



University of
Natural Resources and
Life Sciences, Vienna

Department of
Sustainable Agricultural Systems

Division of Organic Farming
WG Knowledge Systems
and Innovation

Community services

- Scientific publications and dissemination through popular science and community outreach
- Reviews for scientific journals and publishing houses
- Organisation of conferences and events
- Presentations and speeches at public events
- Videos and textbooks
- Collaboration in national and international committees in the agro food sector and in organic farming
- Participation in accreditation processes of organic farming certification bodies in Europe, Asia and Latin America

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Working Group Knowledge Systems and Innovation





Our research focus

We consider organic farming as a social network of various actors. This network is shaped by informal and formal institutions as well as the actors' knowledge, practices, social organisation, world view and beliefs. The actors within this network are at the heart of our research.

Our research focuses on:

- **local knowledge** including transformation and transmission processes of local knowledge;
- **organic farmers' experiments and innovations**, including the importance of farmers' experiments for agro-food networks and regional development.

We work in rural, peri-urban and urban farming or horticulture systems with focus on Austria, Southern Europe and Latin America. Projects are also currently ongoing in Asia and Africa.

We contribute to an in-depth understanding of our research topics through academic research, university courses and dissemination of findings in scientific journals and to the public.

Current research topics

- Ethnobotanical research about local knowledge on agrobiodiversity and its uses (e.g. in homegardens, in culinary practices)
- Ethnopedological and ethnometrological research about local knowledge on soil and climate
- Ethnoveterinary research about local knowledge on animal husbandry and veterinary medicine
- Ethnobotanical research about local knowledge on wild plant gathering and medicinal plants
- Transformation and transmission processes of local knowledge
- Organic farmers' experiments and innovations
- Alternative and regional marketing systems
- Urban and peri-urban organic farming and horticulture
- Quality management, certification and accreditation in organic farming
- Participatory research methods and participatory videos

Courses

Organic farming

- Bachelor-Seminar organic farming (German)
- Interdisciplinary excursion on organic farming (English)
- Organic farming and regional development (Seminar in German; Project in English)
- Organic production of vegetables and ornamentals (English)
- Slow, Fair & Local – Innovations in organic farming (German)
- Food sovereignty – alternative food and farming systems in theory and practice (German)
- Local knowledge and ethnobiology in organic farming – Introduction (English)
- Local knowledge and ethnobiology in organic farming – Methods seminar (English)

Regulations and food quality

- Regulations, certification and accreditation in organic farming (German)
- Safety and quality of organic food (English)
- Global, private and participatory organic guarantee systems (English)

