will apply from 2021
The new EU organic regulation was adopted by both the European Parliament on 19 April, and the Council of Ministers on 22 May.
- New Genetic Engineering Techniques to be regulated as GMOs
The organic food and farming movement welcomes the decision of the European Court of Justice.

Reports from member countries

- Country profile: Demeter-India
Introduction of the Biodynamic Association of India (BDAI).
- Biofach India
There will be the tenth Biofach in India from the 25th to the 27th of October.
- Demeter USA's first International Biodynamic Wine Conference
This spectacular event provided two days of programs, a VIP dinner and a grand tasting.

- ABD PERU ACADEMY

The Association of Biodynamic Agriculture of Peru, announces its program of ABD PERU ACADEMY, starting with the DIPLOMATE IN BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE.

Reports/ various

- A mighty tree has fallen ...
Demeter and the Biodynamic Movement mourn Peter Proctor.
- We mourn a master of the Biodynamic preparations
Demeter and the Biodynamic Movement mourn Pierre Masson.

Dates & events

- 5th - 8th of September: Research Conference (English): Evolving Agriculture and Food - Opening up Biodynamic Research, Goetheanum, Dornach, **Switzerland**
- 21st - 22nd of September: Building up the Ether– the Human being as a Creator - Intersectional Meeting, (German) Goetheanum, Dornach, **Switzerland**
- 28th - 30th of September: World Goetheanum Forum 2018 : Living economic, social and spiritual responsibility (German, English), Goetheanum, Dornach, **Switzerland**
- 7th - 10th of October: Latin America Biodynamic meeting, Botucatu-SP, **Brazil**
- 25th-27th of October: Biofach India, New Delhi, **India**
- 25th-27th of October: International Biodynamic Wine Conference, speaker: Jean-Michel Florin, Vina Matetic, **Chile**
- 25th-28th of October: National Biodynamic Meeting, Contact: encuentrobiodinamico@shambhalaorganico.com.mx, Rancho Shambhala, Comanja de Corona, Jal., **Mexico**
- 31st of October-3rd of November: Circle of Representatives - Meeting of the Members of the Circle of Representatives for Biodynamic Agriculture, probably Dornach, **Switzerland**
- 6th - 9th of February 2019: Agricultural Conference
The Economy of Agriculture - between farm individuality and global economy (multilingual), Dornach, **Switzerland**

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Agricultural Section at the Goetheanum

2nd International Olive Growers Meeting in Greece

In April 2018 the professional group of olive growers met in Greece. They were hosted by the Epikouros company in Kalamata region and Kontogiannis family in Korinthos. 25 Demeter olive growers attended the meeting. Most came from Europe, but some flew in from as far as Israel, Brasil and South Africa. The meeting was focused on quality of olive oil and Biodynamic cultivation of olive trees.

This was the second professional olive growers meeting, following the first one which was organised in 2016 by the Demeter certified olive orchard Risca Grande in Portugal. Main topic of this year's meeting was the quality of olive oil. In order to obtain an image and experience of different varieties of olive oils, tastings were offered by company Epikouros. Participants tried to characterize the tasting experience by drawing olive oil images on paper. Similarly as in the Biodynamic viticulture, main goal of this exercise was to emphasize the feelings of growers in order to further develop the specific quality of their olives and olive oils by better expressing different qualities of terroirs. If products clearly differ in their taste, the producers can grow economically, not against each other, but with each other.

During the two days, 25 producers from 8 countries also had the opportunity to exchange ideas about Biodynamic farming. How can we better protect and care for our soil and trees? How are Biodynamic preparations best used? How to increase biodiversity in the olive orchards? There was also an exercise on landscape perception in order to make the concept of terroir more meaningful. Big thanks goes to the Epikourous company and the Kontogiannis family for their hospitality.

The Group will meet again in Italy in spring 2019. All professional olive growers and friends of olives are kindly invited to join the professional olive growers meeting and the group. To participate please contact Dr. Maja Kolar at maja@gaiamaia.com.

Maja Kolar

Founding of the World Goetheanum Association

On 17th and 18th May 2018 the heads of 75 enterprises and institutions as well as self-employed people founded the World Goetheanum Association at the Goetheanum. It is aimed at overarching, international collaboration of the partners and the School for Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum which is active world-wide.

