



Goetheanum · Freie Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft

Sektion für Landwirtschaft

Section for Agriculture

Section d'Agriculture

Seccion de Agricultura

4th International Biodynamic Research Conference

Understanding the Regenerative Forces of Life – From Koberwitz to Coimbatore

12–16 September 2027 at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, India

The upcoming fourth International Biodynamic Research Conference is an invitation to gather around the guiding theme of understanding and working with the regenerative forces of life.

Soils, plants and animals – and, ultimately, we as human beings and societies – are experiencing a time in which modern materialistic intelligence extends into the realm of life, including agriculture. There is a need to renew and expand our approach to the living, deepen our perception of its processes, and develop farming practices that consciously work with regenerative forces and intelligences of life to foster greater adaptation, resilience and vitality.

The term *regenerative*, used as far back as the 1930s by the scientist Lilly Kolisko to describe the ever-renewing forces of life, has become widely used in agriculture. It is nowadays applied to a broad range of farming practices, often referring to approaches that seek to reduce environmental impacts through agroecological or lower-chemical-input practices. Yet without a common definition, the term may be misused in ways that obscure its deeper meaning.

In biodynamic agriculture, we consciously seek to work with these regenerative, renewing forces and intelligences of life in respectful collaboration with the more-than-human world. We enliven and regulate soils through the preparations and cultivate the farm as an organism in which forces are continuously transformed and renewed – from soil to plant, animal and human being, and within the wider ecosystem.

We recognise that there are many ways to perceive, study and evaluate these life forces and intelligences. With this conference, we want to encourage scientific investigation and create a space for different approaches to meet and exchange, in order to deepen our understanding of these living intelligences and forces.

At the conference, we want to focus on three aspects:

The farm organism from a biodynamic, holobiont perspective

The perception of the farm as a living and diversified organism has contributed to shaping the systems approach in organic agriculture. More recently, reputable microbiome and holobiont studies have shed new light on this fundamental biodynamic concept and provided evidence of its value in understanding farming systems.

Biodynamic preparations – biostimulants with a holistic intention

For a long time, the biodynamic preparations (horn manure and silica, compost preparations) have been the most well-known yet little-understood element of the biodynamic approach, given the challenges of making their effects recognisable and comprehensible using modern scientific methods. The breakthrough came with the emerging discipline of microbiome research, which for the first time provided an approach to understanding why and how the preparations impact soils, plants and the whole agroecosystem. Microbiome research, together with innovative qualitative approaches such as picture-forming methods and other qualitative methodologies, opens windows to a wider understanding of the action of the regenerative forces and intelligences of life.

Knowledge systems – different perspectives improve the view of the whole

Biodynamic agriculture and the biodynamic knowledge system emerge from an underlying perception of reality that is different from the current norm. These have contributed significantly to the understanding of agroecosystems and their management, and to the sustainable transformation of food systems. It is thus fundamentally important to explore other ontologies or cosmovisions in order for modern science and decision-making to advance and enable transformation towards living more sustainably on this Earth.

These three aspects give a first impression of the biodynamic topography of the research landscape, even though we are aware that there are many more fields and spaces to discover.

We look forward to exploring these and other aspects of research in biodynamic agriculture together with you over five days of keynotes, talks, workshops and posters, complemented by a rich cultural programme and social encounters.

Date: 12–16 September 2027

Venue: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, India

www.biodynamic-research.org

