



respekt-BIODYN Production Guidelines

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Preamble

respekt-BIODYN as an ideal

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respekt-BIODYN is an ideal. It is an ideal of quality for products and processes in agriculture, in the production of food and drinks, and as a work and life ideal. In short, the search for quality in the widest sense, including the most respect for nature, our earth and humanity imaginable (ecological - economic - social - emotional sustainability).

We also want to work transparently and openly in this regard. Our products are to be produced according to certain high external production guidelines - and we also believe that the inner attitude of the producers, as people, is as important as the recording of the respective production steps.

respekt-BIODYN as an association has its base in Austria, but its area of activity (operating range) covers the whole world.

Foundation

EC Organic Regulations: The EC Regulations on organic farming and the corresponding labeling of agricultural products and foodstuffs, (EEC) No 2092/91 and its amending ordinances, are in principle the basis of our guidelines.

EU Organic Regulations: The new ordinance of 28 June, 2007 entered into force on 1 January, 2009:

Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007; on ecological/organic production and labeling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

Every producer of agricultural products who is or intends to become a respekt-BIODYN member will undertake to comply with the laws and regulations in force in his/her own country.



The respekt-BIODYN Production Guidelines

I. PREFACE

1. Goals

The guidelines of our association aim to produce the highest possible ecological, social and spiritual quality in the production of food, beverages and other natural products. At the same time, equally high personal and professional independence and sovereignty for the people should be secured. Our concern can be summarized as an ecological and spiritual orientation with the highest respect for the fundamental nature of earth, water, air/light and fire, as well as for the natural world with its soils, plants, animals and man in connection with our holistically seen cosmop. (= ecological, economic, social, emotional sustainability)

2. Origin

Our goals were formulated out of the search for quality and sustainability. The methodological inspiration has its roots in the work of Dr. Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), the Austrian scientist, philosopher, educator and social critic. In 1924 he gave an agricultural course in Koberwitz/Koberiyszce (then Germany, today in Poland). The course was recorded and published. Today it can be found in Rudolf Steiner's "Fundamental Humanistic Principles for the Advancement of Agriculture". However, we see ourselves as independent and undogmatic in light of contemporary developments (especially in agricultural ecology, modern technology and current social conditions). Our present practice is broadly based on a modern synthesis of the ideas of Steiner with modern agricultural ecology and practical experience in the fields of biology and biodynamics over the last decades (= emancipation and development).

3. In Dialog

There are numerous organizations around the world that are based on Rudolf Steiner's work, some of them in the agricultural sector. We are very much connected with respect to the tradition, that is to say, to the efforts and pioneering work of Steiner, his pupils and many of our colleagues from other associations. At the same time, we pursue independence, self-reliance and sovereignty in theory and practice. In addition, we are looking for an open, friendly, professional dialog with colleagues from all the other associations worldwide. (= the threefold social order - intellectual - legal - economic)

II. FUNDAMENTALS

1. Philosophical-Ethical Orientation

The work this association is intended for is only possible on the basis of an open, yet clear philosophical-ethical orientation that presupposes a high respect for the natural conditions of the earth and the natural world. How everyone develops this within their own soul and consciousness is left to their own responsibility. We aim for an association that has maximum quality as a goal, in everything we do and produce - but this can only be realized through respectful doing and being. Such an orientation cannot be tested and checked. But we are convinced that this cooperation and the results of this work can be felt, experienced and assessed with all the senses. We assume that anyone who wants to work with us is trying to consistently manifest, deepen and improve these high – but not specifically defined here – goals in his life and work as a credo. (= individual responsibility)

2. Agricultural Individuality

Like Rudolf Steiner, we see the ideal of a farm in individuality. We interpret it as a living, animated and spiritually conscious organism, to which care and respect are due. We see this agricultural individuality as a mesocosm between the microcosm of "man" and the macrocosm of "universe". This mesocosm includes not only the surface of the earth and the easily worked subsoil, but also the depths of the earth under each site and the space above that extends far into the sky. This conception of agricultural individuality involves a wide-ranging interest in geology, meteorology, astronomy and other related sciences in the search for a holistic, sustainable and comprehensive understanding of agriculture and its immediate, as well as wider, environments, influences and conditions. We see ourselves in a deeply responsible relationship with these agricultural individualities and seek continuous recovery and productivity in our philosophical, scientific, technical and work methods with as few adverse side effects as possible for the earth and humanity. (= awareness)

3. Complementary Medicine for Agriculture

We emphasize that we are not opposed to the achievements of modern agriculture, agricultural science and technology but are rather looking for supplements and improvements in the sense of a gentler, far more sustainable and correspondingly more meaningful way of working. For example, we seek for more prevention, using production methods that create a healthy, biodiverse environment in advance and thus reduce the problems resulting from one-sided cultivation (monoculture).