The World Goetheanum Association, according to its charter, is creating “a world-wide forum that is orientated towards the future development of human beings and the earth”. This framework is intended to facilitate an open space for entrepreneurs to meet in order to exchange views on questions of working associatively and strengthening the connection with the Goetheanum as the centre of the School for Spiritual Science. “One of the central tasks of the Association is to foster a culture, based on brotherliness”, as Gerald Häfner, head of the Section for the Social Sciences, puts it. To this end it is necessary “to connect the spiritual activities and economics”, said Fabio Brescacin, President of EcorNaturSi (Italy), at the founding meeting. Thomas Jorberg, Speaker for the Board of the GLS Bank (Germany), pleaded for the support of the School for Spiritual Science as a source of innovative ideas, which the bank owes its origins to.



*One of the co-founders of the World Goetheanum Association, Petra `Derkzen, Chair of Demeter-International, in the background, Helmy Abouleish, President of Demeter-International.
Photo: Heike Sommer*

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The founding of the World Goetheanum Association has been prepared by an Initiativkreis (founding group) made up of members of the Goetheanum leadership and partners from agriculture, economics, trade and banking, education, medicine and social therapy since 2017. The aim of the Association is to foster anthroposophical impulses in enterprises, institutions and people working independently, to foster working together in the form of associations and the development of the School for Spiritual Science in keeping with this.

Jonas Lismont

Conference Report: Agricultural Conference 2018 – The Preparations

The 36-page report of the Agricultural Conference 2018 – The Preparations – the Heart of Biodynamic Agriculture is available right now in German, English and French. For a printed version, please email: sektion.landwirtschaft@goetheanum.ch

To download it as a document from the [website](#).

Further Training: Dynamic Perspectives on Nutrition

Jasmin Peschke offers training regarding these themes

- The dynamic quality of nutrition
- New food
- Maturity, quality of light and warmth in food
- Analyzing food quality

With tasting workshop to experience quality and group work focused on practical implementation in everyday life”

Programme according to your needs and wishes.

Inhouse at your location or at the Goetheanum (with guided visit).

Please contact her directly for dates and costs. Languages: German or English.

Contact: jasmin.peschke@goetheanum.ch

New co-worker at the Section for Agriculture

Since October 2017 Johannes Onneken has been working with us part-time. His main tasks are the structuring and finalisation of the Section's publications, of the flyers as well as of the website, which is to appear anew this autumn, completely worked over and modernised.

Johannes Onneken grew up near Frankfurt-am-Main and developed his artistic-cultural career firstly at different theatres as a lighting technician and set designer, and later on as an artist and colour researcher. For the past 20 years he has been working as a graphic designer and communications advisor for various companies and initiatives, including various Sections and areas of the Goetheanum. His knowledge of the way the Goetheanum runs enabled him to play a substantial role in organising the last agricultural conference.

Verena Wahl

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Associative Economics - How does the organic sector finance itself?

The Economy Council of the Section for Agriculture at the Goetheanum met this year at the invitation of the Dutch wholesaler and retailer Odin from 5th to 7th July. Nearly 70 participants from ten countries attended in Doorn near Utrecht in the Netherlands. The thematic focus was thinking about finance, capital and ownership from an associative point of view. The meeting also served to prepare for the next Agricultural Conference, which will be held in Dornach on the topic The Economy of Agriculture from 6th to 9th February, 2019

How can the value of a farm be measured? How can companies position themselves so that they do not become dependent on profit-oriented investors? How are profits invested in a way that promotes the common good and how can capital be employed responsibly along the value chain? Who does actually own the farm, and who owns the land and soil on which it draws? All this was discussed on the basis of a number of presentations both from practice and science. The aim was to increase awareness of such issues which become increasingly urgent in the face of advanced industrialisation and commercialisation of organic farming. Agriculture has the task to proactively shape economic processes instead of just "stumbling into" the new realities, said Ueli Hurter, head of the Section for Agriculture. This does not mean, however, wanting to bring about universal "one-fits-all" solutions; In Egypt, for example, as Helmy Abouleish from SEKEM made clear, the understanding of property and ownership is inseparable from the family and therefore quite different from the view in Denmark.

