

Organizers:

Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions,
Soil and Sustainable Operations Network (SONDAR), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU),
Soil Bioenergy and Sustainability Network Lower Austria/Europe (BIENE)

on behalf of the Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria

32nd Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions

Grow your own!

Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Since the beginning of human history, individuals, families and communities have mainly provided themselves with food and everyday goods. Today, this natural, original form of self-sufficiency is becoming increasingly marginalised, and not only in the Danube region. The need for food in urban areas appears to be too great and the demands of today's consumers appear too diverse. But obviously - the intelligent management of small and very small areas offers the best opportunities for economy, healthy people and healthy soils. Small-scale food production systems are increasingly attracting the attention of producers, consumers and scientists as a possible solution to the manifold ecological and economic dilemma of agriculture and food supply in a world with an ever increasing population.

The 32nd Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions brings together practitioners, experts, scientists and students from the Danube region and other parts of the world to demonstrate and discuss the opportunities and challenges for sustainable soil use and food production in small-scale systems.

On the 2nd day, all participants are invited to visit a practical unit on PLANTING, HARVESTING and COMPOSTING - Grandfarm for Research and Demonstration on Soil Health, Agroforest and Marketgardening.

Soil care is a big challenge for all of us. And we are the responsible Ones for preserving the legacy of healthy soils and a viable society. Now, for future generations! We invite **Students and committed academics** not only to **talk about heavy challenges but also to describe solution ideas and best practices** especially for the Lower Danube Region.

REGISTRATION

Please send an e-mail to: alexandra.ritter@biene-netzwerk.at

The Conference is planned only with invited Speakers. A Participation at the Excursions is possible, but only with a confirmed Registration. The participants themselves have to organize the journey to the Excursion locations. !Number of participants at the Excursion is limited! registrations are only valid after Confirmation.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH & WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2025

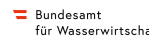
UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / ÖSTERREICH
GRAND FARM / 3462 ABSDORF – DETAILS: GOOGLE MAP

Public transport: You can reach "Tulln an der Donau" by train from Vienna, Krems or St. Poelten. It takes 10 minutes to walk from "Tulln an der Donau" to the UFT.
Note: Please do not mistake it for Tullnerfeld station and "Tulln Stadt", 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 dead ends before reaching the location!

Contact: Alexandra Ritter, Association BIENE (Soil-, Bio-Energy and Sustainability Network NÖ/EU)
alexandra.ritter@biene-netzwerk.at / +43 676 307 95 02

Cooperation Partners:





Tuesday September 16th, 2025

Conference language: EN or DE

GROW YOUR OWN / Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT) and Johannes Pelleter (AT)

From 8:00 am

Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AT

09:00 am

Opening of the Conference

Teresa Stummer, Working Community of the Danube Region (AT) tbc
Konrad Stania, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (AT)
Walter Wenzel, University of Life Sciences, BOKU (AT)

Keynote

EU Mission Soil Deal for Europe

Cees Veerman / Chairman EU Mission Soil Health and Food (NL) tbc

Scientific and practical aspects on Self-sufficiency in Europe and over the world

Wilfried Hartl, Bioforschung Austria (AT) / Alfred Grand, Farmer (AT)

Speakers of the Conference:

Wolfgang Palme, City Farm Augarten (AT)

Principles of successful self-sufficiency - then and now

Irmgard Scheidl, Naturgarten Scheidl (AT) tbc

The self-sufficient Garden

Reinhard Engelhart, Waldgarten global (AT) tbc

The forest garden - fruit, nuts and perennial vegetables for self-sufficiency

Kevin Keiderling, Gutes vom Gutshof (AT) tbc

The market garden as a model for self-sufficient growers - building soil like the pro's

1:00 pm

Family Picture / Lunch

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT) - Conference language: EN or DE

2:30 pm

Foundation for Farming (ZWE)

