



6th and 7th of March 2025, Juchowo, Poland

The Associative Economy of Biodynamic Practices:

A SEMINAR ON COLLABORATIVE SUSTAINABILITY



Program

Thursday, 06.03.2025:

Until 15:30	Arrival
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 -15:00	Farm tour
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 15:45	Beginning of the seminar
15:45 - 16:30	Keynote by Helmy Abouleish (CEO SEKEM Holding) <i>"Alternatives are necessary and possible - SEKEM as a pioneer project"</i>
16:30 - 18:00	Discussion 1: Future of social and economic sciences in biodynamic research
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner
19:00 - 21:00	Evening reception

Friday, 07.03.2025:

08:30 - 10:00	Discussion 2: Performance measurement for biodynamic farms
10:00 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 12:00	Discussion 3: Cooperation in biodynamic food value chains
12:00 - 12:30	Break
12:30 - 13:30	Conclusion and Outlook
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch

Discussion 1: Future of social and economic sciences in biodynamic research

The biodynamic movement faces increased challenges nowadays. Farmers are considering the long-term future of their farms and looking for successors. At the same time, they find themselves in a difficult position in the food system / value chain, i.e. they are increasingly coming under pressure due to low producer prices and unequal power relations.

Meanwhile, scientific studies show that socio-economic perspectives in biodynamic research is scarce. The question therefore is not only how social and economic dimensions in biodynamic research can be investigated, but also how it can contribute to the development of the biodynamic sector.

Speakers

Cyrille Rigolot (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France)

"Transdisciplinary potential of biodynamic agriculture research for sustainability transformation"

Christopher Brock (Forschungsring e.V.)

"Overview of current biodynamic research"

Discussion 2: Performance measurement for farms

True costs of agricultural production and consumption are a widely debated topic, as it extends beyond the immediate expenses of production to include broader economic, environmental, and social factors. Various models and calculations attempt to estimate what food prices should be if all internal and external costs factors are taken into account. Additionally, the environmental and social services provided by farms are often overlooked or undervalued.

This raises a crucial question: how can we accurately measure the environmental and social contributions of farms, and what forms of compensation or support should farmers receive in return for these essential services?

Speakers

Eric Waibel (Regionalwert Leistungsrechnung GmbH)

"What is the "Regionalwert Leistungsrechner" and how do we use it?"

Christian Hiß (Regionalwert Leistungsrechnung GmbH)

"The "Regionalwert Leistungsrechner" as tool for managing ecosystem services and commons"

Discussion 3: Cooperation in food value chains

Rudolf Steiner is not only the founder of biodynamic agriculture but also influenced the movement's perspective on economic processes. The Biodynamic Federation Demeter International writes on their website: "To ensure social norms are really included in the trading relationships, the Demeter and biodynamic movement engage in 'associative economics'. This means that all stakeholders along the value chain come together to discuss the current state of market. [...] Instead of maximising profits on only one side, they strive for a cooperation that is good for all commercial partners".

Questions which arise are, for example, to what extent (elements of) this associative concept overlaps with / relate to / differ from other fields of research and what challenges and opportunities may arise from associations in (biodynamic) food value chains.

Speakers

Lara Herrlich (Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen)

"What is an association? - Terminology and conceptualization"

