

3 projects of IBLA Luxemburg:

On Farms, with farmers, for farmers.

Demo-Farms: Experiencing organic farming in Luxembourg

A network of demo-farms was founded in 2009. It was comprised of 6 organic farms at the beginning, but has since grown to encompass 8 farms.

The aim of these demo-farms is to give consumers a practical insight and experience of organic farming today and to promote the exchange of experiences and ideas with other farmers, especially conventional, who often only have few concepts of how a modern organic farm is organised.

This outreach is done by opening their doors to co-workers for seminars and for the processing of organic products, as well as through the organisation of open days for the public and guided tours for consumer groups such as school classes.

The demo-farms have been selected to show a wide variety of farming practices (dairy farming, chicken farming, dairy goat farming, animal husbandry, viticulture, seed growing and arable farming) to give a full picture of the possibilities of organic farming.

IBLA supervises the demo-farms of the network and helps interested parties that want to visit one of the farms. IBLA also coordinates the network and advises the involved farmers in all questions related to events and PR work in the frames of this project. IBLA has furthermore, produced an individual leaflet for each demo-farm which can be ordered from IBLA.



Winter cereals variety trials for organic crop production

Winter cereals variety trial for organic crop production was started in 2009/2010. It is important to test how cereal varieties do under organic farming conditions, as they are being exposed to different growing conditions compared to conventional farming.

There are two main research questions:

- Which winter wheat, winter rye and winter triticale varieties are suitable for organic farming in Luxembourg?
- How do organic breeds fare under organic growing conditions in Luxembourg?



IBLA, with the help of the Lycée technique agricole (LTA) has been growing three different winter cereals at two different trial sites (Derenbach and Colmar-Berg, LU) under organic farming conditions. In 2012 significant conclusion could be made, for the first time, after 3 years of trial, about the suitability of the different varieties that were tested. A range of parameters were considered in the assessment of the suitability: plant growth and development, yield and quality, as well as baking quality. Furthermore, wheat was also checked for fusarium infestation, fungi, which excrete dangerous mycotoxins. It was found that overall, organic breeds had higher protein levels, whereas conventional breeds had higher yields.

For winter wheat the varieties "Achat" and "Genius" can be recommended, for winter rye the variety "Recrut" and for winter triticale the variety "Tulus".

IBLA also organises several field visits to the trial sites during the summer where interested parties (farmers, consultants) can have a look at the different varieties, see differences in growth and stand, and receive further information on the varieties.

LegoLux Project: Regional protein production through the cultivation of grain legumes

Grain legumes crop production has declined over the past couple of years in Europe and with it also the know-how that is needed to cultivate these cultures. There are only few farmers left that know how to cultivate grain legumes and only little progress has been made in breeding efforts, due to the low demand for grain legumes.

IBLA with the PhD work of Steffi Zimmer and the LegoLux project “Cultivation value of grain legumes as regional fodder source in organic farming in Luxembourg” makes an important step in the direction of research in the field of grain legumes in Luxembourg.

The project is realised by IBLA in cooperation with the University of Kassel (D). In the scope of the project, important grain legumes (field pea, field bean, blue lupin and soy bean) are being tested on an organic farm in Luxembourg regarding their cultivation value and usability as regional fodder source. An agri-social study is also being done on the topic of regional fodder sources and the cultivation of grain legumes on organic farms in comparison to conventional farms. Yet another aspect of the project is a field trial on the research farm “Hessische Staatsdomäne Frankenhausen” of the University of Kassel (D) in which the suitability of commercially available Bradyrhizobia inoculants for the inoculation of soy beans is being tested.



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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