

# World Day to Combat Desertification

## Programme

- 10:00 – 10:30 Arrival and registration of participants
- 10:30 – 10:50 **Welcome and programme outline**  
*MR MMag. Franz Breitwieser*, Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
*Dr. Axel Mentler*, Institute of Soil Research
- 10:50 – 11:05 **Global warming – consequences for the agricultural sector**  
*Dr. Kurt Weinberger*, Österreichische Hagelversicherung
- 11:05 – 11:30 **Neo-extractivism, climate change and alternative resource management systems: desertification in the Mongolian grassland and the resurgence of nomadic pastoralism**  
*Univ. Prof. Dr. Wolfram Schaffar*, University of Vienna Keynote I
- 11:30 – 13:00 **THE BIOPHYSICAL CONTEXT: CLIMATIC IMPLICATIONS AND WATER RESOURCES**  
**Surviving in the desert and the semi-desert**  
*Em. Univ. Prof. Dr. Winfried Blum*, Institute for Soil Research Keynote II  
**An agrometeorological perspective on traditional farming systems in drylands**  
*Dr. Josef Eitzinger*, Institute of Meteorology  
**Water management options in dryland farming systems**  
*Univ. Prof. Dr. Willibald Loiskandl*, Institute of Hydraulics and Rural Water Management  
**Remote sensing and water resource management: experiences from Europe and Africa**  
*Dr. Francesco Vuolo*, Institute of Surveying, Remote Sensing and Land Information  
**Climate adaptive architecture in desert regions**  
*Dr. Doris Österreicher*, Institute of Structural Engineering
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch buffet
- 14:00 – 15:30 **HUMANS, LIVESTOCK AND FARMING SYSTEMS THREATENED BY DESERTIFICATION**  
**Can crops adapt to the threat of desertification?**  
*Dr. Gernot Bodner*, Division of Agronomy  
**Biotechnological selection of *J. curcas* accessions to counteract land degradation**  
*Dr. Fatemeh Maghuly*, Institute of Biotechnology  
**Ist die österreichische Landwirtschaft für Dürre gerüstet?**  
*DI. Karin Aschauer*, Agricultural Chamber for Lower Austria  
**Landwirtschaft als Opfer und Täter: Herausforderungen für ein "Gutes Leben für Alle,"**  
*Maria Vogt*, organic farmer and councilor  
**Livestock in drylands: a viable production?**  
*Dr. Maria Wurzinger*, Division of Livestock Sciences; Centre for Development Research  
**Managing fragile ecosystems with a vulnerability lens**  
*Mag. Waltraud Rabitsch*, Austrian Development Agency (tbc)  
**Alfons und Agnes Gabriels Expeditionen in die Wüsten des Iran**  
*Dr. Asfaneh Gächter*, Medical University of Vienna
- 15:30 – 16:30 Discussion and closing ceremony
- 16:30 – 17:00 Concert



One third of the earth' surface is affected by desertification. Climate change exacerbates the effects of drought, threatening food production. With 17 "desert days" (temperatures above 35°C) in 2015, the consequences of global changes are evident in Austria, too.

How can we halt the conversion of arable land into desert that is lost for agriculture? Can we reverse desertification processes in spite of climate change? How can we use and manage drylands more sustainably? These are some of the questions we will address in two panel discussions.

**Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016, 10am - 5pm**  
BOKU Wien | Institute of Soil Research  
Exner Haus, room EH-05  
Peter Jordan Straße 82, 1190 Vienna  
**Participation is free of charge.**  
**Please register at: [wuestentag@boku.ac.at](mailto:wuestentag@boku.ac.at)**