



## Call for Contributions to the Agriculture Conference 2027

# Working with the Intelligence of Life

In the past two Agriculture Conferences, we have dedicated ourselves to the understanding of life and the life processes (2025), as well as to the social and community-building aspects of biodynamics (2026). At the upcoming Agriculture Conference 2027, we now seek to broaden our understanding of community by exploring the relationships we enter into with the intelligent forces of life that surround us and are present in our work with the earth. How can we perceive these forces of life—the etheric or formative forces—and how do we work with them in agriculture, nutrition, and therapeutic farming?

## Microbiome Research as a Bridge to the Etheric

In recent years, advances in microbiome research have reshaped the scientific understanding of life. The classical view of living beings as isolated entities is now being replaced by an integrative biology that understands life as networks of dynamic relationships connecting soil, plants, animals, humans, and ecosystems. The components of the agricultural organism—starting from the soil biome all the way to the digestive microbiome in humans and animals—are understood as deeply interconnected. They communicate and regulate one another in complex and adaptive ways through the involved microorganisms, bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Microbiome research gives rise to an image of living beings that are internally and externally engaged in rhythmic relationships, on microcosmic and macrocosmic levels. With such an integrative perspective, microbiome science can serve as a bridge to our biodynamic methods and to our work with the etheric realm: Our understanding of life resonates with the scientific insights from emerging microbiome research.

## The Question of Inquiry

The evolving understanding of the interconnectedness of life leads us to a deeper question: what is the most appropriate approach to take when working with etheric and formative forces? In biodynamics, different approaches come together: scientific methodology, spiritual-scientific work, Goetheanistic and meditative training of our human perception, and ultimately, practical activity on the farm itself, from which an experience-based intuition can emerge.

Together, these approaches aim not only to explain what is life, but to perceive it—beyond the purely intellectual—as a living reality in its own right. At the upcoming Agriculture Conference, we want to explore this question further: can a more expansive approach to engaging with the etheric emerge—one that includes the human capacity for intuitive, living perception? In the words of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry: “One sees clearly only with the heart”?

### Working with Life as an Art

The vast array of biodynamic methods enables us to consciously participate in shaping life's processes—stimulating, regulating, rhythmizing, healing, and vitalizing them, for example through the use of preparations and by working along the rhythms of nature and the cosmos. Biodynamics is not merely the application of knowledge and technique: it becomes an art of co-creation with the intelligent forces of life. Those who work with the etheric do not encounter an object, but find themselves within living relationships. A dialogical way of working emerges: perceiving, responding, co-creating. Agriculture becomes an art—an art of co-creation within the relationships of life. This leads us to further questions for the upcoming conference: in what ways can we work with the intelligence of life? Which advanced methods allow us to guide and synchronize processes, rhythms, and relationships? How can we engage co-creatively with etheric processes in ways that support and foster life on multiple levels?

Under the guiding theme “Working with the Intelligence of Life,” and with a view on the microbiome, the upcoming conference will explore our relationship to the etheric forces. If this theme resonates with you, we warmly invite you to submit a proposal for a workshop. We look forward to hearing from you.

With warm regards from Dornach



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## Propose a Workshop

Alongside an intellectual approach to the realm of etheric and formative forces, it can be fruitful to engage with them through artistic and meditative practices. In this way, they become more experienceable, and one's capacity for perception in this field can deepen and become more refined. All workshops are therefore invited to include practical exercises—for example in eurhythmy, meditation, music, speech, painting, phenomenology, or perceptual training.

### **Workshops in the Mornings**

4, 5 and 6 February 2027, 10:45 to 12:30

The three-day morning workshops are dedicated to the conference theme. They are intended to bring participants together around a central question that clearly relates to the theme and guiding ideas of the conference. We invite you to formulate the title of your workshop as a question—one that encourages shared inquiry, exchange, and the integration of different perspectives. The topic should be relevant to a broad range of the biodynamic movement and lead to practical insights that participants can apply in their own work. Morning workshops are usually led by two facilitators and are expected to be bilingual.

