

Agroecological Farming: the example of organic agriculture

Program Spring Semester 2026

Responsible	Dr. Else Bünemann-König and further lecturers Research Institute of Organic Agriculture else.buenemann@fibl.org
Time	Fridays from 08:15-10:00 online
Excursions	FiBL research institute in Frick: experimental platform for animal sciences, long-term experiment on reduced tillage, orchards 29 May 2026; 8:30-12:00 DOK long-term system comparison experiment in Therwil and community supported agriculture at the Birsmatthof 05 June 2026; 8:30-12:00
Assistant	Maura Ellenberger, maura.ellenberger@fibl.org

Detailed program

Subject	Date	Content	Lecturers
1. Introduction	20.02.2026	Aims of the lecture, history of organic farming, principles, current market shares, legal background and private standards.	Else Bünemann, Bernadette Oehen
2. Soil	06.03.2026	Soil fertility and climate impact of organic agriculture, including results of long-term experiments and meta-analyses.	Hans-Martin Krause
3. Plant production	13.03.2026	Sustainable crop rotations and nutrient management in organic agriculture.	Else Bünemann
4. Agro-Biodiversity & plant protection (part I)	20.03.2026	1) Plant protection: Regulation of diseases. 2) Plant breeding and variety choice for organic production.	Barbara Thürig Mariateresa Lazzaro
5. Agro-Biodiversity & plant protection (part II)	27.03.2026	Plant protection: Regulation of pests and agro-biodiversity.	Dani Lucas-Barbosa
6. Policy	10.04.2026	Overview of organic support policies.	Sabine Reinecke
7. Sustainability & food systems	17.04.2026	What can organic agriculture contribute to sustainable food systems?	Christian Schader
8. Animal husbandry	24.04.2026	Sustainability, ethics and product quality in organic animal husbandry.	Florian Leiber
9. Tropics	08.05.2026	Organic agriculture in the tropics.	Akanksha Singh
10. Inspection & certification	22.05.2026	Inspection & certification of organic farms.	Farzaneh Mahdipour
FiBL excursion	29.05.2026 08:30-12:00	FiBL farm: excursion to the Research Institute of Organic Farming in Frick	Meike Grosse Michael Friedli/ Clémence Boutry Florian Leiber/ Ariane Maeschli Pascale Nägele
DOK excursion	05.06.2026 08:30-12:00	DOK long-term system comparison experiment and Agrico farm Birsmatthof in Therwil	Hans-Martin Krause Alexander Tanner