We seek the ideal care of plants and soil that has as little negative impact as possible on the subtle environment of organisms in the soil, in the surroundings and in the atmosphere. We seek ways to protect our plants that are as effective as they are gentle. We seek primarily in nature for substances and agents that can help us with our tasks (without industrial, chemical or synthetic processing). This search, however, is not solely based on the escape of the side effects of highly technical agriculture, which is heavily dependent on synthetic means.

We also relate philosophically to another model that tries to get to know the integrity of nature and to develop methods in harmony with it. This means that we learn primarily from the phenomena and rhythms of nature and work with the cycles of growth, becoming and maturing, and are thus able to further and further reduce allopathic remedies. Nevertheless, we are aware that we live in a modern market economy and cannot completely dispense with modern technology and methods. The aim is to simplify the close-to-nature and holistic work while at the same time to scrutinize the knowledge of science and to allow it to be included if necessary.

Anthroposophic medicine and classical homeopathy serve as the background to our work. In addition, we are always seeking new insights and methods that, in harmony with "nature's pharmacy", promote a healthy and productive agriculture in the most natural and simple way.

III. CONVERSION AND MANAGEMENT

The conversion of a cultivated area is primarily an aspect of the soul and spirit of the respective farmers, gardeners, winemakers, etc. The conversion is an internal reflection of values. It shows itself in the desire to keep in mind respect for nature through thorough ecological thinking in all production and processing procedures. In the conversion phase, training of the producers is necessary.

This includes, for example, an ecological or agri-ecological orientation, as well as an introduction to anthroposophy (including "anthroposophic medicine for agriculture" such as preparations), homeopathy and, finally, the methods of biodynamics.

1. Introduction

In order to give our agricultural individualities (our operations) more and more health and natural productivity, the focus of the conversion is to build up an ecological basis for these operations and strengthen the immunological reactivity of soils, plants, animals and humans. That is, the holistic, intensive and consistent cultivation of the natural foundations of healthy living.

2. Conversion Program

The conversion is to be realized primarily through seven programs, which must be integrated and therefore have to be carried out in parallel.

Every farmer, vintner, gardener, etc., has the task of drawing up a general conversion plan on the basis of the programs described here. This plan shall be drawn up and submitted to the respekt Board by a consultant and/or mentor recognized by the Association. The plan forms the basis of independent control by a state-approved controlling company approved by respekt-BIODYN.

The general conversion plan shall include and describe in writing the following seven programs, as appropriate for the operation, location and product range:

1. Location-appropriate Production
2. Biodiversity
3. Soil Fertility
4. Plant Care
5. Animal Life
6. Dealing with Accompanying Growth, Pests and Diseases
7. General Measures

The minimum requirements are shown below. Everyone must adhere to the minimum standards. This is a positive list, which means that all production measures and tools not mentioned here are not permitted.

3. Minimum Conditions and Documentation

3.1 Location-appropriate Production

Every operation should take care to employ location-appropriate soil maintenance, as well as to cultivate location-appropriate plants and keep location-appropriate animals. The methods and varieties traditionally used for centuries should not be neglected in order to achieve shorter-term goals. Nevertheless, this idea of location-appropriateness should be scrutinized openly and interpreted meaningfully. Care must be taken to ensure that measures taken with soil, plants and animals on the site are consistent with maintaining healthy productivity and supporting the natural immunity of organisms. The greater the natural immunity, the healthier and more productive an organism can be. Regional and local conditions in particular must be taken into account. If, for example, soil cultivation methods (see "soil fertility") outside the standards (in their technical or temporal application) are used, they must be discussed beforehand with a consultant approved by the association or its board. These cultivation methods must be documented.

The location-appropriate production for a site is to be described exactly in the conversion plan. After approval by the Board, this must be adhered to during the conversion. Additional usable and fallow areas must be listed and reported proportionately. A list of the individual production sites of the company must be submitted with the conversion plan.

→ Description of the general production of the operation, of location-appropriate production in the sense of bioregionality (what grows here generally, what makes up the nature in the area including geology, flora and fauna in the operation) and how to cultivate them further, better and more sustainably.

→ Description of the overall operation with (a) an overall map of the operation, and (b) individual maps of the production sites.

→ A detailed cadastre of production with the main data for the operation (hectares, number of employees and animals in the operation)

This program requires a more precise grasp of the operation, a raising of consciousness:

What do we really have here, what are we doing, and what do we want to do to make it "better"?

