

Biodynamic Development Course

A Course for Biodynamic farmers

Introduction

A new approach to aligning the standards with the 'Biodynamic Principle' has been recently presented by the Federation. By aligning the standards under seven core areas of biodynamics - soils, plants, animals, the farm organism, quality nutrition and care, responsible supply chains, and community and development - the new principle-based approach intends to make them more accessible and understandable for farmers. While at the same time provide them with guidance to support good decision-making and inspiration for their continuous development and good biodynamic work, beyond the minimum requirements for certification.

The interest for biodynamics is on the other hand growing among different types of farmers and production systems in different regions. However, many farmers still have limited knowledge of biodynamic principles, which is reflected in the poor application of biodynamic practices—often done merely to meet minimum requirements—far from reaching the full biodynamic potential of their farms.

To awaken a real interest among farmers in promoting the development of their farm organism in all their dimensions according to our principles— from the soil to the social —is crucial for a healthy growth of the biodynamic movement around the world!

The Course

Goal & Expected outcomes

The main objective of the course is to awaken farmers' genuine interest in developing their biodynamic farms to their fullest potential and to provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to design their own “Biodynamic Development Plan,” inspired by the core biodynamic principles.

By the end of the course, participants:

- They have elaborated a **“Biodynamic Development Plan”** for their own farm. This includes identifying key “development goals” across all key areas of biodynamics (soils, plants, animals, the farm organism, quality nutrition and care, responsible supply chains, and community and development), as well as defining short- and long-term strategies and actions to achieve those goals.
- They have deepened their understanding of the International Demeter Standards and gained a new perspective on how to work with them, based on the new principles-based approach.
- They have broadened their biodynamic skills and now feel more confident and determined to follow their own path of development in biodynamics.
- They have strengthened the bonds of learning and collaboration with other biodynamic farmers worldwide.

Course structure and learning approach

The course lasts eight months, from October 2026 to May 2027. It is designed for farmers who are just starting out on their biodynamic journey, or experienced farmers who want to reconnect with the biodynamic principles and identify development goals to help their farms reach their full potential.

The course will be offered in English and Spanish, and farmers from around the world are welcome.

The main focus of the course is to inspire motivation for an individual path in Biodynamics according to each farmer's context. This individual learning journey is fostered throughout the eight-month through ongoing on-farm assignments to identify areas for improvement and define development goals, regular peer exchanges with other biodynamic farmers—providing a space to reflect and identify creative solutions for individual needs—and reinforced through monthly online seminars to reconnect with the core biodynamic principles across all key areas of biodynamics.

The seminar will be held by experienced biodynamic trainers and advisors, and the dates and topics for each seminar are as follow (all at 2 pm CEST):

- Seminar I: Opening & the Farm Organism – 6 October
- Seminar II: Soils Development and Fertility – 3 November
- Seminar III: Plants health and the role of Biodiversity – 8 December
- Seminar IV The Biodynamic Preparations – 12 January
- Seminar V: Animal Husbandry in Biodynamics– 9 February
- Seminar VI: Quality Nutrition and Care – 2 March
- Seminar VII Economics & Responsible Supply chains – 6 April
- Seminar VIII: Social Responsibility & Development – 4 May
- Seminar IX: Closing – 25 May

Requirements

- Continues **access to your farm** is required in order to complete various assignments and tasks throughout the course.
- Participants **commit** to engaging in a continuous process of self- and peer-learning throughout the eight-month course, including actively participating in all online seminars and diligently completing all tasks between seminars

The course is free for biodynamic farmers and licensees. Upon completion of the course, a diploma will be awarded by the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International.

Registrations

To register, please email Maria Paz Bernaschina directly at paz.bernaschina@demeter.net and tell her about your journey in biodynamics and your motivation for joining the course.