

Tuesday, June 28 2022

V. World Organic Forum

27.-30.06. 2022 Schloss Kirchberg (Kirchberg Castle)

Opening Speech, Rudolf Bühler

Founder and Chairman of Stiftung Haus der Bauern (Foundation House of Farmers)

Greetings and a warm welcome to the V. World Organic Forum at Schloss Kirchberg!

I welcome by name:

- His Majesty Osagyefuo Nana Amoatia Ofori Panin Okyenhene with delegation from Ghana
- President IFOAM EUROPE Jan Plagge together with the Senior Managers Gábor Figeczky and Thomas Cierpka and the IFOAM -Organics International team
- Nobel Laureate The Right Livelihood Award Prof. Dr. Vandana Shiva
- Honorary President Club of Rome, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker with Christine von Weizsäcker, President ECOROPA
- Honorary President FIBL/IFOAM et al Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hardy Vogtmann
- Past President IFOAM Gerald Herrmann
- Secretary General DEMETER INTERNATIONAL Christoph Simpfendörfer
- Steffen Reese, Managing Director Naturland
- Dorit von Behaim Society for International Cooperation (GIZ German Development Cooperation)
- Dr. Walter Döring, former Minister of Economic Affairs Chairman of the Academy Advisory Board
- Initiators and CEO's of Climate Farmers Ivo Degn and Andre' Antunes
- Director of the Institute for Ecological Economics and Ethics Prof. Dr. Ove Jakobsen
- and many more!

I would also like to welcome all the representatives from the international SDG regions who are present:

- The Eastern Province / Ghana
- Zanzibar / Tanzania
- Wayanad, Kerala / India
- Lake Periyar Sanctuary, Idukki, Kerala / India
- Carpathians / Romania
- Vojvodina / Serbia
- as well as the multitude of guests and activists from the other SDG regions in Africa, India, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the the global south
- Also those who are present in the hybrid format
- And of course the representatives from the organic model regions in Germany!

Welcome all of you to the V. World Organic Forum here at Schloss Kirchberg, the farmers' castle and place of power for the Organic Movement!

Thanks to all the partners who accompany this congress, who make it possible possible thanks to their support:

- German Society for International Cooperation, GIZ
- Farmers' Producers' Association Schwäbisch Hall, BESH

- Foundation House of Farmers
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ
- International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, IFOAM -Organics International
- Club of Rome
- as well as the many other supporters such as World Future Council, Heilbronn University, Slow Food International, Climate Farmers, World Food Institute, Misereor, Ecoselva and many more!

I come to the impulse of the conference:

In principle, Akademie Schloss Kirchberg focuses its educational work and activities on 3 pillars:

- Localizing Global Peasants Rights
- Carbon Farming or climate positive agriculture and Food Economy
- And Localizing SDG's

in addition to all the other activities in the context of education and project work in the field of organic agriculture and food economy here and there.

5 years ago, 2017, we gathered here for the first time to advocate and fight for the Global Peasants Rights. This resulted in the fact that we adopted a joint charter on peasants' rights with over 450 peasant representatives from around the world.

And then already in December 2018, the Declaration for Global Peasants Rights was adopted by the UN General Assembly in New York. 74% of the countries voted in favor, the USA voted against and the Germans have abstained, probably did not have the the courage to stand on the side of the small farmers of this world.

All this has encouraged us to continue to develop this World Organic Forum as an intellectual counterpart to the World Economic Forum in Davos.

We stand here for the reverence for life, the preservation of creation and for a solidarity-based economy oriented towards the common good.

For peace among people, for peace with nature under the guiding principle and categorical imperative of ethics:

Reverence for life, respect for creation and sustainable management of our natural resources instead of exploitation and capitalization.

Because: We understand the economy as being oriented toward the common good and and solidarity-based economic activity for the benefit of humanity.

This year our mission statement is "Localizing SDG's - Creating a Network of Sustainable Regions on Organic Soil".

Our guiding principle and claim is to bring the SDG's to the ground, especially and directly related to SDG goals 1,2,3,5,6,8,10,12,13,15,16 and 17.

We put it like in the film of Bertram Verhaag: **Agrarian Change – Yes, we can!**

We stand for sustainable management of our natural resources managing them instead of squandering them away!

And at the same time world food supply in the long term: **Yes we can - Agrarian Change now!**

Because: the chemical-technical agricultural economy based on fossil energy and raw materials has a high consumption of resources and is therefore climate-hostile, it is based on the thinking of yesterday

and the day before yesterday! This chemical-technical agricultural economy means and propagates to feed the world. to feed the world. But let us have a closer look:

Every year, 140 million tons of nitrogen are produced from fossil energy for the fertilization of agricultural areas. Source: Wikipedia "Bread from air - The Haber-Bosch process.

A huge amount of fossil energy in the form of natural gas and crude oil is used for this purpose!

