

The project “Bionet” was founded by advisers and researchers in 2005, the reasons were first on one side the adaption of (inter) national results of research to Austrian conditions and on the other side the evaluation of existing farmers know how and the dissemination. In a second step of the development of the group it was important to connect farmers, advisers and researchers in working groups for flow of information in both ways. Especially in vegetable farming the focus groups coordinate the research in Austria in this area.

About 70 farms participate actively, but not all have field trials every year. The participating farmers decide every year for new if the trials are in line with their crop rotation. The farms are located in all regions of Austria with arable cropping and vegetable farming (half of them with animal husbandry, especially pig production). Winter wheat, maize, winter/summer barley, rye, spelt, grain legumes, sunflower, potatoes, onions, beans are the major crops on these farms. The topics of the field trials are Soil fertility, Weed management, Pest control and crop combinations of cereals and legumes. Every year field trials to variety choices are situated on half of the farms.



The projects activities in relation to knowledge exchange and innovation are required in a clear procedure:

- First step are the working groups of farmers, advisers, researchers; in these groups current problems of arable and vegetable farming are discussed, topics and farms for field trials are selected and researches are designing the trials.
- In the next step field trials are installed (simple and exact trials), the field trials are repeated min. 2 years.
- Inspections with farmers, advisers and researchers are organized at the trials.
- The results of the field trials are published at the homepage, leaflets and seminars.

Communication and advisory tools (education materials) that are used in this project (printed and digital):

- Leaflet “Anbauratgeber” published twice per year (spring and autumn), printed and sent to all organic arable farmers with the topics: results of field trials, professional articles and recommendations for varieties of crops adapted for organic farming.
- Leaflet “Biogemüsefibel” published once per year (early spring), printed and send to all organic vegetable farmers with the topics: results of field trials, professional articles and informations about potato varieties.
- Leaflets with special topics, for example “climate protection in organic farming” or “Production of winterwheat in organic farming”, printed and downloading area on project homepage.

- Project homepage (www.bio-net.at) offers results of field trials, notices for activities, all leaflets for downloading, informations about other ongoing organic farming projects.

Other than that mentioned tools are during the growing season field inspections with farmers, this is a perfect platform for changing know how and experience between the farmers. More bottom down are the seminars and symposiums during wintertime, researchers, farmers and company representatives discussing one day ore more about selected topics (ecological breeding, biodiversity, production of soja beans, etc.).

www.bio-net.at

Get involved on international level!

A two-year project from the Leonardo da Vinci – European education fund, brings together consultants, farmers, NGOs and researchers to gain experience in on-farm research and ways how to share knowledge in organic farming best practice. Four countries, two years of workshops, excursions and sharing of knowledge.



Lifelong Learning Programme

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