

Media Release

Knut Schmidtke leaves FiBL

After four years of intensive commitment, Knut Schmidtke will leave the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL at the end of 2023 for personal reasons. The Foundation Council regrets this decision.

(Frick, 16.05.2023) Professor Schmidtke's great commitment as director of a newly formed three-member directorate and executive board guided FiBL through the COVID-19 pandemic. He managed the expansion of the FiBL complex with great skill. The simultaneous growth of FiBL to about 290 employees was strategically and operationally managed under his leadership.

Until the end of 2023, Knut Schmidtke, Beate Huber (Head of Department of International Cooperation) and Jörn Sanders (Head of Department of Food System Sciences) will form the FiBL Directorate. As planned, Michel Keppler (Director of Finance, Resources and Administration) will join as of August 1, 2023. Day-to-day business in research, extension, and administration will continue to be managed by the current heads of department.

The Foundation Council expresses its sincere thanks to Knut Schmidtke for his extraordinary achievements and tireless commitment. The Foundation Council is taking a measured approach to the succession issue to ensure the continued development of a healthy, successful research and consulting business.

Contact

Bernard Lehmann, President of the Foundation Board
Tel +41(0)79 416 61 42, bernard.lehmann@fibl.org

About FiBL

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL is one of the world's leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL's strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and 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. FiBL employs some 400 staff at its various locations.

www.fibl.org