



FUNDING

Stiftung Mercator Schweiz

RESEARCH TEAM

Project management

Prof. Dr. Stephan Rist
University of Bern
Centre for Development
and Environment
Hallerstrasse 10
3012 Bern

Project coordinator

Bettina Scharrer, lic. phil. hist.
bettina.scharrer@cde.unibe.ch
Tel.: +41 31 631 39 24

Research assistant

Sibylle Berger, MSc UZH

Project partner

Archives of Rural History
Dr. Peter Moser
Villemattstrasse 9
3007 Bern

Project duration

1.1.2016 – 31.12.2018

MORE INFORMATION

www.solidarisch-biologisch.unibe.ch
www.unibe.cde.ch

PHOTO CREDITS

Front: Harvest at the CSA farm “Kattendorfer Hof”

© Martin Egberg

Inside left: Cattle herd at Kattendorfer Hof

Inside right: Onion harvest at the Valli Unite cooperative



The importance of the solidarity economy for the development of organic farming in Europe, past and present

**STIFTUNG
MERCATOR
SCHWEIZ**

Archiv für Agrargeschichte Archives of rural history
Archives de l'histoire rurale ARA AHR ARH

u^b

b
**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

CDE
CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT



BACKGROUND

Organic farming is widely recognized as a promising way of greening our currently unsustainable food systems. Nonetheless, it is still falling far short of its potential in terms of its share in overall production. Its combination with the solidarity economy has come to be regarded as one possible strategy to foster the emergence of a new, sustainable path of development in the food sector. Agricultural initiatives based on the solidarity economy – community-supported farming, for example – strive to establish a circular economy, direct partnerships between producers and consumers, and fair, cost-covering prices; and they prefer organic production methods. By taking this alternative approach to production and consumption, they seek to transform current food systems and make them more sustainable.

GOALS

This research project aims for a better understanding of the connection between organic farming and the solidarity economy. Focusing on Switzerland and its neighbouring countries France, Germany, Austria, and Italy, it analyses the potential role of their combination as a new, forward-looking model. To what extent can agricultural initiatives based on the solidarity economy help to promote the growth of organic farming? And, conversely, to what extent can organic farming foster the development of new economic models based on cooperation and partnership? Based on the research findings, the project will develop and put up for discussion a set of political, economic, social, and financial measures for promoting organic initiatives based on the solidarity economy.

NETWORKING PLATFORM AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

The project has a strong transdisciplinary component. By creating a transnational networking platform, it aims at integrating in an interactive way the expertise of practitioners, policymakers, and researchers concerned with the solidarity economy and organic farming. At the same time, the networking platform is intended to strengthen dialogue

and the exchange of experience across national, linguistic, and cultural borders, enabling proactive knowledge transfer between the organic farming and the solidarity agriculture communities. A total of 29 institutions and actors are participating in the networking platform and in three workshops taking place at different stages throughout the project.

	Bio Suisse		V.Ö.P. Verbund Ökologische Praxisforschung
	Demeter Schweiz		Solidarische Landwirtschaft SOLAWI Deutschland
	Forschungsinstitution für Biolandbau FiBL		Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft
	Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft		Kulturland Genossenschaft
	Agridea		Die Agronauten
	Schweizer Bauernverband		Mouvement Inter- Régionale des AMAP
	Uniterre		Nature & Progrès
	Kleinbauern-Vereinigung VKMB		Terre de Liens
	Fédération Romande de l'Agriculture Contractuelle de Proximité		Confédération Paysanne
	Kooperationsstelle für solidarische Landwirtschaft		Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca in Agricoltura Biologica e Biodinamica
	ConProBio		Cooperativa Valli Unite
	Urgenci		Cooperativa La Terra e il Cielo
	Chambres de l'économie sociale et solidaire Après-Ge		Rete di Economia Solidale
	Österreichische Bergbauern- und -bäuerinnenvereinigung, Via Campesina		Bio Austria
	Solidarische Landwirtschaft Österreich		