



Charter for Advisors and Consultants in Biodynamic Agriculture

This charter is expression of the free will of the contributing Biodynamic advisors and consultants who confirm that they wish to strive for quality and professional commitment in their work by joining this charter. It has been formed by the active exchange of Biodynamic advisors and consultants. Member Advisors and consultants agree to the actual version available on the website of the Section. <http://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/Biodynamic-advisory-work.html>

Advisory work supports Biodynamic practice and Self-determination and Empowerment of the client

The aim of biodynamic counselling and consultation work is to impart knowledge and skills and at the same time enable practitioners to develop their own independent biodynamic practice. Clients always remain free to verify proposals and recommendations and should be enabled to decide on their own.

Advisory work bases on transparent resources

Our advisory and consultancy work relies on verifiable resources of the Biodynamic movement. We refer to the findings of Biodynamic practitioners, researchers and experts if recommendations are not based on our own output.

Advisory work supports exchange and collaboration, respecting the private and professional confidentiality of their clients

Advisory and consultancy work is nourished by the sum of experiences of Biodynamic practitioners and by the exchange between Biodynamic advisors and consultants. Collaboration amongst consultants enhances a broader and better understanding of the foundations of Biodynamic practices and at the same time enables practitioners to develop their specific Biodynamic field. Advisors and consultants exchange client information fully respecting the private and professional confidentiality of their clients.

Advisory work strengthens the network

Given the fact that the activities of consultancy and related training activities in Biodynamic agriculture are growing, it seems important to bring the many people involved in these activities together under one charter, to achieve a common base of good practice thereby ensuring the quality and trustworthiness of the services provided. Advisors inform about the Section for Agriculture, IBDA, and the Biodynamic associations and organizations during consultancy work and refer to the communication material provided by the Section for Agriculture, the Biodynamic associations and organizations. The signed charter should be mentioned in oral or written contracts.

- Our network is hosted by the Section for Agriculture at the Goetheanum:
 - The Section for Agriculture maintains a list of the signatories of the charter
 - People and organizations looking for advisors and consultants can find this list available on its homepage

The undersigned advisors/consultants commit themselves to:

• **Continued professional development, notably in the following fields:**

- studying the foundation of Biodynamic agriculture and the Agriculture Course of Steiner;
- training with other advisors/consultants, notably through participating in working groups to exchange about each other's' activities and experiences (national and international) and by participating whenever possible in the International Advisors' Meeting at the Goetheanum or elsewhere and stay in contact with the others advisors and the Section;
- participating in a preparation making group somewhere;
- participating in Biodynamic training courses of other individuals and organizations;

• **Networking, cooperation and good professional practice:**

- encouraging the individualization of farming practices according to terroir, local conditions and human know-how and consciousness;
- keeping up to date and with detailed knowledge about the Demeter standards and providing technical advice in accordance with the Demeter standards;
- getting in touch with the national Biodynamic and Demeter association - or with Demeter International if there is no national association - in the countries where advisory work is being carried out;

• **Professional ethics:**

- respecting of private and professional confidentiality of the client
- paying particular attention to working towards the self-determination and empowerment of the client;
- transferring knowledge and know-how in such a way that each client can learn the methods and act freely;
- talking freely and openly but refraining from any negative comment about other advisors or consultants, and about other points of view in Biodynamics.
- Problems should be solved directly with person affected. Conflicts or disagreements should be approached constructively and respectfully.

Biodynamic advisors and consultants who are signatories to this charter keep track of the annual improvements of this charter and agree to work in accordance with its content.