3.2. Biodiversity

Each operation must pay attention to its biodiversity. For example, the many microorganisms in the soil, "helpers" such as worms, ants, bees and butterflies, the many beneficial organisms, and the many helpful birds. Each operation has the task of protecting and enriching the natural biodiversity of its site.

→ Description of the biodiversity in the operation at the time of the start of conversion and the stepwise enrichment that is planned (for example, worm breeding, beekeeping, birds' nest boxes, etc.)

→ Description of the steps that will be taken to promote the general enrichment of beneficial organisms and natural animal life on the farm

→ Description of the steps that will be taken to generally enrich the natural flora

3.3. Soil Fertility

We see the cultivation and care of humus (the "vitalization of the soil") as the most important task.

Wherever possible, these four pillars of the process are to be practiced:

1. Gentle soil maintenance
2. Customized greening
3. Soil vitalization with nettle tea and horn-dung preparation
4. Application of composts

The exact quantity and frequency of the listed "pillars" must be adapted to the location and discussed with the consultant or the Board/mentor. Applications are to be carried out repeatedly and rhythmically in the sense of biodynamics. Humus formation can be seen, smelled and perceived. Success in humus formation can be perceived throughout the whole operation.

3.3.1. Gentle Soil Maintenance

Soil maintenance is to be carried out carefully. Light machines are particularly preferred; mixing of the soil layers is to be prevented.

A green ground with a variety of vegetation is ideal. For seeding new mixtures of greenery, the soil may be opened and kept open for a period appropriate to the season, depending on weather conditions. However, this cannot be done over an entire area (for example only every other row).

In order to loosen strongly compacted soil, deep loosening may be carried out at any favorable time (taking account of the soil conditions) with suitable devices.

3.3.2. Customized Greening

The maintenance of biodiversity, active soil life, and thus the preservation of soil fertility is to be accomplished through varied greenery. It serves to stimulate soil and form humus. The process should be done gently and according to the season. During the conversion period, a part of the greenery must be newly seeded at least once a year.

Flowering herbs, flowers and grains are preferred. Greening is a habitat for a diverse flora and fauna. In order to preserve biodiversity and create thriving conditions, greening should be mown, mulched or rolled. Mowing or rolling is preferable to mulching.

3.3.3. Soil Vitalization with Nettle Tea, Horn-dung Preparation, Rock Flour and Lime

All soils, irrespective of which crops are planted, must be treated with a horn-dung preparation and nettle tea at least once a year; in the conversion phase treating several times is recommended. Other teas and plant extracts, rock flour and lime can also be used for support.

Regulation of production and the application of biodynamic preparations.

The biodynamic preparations of horn-dung and horn-quartz, and compost preparations of yarrow, chamomile, nettle, oak bark, dandelion and valerian should be produced on the farm or in groups of like-minded farmers. Self-production is an important component in the development of agricultural farm individuality, the softening of soils, and the strengthening of the immunological reactivity of our plants. Purchase of these is permitted and must be documented.

Dr. Rudolf Steiner, from "Agricultural Course":

„[...] because with these agents it is not all the same whether the physician (farmer) himself is in the possession of the agent and passes this directly to the patient (field). The doctor brings a certain enthusiasm (soul) with him when he gives such a thing to a patient, when it happens only within a small circle. ... he vibrates with (enthusiasm), and the doctors are excited (personal power) when they are enthused.“

Only vessels made of the following materials may be used to dynamize the preparations:

Wood, stone, concrete, copper, stainless steel. The water used must have a high information power, and should not be "treated" (chlorination of tap water) and, if possible, not pumped.

Dr. Rudolf Steiner from "Agricultural Course":

"It is quite clear that stirring by hand means something different from mechanical stirring. The mechanic will of course not admit this. But remember what a tremendous difference there is, whether they are really stirred by hand, all the delicate movements involved in the agitation that the hand carries out, all the things that may come in, perhaps the sensations as well, whether everything comes into play, or if you simply stir it around by machine."

If preparations are stored, they must be stored at suitable locations, in suitable containers.

3.3.4. Composting

Components of the compost: organic animal dung (predominantly cow). Straw, reeds, hay, cut greens, foliage and cuttings as well as organic substances from your own production and processing, or of regional origin, preferably from organic agriculture.

Care must be taken to ensure that the statutory provisions for storage in field heaps are respected, in particular the protection of surface water and ground water. In order to be able to react to specific fertilization requirements, the compost should be adapted to the respective sites and, if necessary, enriched with powdered stone and calcareous fertilizers. For composting, the composting preparations must be used!

Purchase of compost (which must be certified organic) is permitted during the conversion period. Consultation with the Board or the consultant is required. The compost must, however, be treated with the compost preparations at least three months before application and stored in the prepared state on the farm until its application.