And then we find out that in this very chemical-technical agricultural economy up to 280 kg of nitrogen per ha on agricultural land, from this again then a considerable water pollution is generated which by complex technology then again is being filtered out again - at the expense of the general public. In addition, the production of this chemical-technical nitrogen fertilizer by means of fossil energy causes 2-3 % of the total of the total CO2 emission of this world!

We need a pricing of the external costs of this chemical-technical agricultural system which is based on fossil energy and is extremely damages the world climate.

We need a climate balance and energy balance of the systems and from this the new model will result: a climate-positive agriculture!

Yes we can: Agrarian Change now!

The simple use of naturally growing nitrogen collecting plants such as legumes can naturally and wonderfully provide the way, the nitrogen necessary for plant growth can be nitrogen into the soil!

This principle is already known since the time of the Enlightenment and had been introduced by our agrarian reformer Father Mayer in 1760!

Beans in the form of soybeans and peas in the form of chickpeas and green peas enrich the soil with nitrogen and teach us to abandon the chemical nitrogen fertilizer produced with fossil oil and gas!

Yes we can: Agrarian Change now!

The application of this knowledge is of course negated by the chemical industry and certain associations which still support chemical-technical agricultural production on fossil energy.

Because with the natural method of nitrogen enrichment in the soil, no money is earned.

Furthermore, pesticides can be dispensed with and crop management can be carried out with intelligent mechanical hoeing and cultivation instead of using chemical-technically produced pesticides which were produced again with fossil energy!

And the facts show it very clearly:

e.g. ecologically sustainable soybean cultivation yields on average higher yields than the chemical-technical cultivation of soybeans! This is the reality and underpinned by the harvest statistics throughout Austria.

Yes we can: Agrarian Change now!

The end of chemical and fossil agriculture is therefore predictable: Fossil fuels have doubled and tripled in price. This could have been regulated long ago by appropriate taxes on nitrogen and pesticides.

And the fact that fossil energy has now become expensive is a blessing for nature and it is clear that only organic agriculture has a future because it is the most resource-efficient form of agriculture and land management.

Yes we can: Agrarian Change now!

The guiding principle for the sustainable use and management of our natural resources must be in harmony with nature and our natural resources and not against them.

This by applying the ethical imperative of reverence for life, respect for creation! An ethically justified handling with our natural resources and living beings!

With the increase of prices for fossil energy, the disastrous plastic packaging becomes more expensive. At the same time this is a blessing for nature. This issue and also this could have been solved much earlier with appropriate packing taxes to contain this unspeakable garbage tide.

Because: where does all our plastic waste end up?

Of the 5.2 million tons of plastic waste generated in Germany in 2017, only plastic waste, just 810,000 tons were recycled. That corresponds to a recycling rate of only 15.6 percent. And that includes "thermal recycling" is already included, i.e. the proportionate waste incineration.

Of the 6.9 billion metric tons of plastic waste generated worldwide in 2015, around 9 percent was recycled. About 9 percent was recycled, 12 percent incinerated and 79 percent landfilled or disposed of in the environment.

Top exporters of plastic waste in 2018 were the United States (16.2 percent), Japan (15.3), Germany (12.7) and the United Kingdom (9.5). The average, global recycling rate is 14 percent, in Europe, only about 7 percent of plastic bags are recycled on average. For example, on the beaches of West Africa we find our plastic waste again. Meanwhile, the daily catch of indigenous fishing families is 95% plastic waste and only 5% fish!

The hungry children who wait along the coast for food from the sea, go from the sea, go sad and hungry back to their huts where they live under grow up under miserable conditions.

Environmental protection is not priced into the products, it is rather negated by the market. It needs the regulative intervention of the state with taxes on socially damaging business models to compensate the external costs being caused!

And we know how to do it - we just have to do it!

This has been stated by our Honorary President of the Club of Rome, Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, already for years: Yes we can - and it is possible!

This afternoon, Ernst Ulrich will be speaking at the reception for the 50th anniversary of the Club of Rome, Ernst Ulrich will once again address the necessary basics of our future actions and to stir us up to do what is necessary!

I therefore greet you cordially at this power place of the organic movement. We have gathered to bring our concerns forward.

Now I would like to thank all colleagues and helpers for their very dedicated work and the spirit in the preparation and realization of the V. World Organic Forum, especially and representative for all of them further our Frederik Schulze-Hamann, Josefine Herz, Miriam Kaiser and Anna-Lena Buchholz.

Of course warm thanks to our director of the Academy Schloss Kirchberg, Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald, who has been providing us his guidance. Since his start last year he has been very beneficial for the further development of this place of power.

We would also like to thank the many helpers from the catering hotel, logistics and administration who have contributed to the success of this of this V. World Organic Forum.

I would like to point out that you are cordially invited to attend every morning at 7.00 a.m. the devotion in the castle chapel or the Yoga-Mediation in the Ayurvedic spa area.

Wish you a good stay here in the organic castle hotel, stroll in the gardens and conference rooms, enjoy the inspiring environment and the exchange with the thought leaders and activists of this world, be most welcome, this also on behalf of our Academy Director Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald

Your Rudolf Bühler