After a theoretical introduction to Rudolf Steiner's Course on National Economy on the first day, Merle Koomans van den Dries from the Dutch retailer and distributor Odin spoke about the company's transformation from a normal organic shop to a cooperative supermarket. Odin's clients are closely involved in financing and ownership. There are two price tags on the store shelf: one for ordinary customers and one with lower prices for the now over 7,000 registered members. Markus Lüthi presented the Bio Development AG, which operates in Switzerland, Italy and Germany, as an alternative to financing from large corporations and conventional banks and explained the parameters according to which Bio Development decides to invest in organic businesses. A topic for critical reflection were the true costs of food production. Air, soil and the oceans belong to everyone. Those who produce at the expense of the environment should consistently record such external costs in their balance sheets. This is what true cost accounting is all about, explained Volkert Engelsman from the organic wholesaler Eosta.

Also on the agenda was a visit to the City Farm Almere, a Biodynamic farm which is part of a larger infrastructure project to stimulate rural development as well as a contribution from Johannes Kamps-Bender from Demeter e.V. on the new distribution guidelines for Demeter products in conventional supermarkets. Finally, the Charter for Associative Economic Activity in the Organic Sector was discussed based on some concrete examples from the Charter community. The Charter was finalised at the last meeting in Luxembourg and has received a lot of attention since then. After two presentations by Peter Kunz (Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz) and Gebhard Rossmann (Bingenheimer Saatgut), the Charter was spontaneously extended to include the promotion of Biodynamic seed cultivation. This addition is due to the common awareness of the Charter community that the cultivation of Biodynamic varieties is an integral part of the associative process in the economic realm. This step is an example of the can do attitude of the Economy Council, which draws on the Charter as a living document and framework for action.

Jonas Vach
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Demeter-International

Board

Helmy Abouleish is new president of Demeter-International

21 years after its foundation, a major change is taking place: The pioneers Thomas Lüthi and Susanna Küffer stepped back from their functions. Thomas Lüthi was given the title of honorary president for his long term commitment. Throughout all these years as president he has been able to bring together the diverse certifying organisations which make up the global membership. Susanna Küffer received the title of Hono-



From left to right: Helmy Abouleish, new president; Alexander Gerber, vice-president and Thomas Lüthi, new honorary President.

rary Board member as she developed during her term in the Board of Demeter-International the administrative, trademark and lobby work sector across the entire organization.

The new president Helmy Abouleish, leading the Sekem community in Egypt, perfectly embodies the next step in the organisational development of Demeter-International. Demeter-International commits itself to supporting the holistic vision of the Biodynamic movement. From an association of certifiers and protectors of the Demeter and Biodynamic trademarks, Demeter-International has developed into an organisation supporting the Section of Agriculture in research, training and advisory activities and taking responsibility for developing the Demeter markets around the world.

The Sekem initiative is one example how this vision can become a reality towards supporting an agriculture of the future.

Demeter Switzerland was the host of this year's Demeter-International Members' Assembly and impressed the visitors with insights into the Biodynamic work in Switzerland. Best farm practice was to be seen at a Demeter farm working with a low tillage system and producing Swiss cheese which is mainly sold in the region. Research work at the Agricultural Section of the Goetheanum and at FiBL, especially the DOK-Trial which has compared Biodynamic, organic and conventional farming for 40 years, gave impulses for further discussions. Where future is made was also made visible with the explanations about Biodynamic plant breeding at Sativa Rheinau and the Biodynamic Farmers school Rheinau.

The assembly has adopted new Standards for Biodynamic breeding to enable the labelling of those products that support this crucial contribution to future seed diversity. Working groups discussed the future of the standards, certification, training, marketing and policy activities. It became visible what impressive work is already underway in various countries, for example in the training of farmers and other producers.

The Biodynamic Association India became a full member of Demeter-International, bringing the total now to 19 member and four guest member organisations. Altogether, more than 187.000 ha land are Demeter-certified 5387 farmers and an additional 979 processors are certified as complying with Demeter/Biodynamic standards worldwide.

Christoph Sempfendörfer

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Thomas Lüthi and Susanna Küffer leave the Demeter-International Board

The pioneers of Demeter-International have left the Board after 21 years of dedicated work. The Members assembly awarded the title of Honorary President to Thomas Lüthi and of an Honorary Board member to Susanna Küffer. Helmy Abouleish described with how with her many talents Susanna



Küffer supported the development of Demeter-International in a selfless way.

