



Organizers:

Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions , University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Healthacross, Soil and Sustainable Operations Network (SONDAR), Soil, Bioenergy and Sustainability Network Lower Austria/Europe (BIENE), Federal Agency of Water Management and Bio Research Austria
on behalf of the Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria

26th Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions

Innovations for SOIL HEALTH

Sustaining and enhancing soil health is one of the keys for ensuring a liveable environment, biological resources and a bio-based economy for future generations. Soils provide multiple services for ecosystem functioning and human life, including the production of food, feed, fibre and fuel, and various ecological functions such as water retention, organic carbon storage, or filtering and buffering of nutrients and pollutants. They also serve as sources for microbial genes and habitats for biota, and valuable archives of the earth and human mankind's history. Soil loss and degradation are increasingly threatening soils and thus soil health from local to the global scale.

Agricultural land use nowadays directly affects more than 35% of the global land surface and about 55% in the Danube region. There is no doubt that the mode of agricultural management regimes largely controls the health of our soils. Top-down national agro-environmental programmes under the umbrella of the Common Agricultural Policy provide substantial monetary incentives for moving towards more sustainable, environmentally-friendly management regimes, and among other aspects, target also soil quality. Negotiations for the upcoming CAP period are underway.

Innovative farmers, on the other hand, create and test novel system approaches and techniques aiming at sustainable soil management. More recently, several initiatives aiming at establishment of research or innovation farms or farm networks have emerged.

This 2-days workshop will therefore provide a forum to discuss both approaches for soil health management in the Danube region. On day 1, the potential role of research / innovation farm networks in providing platforms for proof-of-principle research and demonstration of innovations for sustainable soil management in close collaboration between innovative practitioners and academia will be addressed. Day 2 will be dedicated to plenary sessions and parallel workshops on agro-environmental programmes by reviewing past experiences (success stories, failures) and future demands.

We welcome oral and poster contributions from all Danube countries as well as case studies from abroad. Based on the plenary contributions, parallel workshop will be organised to further discuss specific aspects of interactions between soil health and agro-environmental programmes. A field-trip to Alfred Grand's research farm in Absdorf, Lower Austria will provide insight into an innovative practitioner's approaches to maintain and enhance soil health, and will give rise to discussions and networking between innovative practice and science.

REGISTRATION

Via www.unserboden.at/registration

Early bird registration until March, 8th, 2019 (Registration fee: € 120 for regular participants, € 60 for students)

Late registration after March 8th, 2019 (Registration fee: € 200 for regular participants, € 100 for students)

Number of participants is limited!, registrations are only valid after confirmation

TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH & WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2019

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AUSTRIA
VERMIGRAND NATURPRODUKTE GMBH / HAUSÄCKER STRASSE 12 / 3462 ABSDORF

Public transport: You can reach Tulln Main Station by train from Vienna, Krems or St. Poelten.

It takes 10 minutes to walk from Tulln Main Station to the UFT.

Note: Please do not mistake it for Tullnerfeld station, which is approx. 10 km south of Tulln.

Arrival with car: Entrance via roundabout „Baumschule“ – Ambulance, Dr. Karl Landsteiner Straße, parking lot at Gregor-Mendel-Straße. – see attached plan.

Note: Entrance via Frauenhofener Straße and Konrad Lorenzstraße ends before reaching the location!

Contact: Klemens Rybaczek, Association BIENE (Soil-, Bio-Energy and Sustainability Network NÖ/EU)
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Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria, WG Danube Countries (AT)

Conference language: English and German (Czech from 9:30 – 12:30)

8:30 am – 09:30 am **Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln**

09:30 am – 12:00 am **Opening of the Conference and Introduction to the topics**

Walter Wenzel / BOKU (AT)

Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Introduction and case studies from different countries and regions

Eva Erhart, Bioforschung Austria (AT)

Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute (USA)

Brian Oldreive, Foundation for Farming (Zimbabwe)

Robby Gass, Grow Food Nature's Way, Eat Yourself Healthy (GB)

Wolfgang Palme, Horticultural College and Research Institute Schönbrunn (AT)

Karl Anzböck, Clinic Hollabrunn (AT)

Panel Discussion with all KeySpeakers

12:00 am – 12:30 am **Working Community of the Danube Regions**

12:30 am – 01:30 pm **Buffet Lunch & Group Picture at the Lower Austrian Soil Sign**

01:30 pm – 03:30 pm **ON-FARM RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS NETWORK**

Introduction and case studies from different countries and regions

Sara Hellen Kaweesa, BOKU – Centre for Development Research (AT / Uganda)

Festus Imarhiagbe, Fesima Agro Consultancy (AT)

Jaroslav Záhora, University of Brno (CZ)

Simon László, University of Nyíregyháza (HU)

Martin Längauer, Chamber of Agriculture (AT)

Arni Janssen & Stella Juvenita, Wageningen University and Research (NL)

Alfred Grand, GRAND FARM for Research and Demonstration (AT)

Panel Discussion with all KeySpeakers

03:30 pm – 04:00 pm **GPS smartphone land surveying against land grabbing and for climate change adaptation – practical training**

Hans Geißhofer, Spatial Planning, Dev. Aid Consultant, Horizon 3000 (AT)

Roland Selinger, McGill University Canada (AT)

