



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 www.unserboden.at

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 (details on page 4)

The Conference is planned only with invited Speakers. A Participation at the Field-Trip (2nd day) is possible, but only with a confirmed Registration. Participants themselves have to organize the journey to the location. !Number of participants is limited! registrations are only valid after Confirmation. Participation in the event is free of charge. Cost contribution for each participant: lunch, the evening buffet, and refreshments during breaks is € 35 per day.

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 7049869

Cooperation
Partners:



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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

Hajka Triteos-Meidlik, Working Community of the Danube Region (AT)

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)

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, Cityfarm Augarten (AT)

Gardening like a pro

Sigrid Hagen, Kräutergarten Wohlbehagen (AT)

Herb cultivation for the microbiome – health in the field and in the gut

Reinhard Engelhart, Waldgarten global (AT)

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

Logan Strenchock, Zsamboki Biokert / Central European University (HU)

Train the next Soil caretakers – On farm education: internships and traineeships for farmers, homesteaders, and students at professional market gardens

Evan Mercer, Sharon Keiderling, Erna Albertz; Gutes vom Gutshof (AT)

The market garden as a model for self-sufficient growers - building soil & trust

1:00 pm

Family Picture / Lunch

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

2:30 pm

Foundation for Farming (ZWE) video contribution

Training for self-sufficiency and soil health in Africa

Johann Humer, Agricultural expert at SES-Bonn (DE)

Agricultural self-help worldwide – insights from practice

Festus Imarhiagbe Verein HIFA, Hilfe für alle (NGA)

Healthy soil = healthy food = healthy people

Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN & East Asia, Jakarta (IDN)

Digitalization on small scale farms and their contribution to food security and soil health

Ryohei Sato, Keio University, Tokyo (JPN)

Connecting new student generations to the agricultural heritage:

Learning from Keio SFC experience

Milan Hluchý, Ekovin (CZ)

Biological plant protection in the (market)garden

Andreas Melcher, Institute of Development Research, Boku (AT)

The Austrian-African Research Network “Africa-UniNet”

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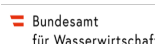
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5:00 pm

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) /
Christa Lackner, Natur im Garten (AT) / Peter Strauß, Fed. Agency of Water Management (AT) /
Eva Erhart, Bioforschung Austria (AT) / Meinhard Breiling, Technische Universität Wien (AT)
Martin Längauer, Chamber of Agriculture (AT) tbc

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

5:45 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:

Tour round the information booths, poster presentation, and evening buffet "delicious fresh from the (market) garden"

...accompanied by **Karl Prieler**
 Folk music from the Vienna Forests...

NETWORK PRESENTATIONS:

Austrian-African Research Network “Africa UniNet”

Zerihun Yohannes Amare, Bahir Dar University (ETH)
Menberu Teshome Zeleke, Debre-Tabor University (ETH)
Anthony Kibe, Egerton University (KEN)
Walter Alando, School of Planning and Architecture, Maseno University (KEN)
Lahrouni Majida, Cadi Ayyad University Marrakech (MAR)

Network Marketgardening International

Felix Münster, Verein Marktgärtnerei Österreich (AT)
Alfred Grand, Johannes Pelleter (AT)

SONDAR Network of the Danube Countries

Meinhard Breiling (AT)
Laura Ivanov and Alexandru Iorga (RO)

* **Association HIFA – We together**
 * **ACP AUSTRIA – Assisting Christians & Helping people in need**
 * **SHINEBEAN / * ORA-INTERNATIONAL / * AMPULS**

Ulrike Mayr (AT)
Festus Imarhiagbe (NGA)
Renata Rokuskova, Ludmilla & Jiri Matuskova Hojkova (CZ)
Philipp Eschenbach (AT)
John/Magda Frank (AT)

10:00 pm

End of Conference day

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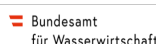
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wir stehen drauf!
sinnvoll nutzen, sorgsam schützen!



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Wednesday September 17th, 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)*

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From 08:30 am

Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln

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9:00 am

TIPS FOR PRACTITIONERS

- **Self-sufficiency in Town & Countryside**

Natur im Garten, Anna Leithner (AT) "How natural gardens can contribute to self-sufficiency"

- **Practical tips for growing and harvesting hedges for self-sufficients and for producing tasty food**

Franz Binder, Farmer (AT)

- **Planning a market garden to supply communities**

Alfred Grand, Farmer, Marketgardener (AT)

11:00 am

Lunch (Mensa UFT)

12 am – 1 pm

Only for partners of this project: ARCADIA Meeting: Bulgaria & Austria

!For invited guests only!

1:00 pm – 8:00 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 Czumutjian (AT) tbc

GRAND GARTEN / 3462 ABSDORF – DETAILS: GOOGLE-MAPS

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

8:00 pm

End of Conference day – at Field Trip location



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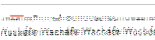
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Anfahrtsplan Campus Tulln Technopol



Map Fieldtrip Grand

Unternehmen am Standort:



First Name:

Institution:

E-Mail Address:

Registration for both days *)

Registration only for Tuesday, Sept. 16th *)

Registration only for Wednesday, Sept. 17th *)

*) Participation in the event is free of charge.

Cost contribution for lunch, evening buffet, and refreshments during breaks is € 35 each person and day.

After registration you'll receive information about a selection of accommodation options in Tulln (at your own expense)

Cooperation
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