Accurate finances, clear trademark strategies and lobby networking – to name some of them. Alexander Gerber characterized Thomas Lüthi as a father who is carefully leading his child to maturity. An album with photos and greetings from 21 years of Demeter-International and Demeter ice-cream during a social evening shall help to keep living memories to that important time.



Christoph Simpfendörfer

Jim Fullmer and Lapo Cianferoni stepped down from the board of Demeter-International on June 19th.

The board of Demeter-International is very thankful for the long-term participation of Lapo Cianferoni and Jim Fullmer in the board of DI. Jim and Lapo have been both very committed to this task and contributed in a very active and suitable way.



Lapo has in the discussions in the board always performed an untouchable integrity and formulated his point of view clearly. Especially trade and financial questions and topics about justice has been followed up by Lapo in an exact way. Lapo organised himself so he could participate in all board meetings.

A huge Ocean is located in-between America and Europe. Living on the different sides of the Ocean, is not always so easy to understand each other. There seems to be a potential risk for a gap also within the Biodynamic work. Jim has in an exemplary way

contributed to build bridges in-between continents, point of views and people. He always showed a very positive attitude to all issues that arose.

The work in a board depends very much on the contributions from every single board member. At least as crucial is if the different board members can from different points of view, develop a common will and make a good working constellation together.



Thank you, Jim and Lapo for your excellent contributions for a good DI board constellation!

Thomas Lüthi

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Mapping worldwide training for Biodynamics

At the Demeter-International Members' Assembly a working group of 15 persons worked for two days on the fundamentals of a strategy for capacity building and training for the coming 7 years. This task was taken up as a joint effort from the Section for Agriculture, Jean-Michel Florin and Demeter-International, Petra Derkzen. A group of educators from different countries were specially invited to work on this topic; with the adoption of a Vision and Mission for the movement in 2016 it is now time to translate the vision into concrete actions. The vision for human development is, that we want an agri-culture that motivates and enables people to unfold their individual potential and develop their full consciousness. How to teach, what is the role of the 'teacher', is there still a classroom? The group formulated fundamental principles concerning the conditions that need to be created for individual potential to be unfolded. From this picture, goals and actions were formulated.

Input from all over the world was received beforehand through a questionnaire to all contacts in education and training of the Section for Agriculture. More than 30 questionnaires were returned. Not only did we receive ideas and priorities for what to develop, we also gained an overview of what is currently happening in terms of training and education worldwide (see all the spots on the map).

A circulation of a draft strategy to those involved in this topic is foreseen for September.



Petra Derkzen
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Standards Committee

SC-Meeting Members Assembly 2018 – Switzerland

Ian Henderson (NZ), Jörg Hütter (GER), Regina Haller (ARG), Rene Dijkstra (NL), Richard Swan (UK), Sebastian Fuchs (GER), Petra Derkzen (NL/supporting Boardmember), Jasmin Peschke (CH/partly)

The SC met for one and a half additional days before the MA and partly during the excursions. Main but by no means the only topic was the second phase of an revised DI standard finished as a voting version for the MA in 2019.

For this main complex we tried to structure the timeline over the year and the individual work packages, like rephrasing the guiding principles for the respective standard sections in processing and production, the bee standard, packaging and cleaning agents, conversion and fodder. The last named issues, conversion and fodder, were considered as urgent and essential and therefore we invested a separate work unit to formulate a concrete solution to be worked out as a motion for next year's MA based on a well prepared suggestion from Jörg.



f.l.t.r.: Richard Swan, Jörg Hütter, Ian Henderson, Rene Dijkstra, Regina Haller, Bettina Holenstein, Sebastian Fuchs

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Further agenda points were for example a discussion about a draft for a project plan to rework the cosmetic section within the next one or two years in cooperation with Jasmin Peschke from the section. We also discussed the pros and cons of additional social standards within the Demeter standard or as a separate certification scheme for Demeter entities. As a continuation of the last year's meeting the SC tried yet again to find a concrete derivation from the mission/vision/principles work for the Standards work and interpretation. Unfortunately we couldn't really succeed in this point.

Concrete working steps were stipulated for an international interpretation catalogue. In a very detailed unit we reflected the findings of the 2018 members' survey with direct or indirect connection the current and future work of the Standards Committee.