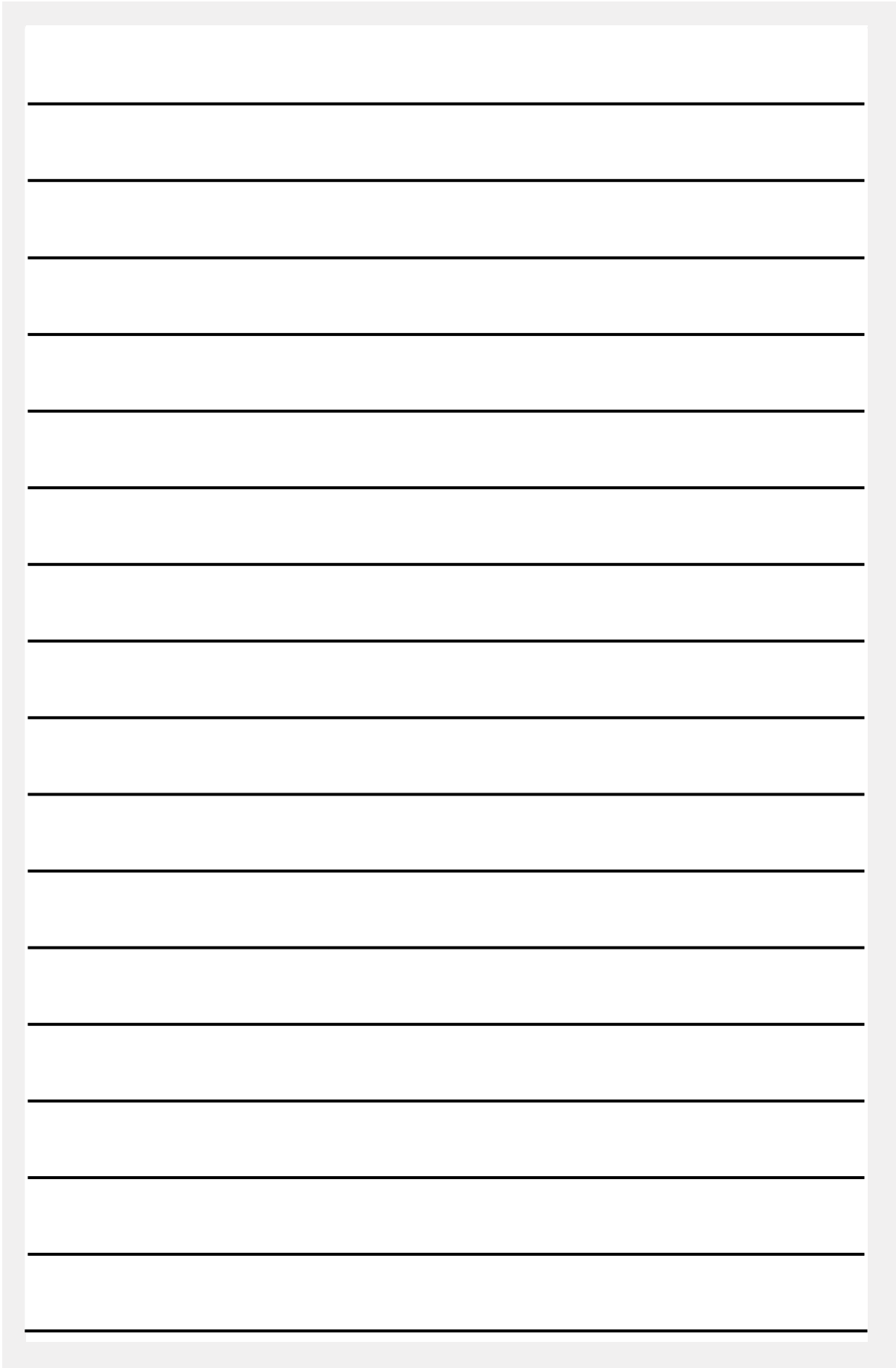
Mariusz Maciejczak (Warsaw University Of Life Sciences)

"The role of cooperation in food systems from alternative economic perspectives"

Änder Schanck (Oikopolis Luxembourg)

"Associative economics in practice - experiences from Oikopolis Luxembourg" (online)

Notes



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RESEARCHING

BIODYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

3rd International Biodynamic Research Conference

Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester, UK

From 31 August to 4 September 2025

*Save
the date*


Holistic perspective: Research in biodynamic agriculture requires a holistic perspective – not only to account for the many dimensions of farming but also to embrace the potential contributions of diverse knowledge systems to truly understand, develop, and transform the field.

Discovering various dimensions: With the aim of discovering new perspectives in biodynamic agriculture research, the conference will place special emphasis on holistic approaches and study concepts. We welcome research exploring various dimensions of biodynamics – whether ecological, artistic, humanistic, or economic – as well as research employing diverse methodologies and knowledge systems.

Open for all researchers interested in biodynamic food and farming: Both researchers in the field of biodynamics and those who are not currently doing research in the biodynamic field but are interested and want to gain new perspectives are welcome to attend the conference.



LEARN MORE

 www.biodynamic-research.org

 For any questions, please feel free to contact us at biodynamic.research@goetheanum.ch