### **Workshops in the Afternoons**

4 and 5 February 2027, 14:00 to 15:30

The two-day afternoon workshops on Thursday and Friday are open in theme. They are intended as a space for participants to work together on a specific topic that does not need to relate to the Conference theme. Afternoon workshops are usually led by two facilitators and may be bilingual.

### **Preparation with Participants**

From the upcoming Agriculture Conference onwards, workshop leaders will have the opportunity to connect with their participants in advance of the conference. This will be made possible through the Biodynamic Network ([community.sektion-landwirtschaft.org](http://community.sektion-landwirtschaft.org)), where each workshop can be given its own Space starting in October 2026. These Spaces function like group forums in which members can exchange content and files and communicate with one another.

- Workshop leaders and participants can register freely on the Biodynamic Network.
- A link to the respective Space will be included in the conference program (below the workshop description), allowing interested participants to join directly.
- All conference participants are free to join any Spaces, analogous to the free choice of workshops.

- Responsibility for the content lies with the workshop leaders; they initiate the discussion and moderate the contributions to ensure a positive and open atmosphere in their Space.
- Participation in a Space must not be a prerequisite for participation in a workshop and should not disadvantage anyone who wishes to attend only the in-person sessions at the Goetheanum.
- All Spaces will remain active after the conference, making it possible to continue the exchange that has begun.

If you would like to make use of this opportunity, you can indicate this when submitting your proposal. We will set up your Space in October 2026.

### Michael Letter and Leading Thoughts

The current annual theme includes the following Michael Letter: "The Future of Humanity and the Activity of Michael," along with its three leading thoughts. From: Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts (GA 26).

### Support

The Section can support workshop leaders as follows:

- Free conference tickets including lunch, coffee breaks, and the festive evening for the two main workshop leaders, as well as reduced tickets for all additional workshop leaders
- Travel support up to CHF 150 for workshop leaders traveling within Europe
- Travel support up to CHF 300 for workshop leaders arriving from outside Europe
- Invitation letters to support Schengen visa applications

### Dates and Deadlines

Agriculture Conference: **3–6 February 2027**, at the Goetheanum

Submission deadline for proposals: **31 August 2026**

Selection of proposals: **September–October 2026**

Please submit proposals for workshops by **31 August 2026** at:  
**[agriculture-conference.org/call](https://agriculture-conference.org/call)**

## Contribute to the Pre-Conference

Before the Agriculture Conference, a pre-conference is held on **2 February 2027** for the internal meetings of the professional and vocational groups. Interested groups are warmly invited to register their meetings for this day. In the evening of 2 February, a tasting event will be held in the Schreinerei Hall. Farms and producers are likewise warmly invited to contribute to the evening with their products.

### Professional Groups

For the internal meetings of the professional groups, a number of seminar rooms at the Goetheanum is available free of charge in the afternoon of 2 February. Each group is required to provide a title and a description, which will be published online with the conference programme. No organised catering or coffee breaks will be provided; participants are welcome to make use of the café in the Wandelhalle. Participant registration will take place via Pretix, together with the conference registration, and is free of charge. It is also possible to register exclusively for professional groups without attending the conference. Each group must designate a responsible contact person. This person coordinates registrations together with the Section, reviews expressions of interest from external participants, and serves as the main contact for any questions from participants. If you wish to register a meeting of a professional group, please email us by **31 December 2026** at [agriculture.conference@goetheanum.ch](mailto:agriculture.conference@goetheanum.ch).

### Tasting Evening

Farms, producers, and initiatives are warmly invited to take part in the tasting evening with a stand and their products. A limited number of stands are available (2×1m table, with the possibility of a display panel and power connection). Around 150 guests are expected. Soup, bread, drinks, and tableware will be provided; all other tastings will be offered through the products presented by the exhibitors. If you are interested, please contact us at [agriculture@goetheanum.ch](mailto:agriculture@goetheanum.ch).

### Dates and Deadlines

Meeting of professional and vocational groups: **2 February 2027**, at the Goetheanum

Tasting evening: **2 February 2027, 19:00** in the Schreinerei Hall

Deadline for registering professional groups: **31 December 2026**