

Media release

FiBL celebrates a complete success with its first digital Open FiBL Day

One day, six institutes, 45 sessions, 142 staff members, 1735 participants from over 90 countries: the first digital Open FiBL Day met with great international interest. The event shows that research and advisory work in the field of organic agriculture is more in demand than ever.

(Brussels, Frick, Frankfurt, Vienna, Budapest, Eurre, 02.06.2021) Last Thursday, 27 May 2021 was all about organic agriculture. Under the slogan "organic farming and beyond", the six institutes of the FiBL Group – FiBL Europe (based in Brussels), FiBL Switzerland, FiBL Germany, FiBL Austria, ÖMKi (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) and FiBL France – hosted the first digital Open FiBL Day. In 45 thematic sessions with a total audience of around 5000, FiBL experts focused on questions relating to organic agriculture. For example, the staff of the six institutes showed how organic agriculture contributes to climate protection, what chickens will have to do with organic apple production in the future, whether control with water markers really works, or what FiBL's contribution to sustainable cocoa production looks like.

The organising committee is delighted that the first digital Open FiBL Day was so successful and went so smoothly. "The sessions were held either in English or in one of the FiBL languages (German, French or Hungarian) and were simultaneously translated for the international audience. This demanded a lot of coordination work", emphasises Lisa Haller, the main person responsible for the Open FiBL Day. "But the day also showed the opportunities we have with such virtual events, as we were able to exchange ideas across language barriers, regardless of the respective language skills. And so we were able to work closely together to pursue our common goal – to strengthen organic agriculture worldwide".

Well-attended opening – exciting panel discussion for closing

At the digital event, participants were not only able to attend the virtual lectures, but also to exchange views with experts, ask questions and network in the topic-specific meeting areas. This was very well received by the visitors: "We are overwhelmed by the positive feedback on the event", says FiBL Europe President and Head of Department for International Cooperation at FiBL Switzerland, Beate Huber, and adds: "We were particularly pleased about the more than 300 guests who took part in the opening event at 8.30 a.m.". And the closing event, a panel discussion in which the five researchers Ika Darnhofer (BOKU), Paola Migliorini (UNISG, Agroecology Europe),

Dora Drexler (ÖMKi) and Claudia Meier (FiBL) discussed FiBL's role in the transition to a sustainable agricultural and food system under the moderation of Beate Huber (FiBL), was again very well received.

Sessions can be viewed

Anyone who had registered for the Open FiBL Day has the opportunity to look up the English-language sessions on the event platform. The corresponding link is available under the respective session ("replay"). The sessions in the other languages as well as the opening and closing panel discussion will follow in the next few days. Media representatives who have not registered for the Open FiBL Day and are interested in viewing selected sessions can contact media@fibl.org. Further information on the programme can be found under the corresponding link below.

Contacts

- Seraina Kalchofner, media spokesperson FiBL Switzerland
Phone +41 62 865 63 90, E-mail seraina.kalchofner@fibl.org
- Lisa Haller, FiBL Europe
Phone +32 483 516 734, E-mail lisa.haller@fibl.org

Links

Platform of the Open FiBL Day: <https://eur.cvent.me/YPKBE>

Programme of the Open FiBL Day:

https://www.fibl.org/fileadmin/documents/en/news/2021/OpenFiBLDay_Agenda.pdf

This media release online

This media release and pictures can be accessed online at www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/media.html.

About FiBL

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL is one of the world's leading research institutions in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL's strengths are interdisciplinary research, joint innovations with farmers and the food industry as well as rapid knowledge transfer. The FiBL Group currently includes FiBL Switzerland (founded in 1973), FiBL Germany (2001), FiBL Austria (2004), ÖMKi (Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, 2011), FiBL France (2017) and FiBL Europe (2017), which is jointly supported by the five national institutes. Around 280 employees work at the various locations. www.fibl.org