- Description of the soil maintenance at the time of conversion and the stepwise changes
- Description of the greenery and its maintenance
- Documentation of the application and origins of teas and preparations
- Documentation of the origins and quantities of organic substances and description of the sites of composting

4. Plant Care

The following principle applies to plant care:

In order to support the health of crop plants, which is to be achieved mainly by means of suitable soil cultivation measures and foliage work, biodynamic and homeopathic treatments are to be carried out in a timely and appropriate manner (in accordance with the moon and weather). In order to increase the immune responsiveness of the plants, teas and extracts must be used. These must be of organic origin (except for when not available).

4.1. Biodynamic

- Horn-quartz (at least once, preferably more times) - see the rules for biodynamic preparations

4.2. Homeopathic:

- Nettle (at least once, preferably more times)
- Common horsetail
- Chamomile (at least once, preferably two to three times), birch leaves
- Yarrow, valerian, dandelion, oak bark compost
- Various plant extracts may be used in consultation with the consultant or the Board.

→ Description of plant care at the time of conversion and the stepwise changes

→ Documentation of the use of teas and preparations

5. Animal Life

Every respekt-BIODYN producer knows how important animals and the animal life in nature are, and how far we have left them behind in agriculture.

Everyone will undertake, during the conversion phase, to (again) have animals in the operation - at least temporarily, in order to promote biodiversity. Whether it is the breeding of worms, ants, bees or butterflies, the placing of birds' nest boxes, a herd of sheep or cattle, etc. Everyone will strive for an individual solution to increase animal life in the operation - consciously, visibly, sustainably. This applies not only to viticulture, but also to all farming, horticulture and raising of livestock. It depends on the variety and local customization.

Flowering greenery and biodiversity promote animal life. Beneficial animal rows and well-kept slopes, walls, "beneficial animal hotels" (for wild bees) as well as birds' nest boxes are to be constructed, trees should be planted. In the case of agricultural land where this is not possible for reasons of space, these necessary measures can be carried out on a neighboring plot.

In order to establish agricultural individuality in an operation, cooperations can be entered into with livestock farms.

Each operation will promote animal life within the operation in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the individualization plan (conversion plan).

→ Description of the measures to be taken to promote animal life on the farm

→ Documentation of partnerships with livestock farms, as well as a brief description of these operations

6. Dealing with Accompanying Growth, Pests and Diseases

The interpretation of the term "weeds" strongly depends on subjective human perception. Thus, only some plant species are classified as weeds. This is not correct according to fundamental principles, since a species itself can occur as a weed, a useful plant, a healing herb, an indicator plant, or in another form. In the case of the necessary regulation of an undesirable accompanying growth, only mechanical methods may be used; preference is given to regulation by means of targeted greening measures.

Pests: Regulation is done primarily by promoting biodiversity and beneficial organisms.

Plant diseases, mainly caused by one-sided monoculture, will be counteracted by the promotion of biodiversity and soil fertility. The primary goal of all measures is to establish and further promote the plants' own resistance. Humus formation and humus care ("soil vitalization") are the basis for achieving this goal. Biodynamic and homeopathic plant care, in rhythmic applications, contribute significantly to the strengthening of the immune system of crop plants.

If the above measures are not sufficient, the following allopathic remedies may be used to defend against plant diseases:

According to national organic regulations:

- Sulfur
- Copper
- Baking powder
- *Bacillus thuringiensis*, potassium silicate, plant oils, pheromones, alumina preparations

All these means are to be used as responsibly as possible and only as much as necessary.

→ Description of all measures that are appropriate for regulating accompanying growth, pests and diseases commercially for this type of crop

→ Documentation of the application of allopathic means



7. General Measures

respekt-BIODYN strives for a holistic view of agriculture, the conservation of ecosystems, the economical use of energy, the joy of agriculture and ongoing recovery and productivity with the least possible negative side effects for the earth and mankind. (= ecological sustainability).

respekt-BIODYN is committed to the concept of agricultural individuality for farms. The creation of a largely closed production cycle (alone or with partnerships) is to be strived for, as well as the creation of a secure existence on the basis of healthy living and working conditions (= economic sustainability).

respekt-BIODYN is committed to the concept of social decency. Each member makes every effort, consciously and with concrete steps, to ensure that all their employees are respected and treated in a responsible manner. This is an integral part of the general measures in addition to the dignified care of soil, plants and animals (= social sustainability).

Sustainable management and the responsible use of resources ("reduce-reuse-recycle") must characterize work on the farm.

Fallow land and ecological compensation areas are a valuable part of a farm and must also be maintained in accordance with the guidelines ("every vineyard its tree").

The use of genetically modified organisms in our operations is, without exception, prohibited.