04:30 pm – 06:00 pm **Field Trip to GRAND FARM for Research and Demonstration and VERMIGRAND Naturprodukte GmbH, bus transfer (Tulln -> Absdorf) – (EN)**

Wormcomposting and organic soil production / Organic no till

Multifunctional hedges for biodiversity in the agricultural landscape

GRAND FARM / VERMIGRAND NATURPRODUKTE GMBH / HAUSÄCKER STRAßE 12 / 3462 ABSDORF

06:00 pm – 06:30 pm **Opening and Introduction of the cooperation – (EN): GRAND FARM - RODALE INSTITUTE - LIGHTHOUSE FARMING NETWORK**

Franz Dam, Mayor of Absdorf (AT), Alfred Grand, Grand Farm (AT), Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute (USA), Arni Janssen and Stella Juvenita (NL), Wageningen University

06:30 pm – 09:00 pm **Dinner and Get-Together at "Heuriger Heiss" in Absdorf**

KELLERGASSE ABSBERG, 3462 ABSDORF

08:00 pm – 09:00 pm **SONDAR Network meeting (Soil- and Sustainable Operations Network of the Danube Region)**

Antonin Okenka, Mayor of Nova Lhota (CZ) with CZ delegation

10:00 pm **End of Conference day - bus transfer (Absdorf -> Tulln)**

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Wednesday, April 10th, 2019

SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION AND BEYOND THROUGH AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria, WG Danube Countries (AT)

Language: English and German

09:00 am - 11:00 am **Open Meeting of the Members of the Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection**, managed by Christian Steiner, Lower Austria (AT)
Inputs from: Florian Ballnus, EUSDR PA6 Coordinator (Biodiversity, Landscape, Quality of Air and Soil) (GER)
Meinhard Breiling, Summer School in the Danube Region – University cooperation TU Vienna and Ion Mincu Bucharest (AT)
László Simon - Béla Szabó - Miklós Szabó - Zsuzsanna Uri: organic farming on soils with limited fertility at the training farm of the University of Nyíregyháza (HU)
Pavel Tlustos and Students: Enhancing soil health through phytoextraction / PAH-contaminated soils through biochar application (CZ)

Optional – University and Research Center Tulln guided tour

11:00 am – 11:30 am **Coffee Break**

11:30 am – 12:30 am **Keynotes and input lecture on Soil Health Management in the Danube region and beyond through existing and planned agro-environmental programmes 2020+**
Andrea Obwegger, Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism (AT)
Walter Wenzel / BOKU (AT)

12:30 am – 01:30 pm **Buffet Lunch & exhibition with the Colours of the Earth with paintings from AT/CZ/HU/SK**

01:30 pm - 04:00 pm **Parallel Workshops**

Physical Degradation and Soil Health (EN+DE) Soil erosion by water and wind – measures at country level, soil compaction Moderation: Josef Krasa, Technical University of Prague (CZ) Inputs from: Peter Strauß, Federal Agency of Water Management (AT) Andreas Pfaller, Chamber of Agriculture (AT) Karl Grammanitsch, Mayor of Lassee (AT) Brian Oldreive, Foundation for Farming (Zimbabwe)	Chemical Degradation and Soil Health (EN) Organic carbon / organic matter, nutrients, pollutants – measures at country level Moderation: Pavel Tlustos, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (CZ) Inputs from: Walter Wenzel, BOKU Wilfried Hartl, Bioforskung Austria (AT) Simon László, University of Nyíregyháza (HU) Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute (USA) Ulrike Schauer, Government of Lower Austria, Department of hygiene of environment (AT)
Biodiversity of Soils and related Ecosystems (EN) Measures at country level Moderation: Jaroslav Záhora, University of Brno (CZ) Inputs from: Bernhard Kromp, Bioforskung Austria (AT) Thomas Roth, Stefan Schmidt & Students, Horticultural College and Research Institute Schönbrunn (AT) Siegfried Taschl, Eatable Landscape (AT) Hans Geißhofer, Spatial Planning, Development Aid Consultant, Horizon 3000 (AT) Roland Selinger, McGill University Canada (AT) Christian Krammer, Water balance of Lower Austria (AT)	Collaboration in Health and Soil (EN) Country reports Moderation: Elke Ledl, Healthacross (AT) Inputs from: Robby Gass (GB) Festus Imarhiagbe, Fesima Agro Consultancy (Youths Entrepreneurship, Agribusiness, Education and capacity building) (AT) Sara Hellen Kaweesa, BOKU – Centre for Development Research (AT / Uganda) Franz Rybaczek, goodworks Innovation Agency EWIV (AT)

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm **Coffee Break**

04:30 pm – 05:45 pm **Reports on the Workshops & Panel Discussion**
Moderation: Walter Wenzel, BOKU (AT)

05:45 pm – 06:00 pm **Presentation of the Work Programme 2019/20 of the Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions**
Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria, WG Danube Countries (AT)

06:00 pm – 07:00 pm **Dinner & Get Together**, Connection of Projects in the Danube Countries and international Cooperation projects in the Context of Soil and Sustainability

07:00 pm – 09:00 pm **Poster presentations of Projects and Organisations in the fields of Sustainability and Health Inputs from Partners, Networks and Sponsors**



