



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

ON-FARM RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS NETWORK

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

Conference language: English

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

09:30 am – 12:30 am **Opening of the Conference**

Walter Wenzel / BOKU (AT)

ON-FARM RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS NETWORK

Introduction and case studies from different countries and regions

Eva Erhart, Bioforschung Austria (AT)

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

Martin Längauer, Chamber of Agriculture (AT)

Brian Oldreive, Foundation for Farming (Zimbabwe)

Festus Imarhiagbe, Fesima Agro Consultancy (Youths Entrepreneurship,

Agribusiness, Education and capacity building) (AT)

Karl Anzböck, Clinic Hollabrunn (AT)

Panel Discussion with all Keypspeakers

12:30 am – 01:30 pm **Buffet Lunch**

01:30 – 03:30 pm

ON-FARM RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS NETWORK

Introduction and case studies from different countries and regions

Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute (USA)

Robby Gass & Ron Gilchrist, Grow Food Nature's Way, Eat Yourself Healthy (SCO)

Jaroslav Záhora, University of Brno (CZ)

Simon László, University of Nyíregyháza (HU) tbc

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

Alfred Grand, Vermigrand (AT)

Panel Discussion with all Keypspeakers

03:30 – 04:00 pm

GPS smartphone land surveying against land grabbing and for climate change adaptation

Hans Geißlhofer, Spatial Planning, Development Aid Consultant, Horizon 3000 (AT)

Roland Selinger, McGill University Canada (AT)

04:00 – 06:00 pm

Field Trip to the Research Farm of Alfred Grand, Absdorf

Organic No-Till, Multifunctional Hedges, Vermicomposting

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06:00 – 07:00 pm

Official opening and introduction of the Rodale Institute Europe

Franz Dam, Mayor of Absdorf (AT)

Jeff Moyer / Rodale Institute (USA) & Alfred Grand / Vermigrand (AT)

07:00 – 09:00 pm

Dinner and Get-Together at "Heuriger Heiss" in Absdorf

KELLERGASSE ABSBERG, 3462 ABSDORF

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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

09:00 - 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, TU Vienna (AT)

11:00 – 11:30 am **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:30 am **Keynotes and Input Lectures on Soil Health Managment in the Danube Region and beyond trough Agro-Environmental Programmes**
 Input from Austrian Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism tbc
 And other Danube Countries tbc

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

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

<p>Physical Degradation and Soil Health (EN) Soil erosion by water and wind – measures at country level, Soil compaction <i>Moderation: Thomas Dostal, University of Prague (CZ)tbc</i> <i>Inputs from: Peter Strauß, Federal Agency of Water Management (AT)</i> <i>Andreas Pfaller, Chamber of Agriculture (AT)</i> <i>Karl Grammanitsch, Mayor of Lasseo (AT)</i> <i>Brian Oldreive, Foundation for Farming (Zimbabwe)</i></p>	<p>Chemical Degradation and Soil Health (EN) Organic carbon / organic matter, Nutrients, Pollutants – measures at country level <i>Moderation: Walter Wenzel, BOKU (AT)</i> <i>Inputs from: Wilfried Hartl, Bioforschung Austria (AT)</i> <i>Simon László, University of Nyíregyháza (HU) tbc</i> <i>Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute (USA)</i> <i>Ulrike Schauer, Government of Lower Austria, Department of Hygiene of Environment (AT)</i></p>
<p>Biodiversity of Soils and related Ecosystems (EN) Measures at country level <i>Moderation: Jaroslav Záhora, University of Brno (CZ)</i> <i>Inputs from: Bernhard Kromp, Bioforschung Austria (AT)</i> <i>Thomas Roth, Stefan Schmidt & Students, Horticultural College and Research Institute Schönbrunn (AT)</i> <i>Siegfried Taschl, Eatable Landscape (AT)</i> <i>Hans Geißlhofer, Spatial Planning, Development Aid Consultant, Horizon 3000 (AT)</i> <i>Roland Selinger, McGill University Canada (AT)</i> <i>Antonin Okenka, Mayor of Nova Lhota (CZ) tbc</i></p>	<p>Cross-Border Colaboration in Health and Soil (EN) Country reports <i>Moderation: Elke Ledl, Healthacross (AT)</i> <i>Inputs from: Robby Gass & Ronald Gilchrist (SCO)</i> <i>Festus Imarhiagbe, Fesima Agro Consultancy (Youths Entrepreneurship, Agribusiness, Education and capacity building) (AT)</i> <i>Sara Hellen Kaweesa, BOKU – Centre for Development Research (AT / Uganda)</i> <i>Franz Rybaczek, goodworks Innovation Agency EWIV (AT) & Szabolcs Hollosi (HU)</i></p>

04:00 – 04:30 pm **Coffee Break, optional Exhibition with the Colours of the Earth with Paintings from AT, CZ, HU, SK**

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

05:45 – 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 – 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 – 09:00 pm **Poster presentations of Projects and Organisations in the fields of Sustainability and Health**
 Inputs from Partners, Networks and Sponsors

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Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft



CITY FARM AUGCARTEN



Unternehmen am Standort:

Interuniversitäres Department für Agrarbiotechnologie (IFA):



Fachhochschule Wr. Neustadt, Standort Tulln (FH):



Universitäts- und Forschungszentrum Tulln (UFT):



TFZ – Technologie- und Forschungszentrum Tulln



unser Boden wir stehen drauf! sinnvoll nutzen, sorgsam schützen!