Training for self-sufficiency and soil health in Africa

Matthew Hayes, Logan Strenchock, Zsamboki Biokert (HU) tbc

Composting, soil health and workhorses in self-sufficiency

Jeff Moyer, Rodale Institute (US) tbc

Healthy soil = healthy food = healthy people

5:00 pm

SONDAR Network of the Danube Countries – Contributions to “Grow your Own”

Antonín Okénka, Mayor of Nova Lhota and Member of European Land and Soil Alliance (CZ)
Jaroslav Zahora, Mendel University Brno (CZ) / Gabor Koltai, Széchenyi István University (HU)
Marius Voica, University of Architecture and Urbanism Bucharest (RO) / Toni CHERNEVA, TEKTON (BG)
Christa Lackner, Natur im Garten (AT) / Peter Strauß, Federal Agency of Water Management (AT)
Eva Erhart, Bioforschung Austria (AT) / Meinhard Breiling, Technische Universität Wien (AT)
Martin Längauer, Chamber of Agriculture (AT) all speakers tbc

Conclusions: Christian Steiner, European Land and Soil Alliance (AT)

6:00 pm

Selected spotlights on composting, soil protection and environmental public relations in Lower Austria - with an impact on the Danube region

Erwin Szlezak, Andreas Scherlowsky, Walter Wenzel (AT)

in connection.. Buffet / Workshop and Station speech

...accompanied by Karl Prieler tbc

Folk music from the Vienna Forests...

10:00 pm

End of Conference day

Cooperation Partners:



Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer

Pracovní Společnosti Podunajských Zemi

Pracovní Spoločenské Podunajských Krajín

Dunamenti Tartományok Munkaközössége

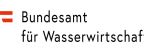
Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Regija

Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Zemalja

Comunitatea de Lucru A Stator Dunărene

Роботна Обшност Дунавски Страни

Робота Спільнучність Придуніавських Країн



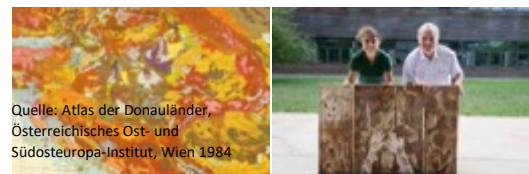
GRAND FARM

INSTITUTION - RESEARCH - DEMONSTRATION



unser Boden wir stehen drauf!

sinnvoll nutzen, sorgsam schützen!



Quelle: Atlas der Donauländer, Österreichisches Ost- und Südosteuropa-Institut, Wien 1984

Sponsored by:





Wednesday September 17th, 2025

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GROW YOUR OWN / Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT) and Johannes Pelleter (AT)

From 08:00 am

Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln

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8:30 am

Workshops

WS 1) Self-sufficiency in Town & Countryside

Bioforschung Austria & Natur im Garten tbc

WS 2) Practical tips for growing herbs for self-sufficients and producing simple remedies

WS 3) Planning a market garden to supply communities

Alfred Grand, Farmer (AT)

11:30 am

Lunch (Mensa UFT)

!For invited guests only!

1:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Field Trip **Absdorf** to GRAND FARM for Research and Demonstration + Agroforest + Soil Health + Marketgardening

Field Trip Guide: Alfred Grand & Johannes Pelleter / Mayor Franz Dam, Stefan Czamutjian (AT) tbc

GRAND FARM / 3462 ABSDORF – DETAILS: GOOGLE-MAP

4 practical Workshops will be held by Alfred Grand & Team MARKET GARDEN

- PLANTING
- HARVESTING
- COMPOSTING
- GARDEN-DINNER ...preparation

Festive Conclusion with a Garden-Dinner to deepen networking and cooperation

10:00 pm

End of Conference day – at Field Trip location

Cooperation Partners:



Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer

Pracovní Spoločnosť Podunajských Zemi

Pracovní Spoločnosť Podunajských Krajín

Dunamenti Tartományok Munkaközössége

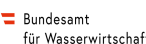
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Робоча Об'єднаність Дунавських Стран

Робоча Спільнучність Придніпровських Країн



GRAND FARM

INNOVATION • RESEARCH • DEMONSTRATION



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

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