Sebastian Fuchs

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Lobby

The new EU organic regulation will apply from 2021

The new EU organic regulation was adopted by both the European Parliament on 19 April, and the Council of Ministers on 22 May. It has been officially published in the Official Journal of the European Union since 14 June. The new legislation will apply from 1 January 2021. [Find out what will change for you, organic farmers, processors & certifiers.](#)

Source: IFOAM EU Newsletter No 100, June 2018

New Genetic Engineering Techniques to be regulated as GMOs

BRUSSELS, 25 JULY 2018 – The organic food and farming movement welcomes the decision of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) which clarifies that new genetic engineering techniques produce Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and will have to be regulated as such under the existing EU legislation.

Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU President, said: "The confirmation by the European Court of Justice that new GMOs will be subject to traceability and labelling is good news for organic breeders, farmers and processors but also for all European producers and consumers as it brings clarity and will ensure the freedom to avoid such GM products and the protection of the environment from the potential risks of these new technologies."

"The European Commission cannot delay action anymore and now has to ensure that the EU legal framework is properly enforced by Member States. The Commission should immediately launch a research project to develop detection methods that will complement the traceability system, to ensure an adequate segregation of these new GM plants and to prevent the contamination of organic and conventional GMO-free food and feed production in Europe", added Eric Gall, Policy Manager at IFOAM EU.

In its [press release](#), the ECJ considers "that the risks linked to the use of these new mutagenesis techniques might prove to be similar to those that result from the production and release of a GMO through transgenesis" and "That the GMO Directive is also applicable to organisms obtained by mutagenesis techniques that have emerged since its adoption".

Press release IFOAM EU

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Reports from member countries

Country profile: Demeter-India

The Biodynamic Association of India (BDAI) was founded in 1999 and registered as a Society in Bangalore. It currently has its Registered Office and Secretariat at Bangalore and the Demeter Certification Office is located in Auroville. The BDAI has 3 full time employees, 4 part time for Demeter Certification and 2 others who help with the newsletter & trainings. It has 140+ members consisting of small & large landholding farmers, large export projects and a few non-governmental organizations working with thousands of small and marginal landholding farmers.

There are over 40 farms having a certified area of 5419.42 hectares. In 2018, the Ambootia group will add 5 more Tea Estates (to their existing 12) making it by far the largest tea producer in the world. Another project to look forward to is the possible certification of 2497 farmers and an area of 2365 ha in 171 villages in Araku valley for coffee. All these projects in Tea, Coffee, Spices, Mango and herbs are mainly for export and the Association hopes to launch spices & fruit juices in the local market later this year.

The Demeter Certification Office (having one full time & 4 part time employees) is a self organized structure within the Association. Its financial and administrative operations are carried out by the Secretariat and in all matters related to certification it works with the Demeter Certification Council and Demeter-International. In this way, its certification operations are insulated from all the other functions of the Association.

Currently the BDAI offers a few short-term training programs throughout the country and does the certification work. It is undergoing an organizational development exercise to become a professionally managed full-service provider from inputs to markets including research for all those interested in going the Biodynamic way.

The main reason for many small farmers to convert to the Biodynamic practice of agriculture is to move from a subsistence level to a livelihood level by earning more income since they do not have to spend the majority of their income on chemical inputs. They also feel a strong sense of connection with this spiritual way of Agriculture given the use of the planting calendar & the central role of the Cow. The larger projects convert not only to realize more revenue but to establish their commitment to sustainability in all its aspects.

The main challenges are that the country is very large, with multiple languages and agro climatic conditions. The Association is working towards developing a package of practices for all crops in the various agro climatic regions and translating them in the multiple languages along with the training materials.

The BDAI became a full member at the recently held Demeter-International Members' Assembly. It hopes to substantially increase its total certified areas to meet a strong local demand and be a partner country of choice for those sourcing raw materials from the more developed markets. It is looking for support from DI in a several aspects to achieve this goal.

The motivation for many of us to travel on the Biodynamic path is to heal the earth, provide much needed nutrition to our people and ensure utmost care of our animals.

Sundeep Kamath
secretary@biodynamics.in



Members of our Demeter Certification office left to right:- Kichenan S, Anbu P, Mahesh Melwin, Lucas Dengel, Krishnan V (DCO Coordinator) & Purvi Shah Paulini (the facilitator for our Organisation Development exercise & not a member of the DCO or BDAI).



Managing Committee of the BDAI left to right from back to front row: Sanjay Doctor, Jayachandran K, Ram Gopalan, Sarvaman Patel (President), Ajit Mathai, Vikash Abraham & front row, left to right:- K Perumal, Rachel Pomeroy (partner of Peter Proctor & not a MC member), Evelyn Daniel (Vice-President), G S Mani (Treasurer), Girish Krishnamurthy & Sundeep Kamath (Secretary)

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Biofach India

There will be the tenth Biofach in India from the 25th to the 27th of October (short write up below). The Biodynamic Association of India (BDAI) is a supporter of this event and there will be several contributions on Biodynamic practices by national & international practitioners, at this event. For interested buyers from abroad for products in India, BDAI can create the possibility of arranging meetings with suppliers. APEDA (the government agency responsible for exports) has offered to arrange for an airport pick up (& drop off) as well as stay during the event in Delhi, at their cost. BDAI can also arrange visits to spice gardens, tea estates etc. of Indian suppliers at cost, for those interested. BDAI will also offer free table space (on a first come first served basis) for those who would like to introduce their (Demeter) products in the Indian market & arrange meetings with wholesalers

"The tenth edition of BIOFACH INDIA, the only organic platform in India to connect and network with your target audience is scheduled to be held from 25th-27th October 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India.

India's largest and most focused event for organic products provides the perfect business platform to organic stakeholders, retailers, exporters / importers, Govt. boards, state pavilions, certification bodies, consultants and associations from India and all over the world to congregate for networking. Such a high quality of visitors and exhibitors is what sets the fair apart from any other fair in the Indian market.

Organic is more than a label or certification: organic stands for quality and conviction – for the responsible use of nature's resources. BIOFACH INDIA is the meeting place in India where anyone and everyone who is connected to organic converge annually to share their passionate interest for organic products, network at a common platform and educate themselves about the latest developments in the organic sector.

India holds a unique position among 172 countries practising organic agriculture: it has 650,000 organic producers, 699 processors, 669 exporters and 720,000 hectares under cultivation. Today, Sikkim is an organic state with 75,000 ha of land under organic cultivation based on an initiative that started in 2003. Meghalaya aims to convert 200,000 ha to organic farming by 2020. With growing awareness about health, changing lifestyles and increased spending capacity in India, experts say the country's organic food market has a bright future. A recent government study predicted its value would reach \$1.36 billion per year by 2020.

BIOFACH INDIA attracts participation from many leading organizations such as : Brahm Arpan, MRT Organics, Suminter India Organics, Phalada Agro, Just Organik, Radico, Mehrotra Consumer Products, Agronic Food, Sarveshwar Foods, Natureland Organic, Cultivator Natural Products, Samruddhi Organic Farms, Kejriwal Bee Care, Capital Ventures, Organic India, Fishfa Biogenics, Geo-Fresh Organics, Rapid Organic and many more. Besides food and beverage, the event also witnesses impressive participation from the natural care and wellness sector, organic textiles sector, certification bodies as well as leading country and state pavilions including Government Boards."

Sundeep Kamath
secretary@biodynamics.in

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Demeter USA's first International Biodynamic Wine Conference

Demeter USA's first International Biodynamic Wine Conference took place May 6-7 in San Francisco with hundreds of attendees - wineries, trade and media, importers and distributors - participating in the inaugural event. This spectacular event provided two days of programs, a VIP dinner and a grand tasting.

- Biodynamic Producer Day, an education day for producers, on Sunday, May 6.
- Trade and Media Day, a day of programs designed to inform buyers and communicators about Biodynamic vines and wines, on Monday, May 7.
- Two Grand Tastings - one for trade and media and a separate grand tasting for consumers and the public - were sometimes packed with attendees four deep.

"It was an incredibly stimulating and rewarding experience, with a lineup of speakers and panelists the like of which the Biodynamic wine movement has never previously experienced," said Monty Waldin, international Biodynamic wine expert.

Biodynamic Producer Day

Biodynamic Producer Day featured dynamic keynote addresses in the morning on soil and the microbiome with authors David Montgomery and Anne Biklé, a Biodynamic science presentation with Glenn McGourty (Biodynamic specialist with the University of California), and a unique business centered panel on the Business of Being Biodynamic with four leading vintners.

See the full breadth of the afternoon breakout panels and the speaker lineup [here](#).

At the conference, Wine.com announced it will launch a new online page dedicated to wines from Demeter certified vines at wine.com/biodynamic. Wineries who would like to participate in that program should contact gwilson@wine.com for details.

Trade and Media Day

On Monday, Trade and Media Day, Demeter USA President Elizabeth Candelario opened the program with a brief talk focused on the expansion of Biodynamic products in the natural foods marketplace in the U.S. Candelario told the group that Whole Foods, the giant, Amazon-owned natural foods retailer in the U.S., emailed an Earth Day flyer focused on Biodynamic foods to the millions on its consumer email list. This growing awareness about Biodynamic food will have an impact on consumer awareness of Biodynamic wine, Candelario said.

Jean-Charles Boisset, president of the Boisset Collection, focused his opening remarks on Biodynamic farming, highlighting his personal history of growing up with Biodynamic practices, which he learned from his French grandmother. His Napa winery, Raymond Vineyards, just released its first vintage of Demeter certified Napa Cabernets.

The highlight of the morning was Monty Waldin's dynamic keynote address which provided an intelligent, clear, common sense explanation on what Biodynamic vines and wines bring to the world of wine - terroir-driven wines based on regenerative organic farming practices that provide superior taste in an increasingly competitive wine industry - and how other systems (sustainable, organic, natural) fall short.



From left to right: Rudy Marchesi of Montinore Estate; Mike Benziger formerly of Benziger Family Winery and currently Glentucky Farm; Monty Waldin (famed BD author of many BD winery books), Cristian Rodriguez of Emiliana; and Jason Haas of Tablas Creek. A real all star line up!

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“Biodynamic is not about picking by the moon,” he said, hoping to put to rest some of the common misconceptions and stereotypes about Biodynamic vines. Biodynamic vines enable better wine, he said, and will help vintners compete by providing superior taste.

Another morning panel featured three leading U.S. vintners who made the switch to Biodynamic practices and certification after seeing superior wine quality from test plots.

The event concluded with a Grand Tasting in which 47 producers poured more than 135 wines. The program guide from the tasting is now available [online](#).

Said Rudy Marchesi, founder of Montinore Estate, the largest producer of Demeter certified wines in the U.S, “I believe that the Biodynamic movement, wine and otherwise, needs this kind of public exposure to help us grow and flourish. The Biodynamic Wine Conference was a great step in the right direction.”

See the conference photos online [here](#). Comments from attendees are also online [here](#).



Selected attendee comments:

“It was an inspiring two days and helped to rejuvenate and rekindle my love of BD farming.”
Steve Beckmen, Beckmen Vineyards

"Bravo! To all of you at Demeter for bringing this vision into being. WOW!"
Brook LeVan, Sustainable Settings

“This conference was enlightening as to what Biodynamics really is and how I, as a sommelier, can break it down for the consumer.”
Emily Johnston, Advanced Sommelier

"Congratulations for an amazing event! People adored it ! So proud - the first ever...We were so honored to participate and cannot wait for the next one..."
Jean-Charles Boisset, Boisset Collection

Elizabeth Candelario
elizabeth@demeter-usa.org

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ABD PERU ACADEMY

The Association of Bio Dynamic Agriculture of Peru, announces its program of ABD PERU ACADEMY, starting with the DIPLOMAT IN BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE - "Elementary Course for the prosperity of agriculture"; with the support of Demeter-International e.V. and the Section for Agriculture Section at the Goetheanum.

The course is designed to strengthen and develop capacities and skills in the productive system at the individual, associative/community and business levels. The pedagogical process will provide the student with tools for transformation by working on theoretical concepts, practical activities and artistic experiences in a dynamic, agile and dialectical way.

The course has a duration of one academic year (11 months)..

The Diploma has 303 academic hours, including classroom hours (121), webinars (22) and guided self-study (160).

During the course the participants develop and implement an individual project in the area of production or services.

The Curriculum Program includes: Goetheanistic phenomenology, Scientific and philosophical bases of Biodynamic agriculture, Soil as a living organism, Study of Rudolf Steiner's Agricultural Course, Study and production of Biodynamic preparations, Introduction to astronomy and use of agricultural calendar, Development and management of compost and biofertilizers, The plant world and its relationships, Agroforestry and landscape management, Agricultural systems (extensive, horticulture), The agricultural organism integrated into the social organism, Social Tripartite, Associative economy, Interrelations between Biodynamic agriculture, with other areas of pedagogy, pharmacology and medicine, Study of basic anthroposophy, Healthy Nutrition and Conscious Food, Markets and Biodynamic certification, Agrifood systems and Individual development plan.

- First module (Pachacamac, Lima; Peru): 04 to 10 November 2018
- Second module (Villa Rica, Oxapampa; Peru): 26, 27 and 28 April 2019
- Third module (Pachacamac, Lima, Peru): 09, 10 and 11 August 2019

Registration and contact: cursoelementalbiodinamico@gmail.com

Candidates interested in registering should do so before August 17, 2018

Course fees: US\$ 2,550 (3 installments of \$850)



René Piamonte
renepiamonte@gmail.com

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Reports/ various

A mighty tree has fallen ...

Peter Proctor has passed away peacefully at his home in Havelock North at 4.35PM on Friday 8 June. He was 89 years old.

Peter Proctor had a secure job as farm manager at Hohepa Farm, Clive, when he decided to take up an uncertain role as Field Adviser for the Bio Dynamic Farming and Gardening Association. That was in the mid 1980s, and for many years he was probably the only full time adviser to organic farmers in New Zealand.



Peter Proctor
 * 28th of August 1928
 † 8th of June 2018

Peter sometimes would say, after visiting a well established organic or Biodynamic farm, that “they know what they are doing, and don’t really need me”. But when he telephoned to say that he was coming to the district and ask if they wanted a visit from him, the answer was usually “yes”. In those days organic or Biodynamic farming was a particularly lonely task and often attracted derogatory comments from neighbours, so taking it up required courage. This was where Peter excelled – he had a very sunny personality and was a wonderful source of encouragement and enthusiasm especially for those isolated most of the time from others of a like mind. He was on the road, many weeks at a time, travelling from Northland to Southland, and visiting up to 100 farms a year, all of whom paid for his time and travel and very often for many return trips. On occasions he made visits to farmers in Australia also.

Peter’s unique qualities meant that when he retired from the NZ advisory work in the mid- nineties, there was no one who could replace him. But retirement didn’t mean that he stopped, and from then on he made many visits to India with partner Rachel Pomeroy, where they helped farmers to use new methods and to rediscover some of the older ones previously known. The [film](#) One Man, One Cow, One Planet documents some of that work, and Peter spoke about it with Kim Hill on Radio NZ in September 2009. ([Podcast](#) still available on RNZ website for 12/9/09).

Kua hinga te totara i te wao nui a Tane.

In the forest of Tane a mighty Totara has fallen

David Wright

BDAI dedicated their current issue to Peter. Please see [here](#).

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We mourn a master of the Biodynamic preparations

Pierre Masson gave the keynote speech on Biodynamic preparations at the agricultural conference in Dornach this year. In it he summarised his many years of experience and his deep understanding of the preparations.



Pierre Masson
 * 8th of August 1944
 † 22th of July 2018

His agricultural career started as a consultant for the state advisory service. At the start of 1968, he and his wife moved out into the countryside. Initially Biodynamic farming offered him the concept of autonomy - an independence from seed and chemical companies- which he found very attractive. For over twenty years together with his wife Florence, he developed a very diverse farm in Burgundy. Looking more closely, he discovered the anthroposophical dimension behind the method. The Biodynamic preparations quickly fascinated him and also with the help of Florence, who as a doctor dealt with homeopathic and anthroposophical medicine, developed a deep understanding of them. For Pierre, they are remedies for the earth, remedies that can produce profound effects if they are made with the precision of a craftsman.

As a first step, Masson set up a preparation service as part of the Mouvement de culture biodynamique, the Biodynamic Association in France. Later, with his son Vincent, a consulting and service company was set up, which then focussed on research into a wide range of practical questions. As a Biodynamic consultant, Pierre Masson made a name for himself far beyond the borders of France. His many published works always approached the issue at hand from a pragmatic perspective.

He has carried responsibility for many years as a Board member of the Association and of Demeter and has been particularly involved in the legal framework concerning preparation production.

For more than three years he has wrestled with bone cancer, gaining support from anthroposophical medicine during that time. This enabled him to continue working on important issues, to present a comprehensive study as a basis for developing a way to regenerate the grapevine, and to finish his major presentation at the 2018 agricultural conference.

His creative power, his research spirit and his unconditional enthusiasm will remain in our memory and motivate us to work intensively on and with the Biodynamic preparations.

Christoph Simpfendörfer

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