

Minutes Members' Assembly 2024 – *Strengthening each other “for the next century of biodynamics”*

22 to 29 June 2024, Kobierzyce, Krzyżowa, Juchowo, Poland
and Brodowin, Germany

Saturday the 22 of June – “From our Roots to the Future”

1) Opening of the Day

- Rooting-exercise with Jean-Michel Florin

2) Formal Opening of the MA – by Supervisory Board

- Opening words Helmy Abouleish, president of BFDI: introducing the history of the federation and the motto of this year's Members Assembly
- Opening words by Pawel Bietkowski, president of Demeter Poland: Introducing the Members to Poland as this year's venue
- Welcome and “Getting to know each other”-exercise by Anne Flohr, Executive Director of BFDI
- Motto-based group exercise by Petra Derkzen, Head of Membership at BFDI:
 - What would strengthen me?
 - What can I contribute to strengthen others?
- Ceremonial opening ceremony with coloured ribbons – in particular to welcome first time participants.

3) Verse of the Day

“People who work together in a fraternity are magicians because they attract higher beings to their circle. When one works together in a community in sisterly, brotherly love, higher beings do manifest themselves. If we give up ourselves to mutual help, through this giving up to the community a powerful strengthening of our organs takes place. If we then speak or act as a member of such a community, there speaks or acts in us not the singular soul only but the spirit of the community.

This is the secret of progress for the future of mankind: To work out of communities.”

- Rudolf Steiner (GA 54)

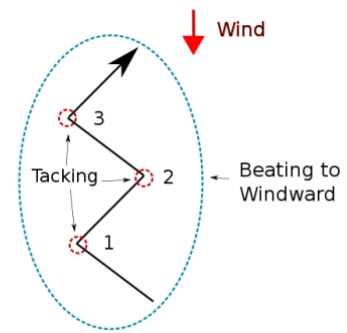
4) Koberwitzer for a Day - Dr. John Paull

- Keynote lecture on the evolution of the agricultural course, its historical context and its present-day significance, *see powerpoint presentation and published article handed out*
- Each participant received a name tag of an original Koberwitzer and assumes his identity for the duration of the lecture

5) Plenary Session: Future of Certification – led by Alysoun Bolger

Reporting of the pre-MA Working Group

In 2023 the Members' Assembly approved a motion that a group appointed by the Supervisory Board would meet to explore possibilities for the future of certification. The group includes 3rd party and PGS certifiers, farmers, teachers, researchers, advisors and people involved in the supply chain. It has been a challenging task! Like a boat sailing into the wind, there is a clear direction, but making progress involves making moving towards a goal indirectly. It requires plenty of attention, and takes time.



From the Supervisory Board, a working group at the International Biodynamic Conference and from the group's own brainstorming, there were eight aspects that deserved attention and provided direction for the work:

- simplify the process
- make certification more fair
- improve communication all the way through
- strengthen relationships throughout
- ensure risk-based approaches which allow for focus on what is important
- explore how an anthroposophical approach could inform certification
- see whether there are possibilities to support development
- question whether we should be focused more on process or outcome (or whether it is possible to combine aspects of both)

As general directions these were clear. In order to explore possibilities, the group considered how the current system could be adjusted to improve, heard presentations from other certification methods, assessment methods, and ways of giving feedback. They considered questions of standards (and how the standards may need adjustment) as well as research on the attitude of consumers. It is clear that Demeter as a trademark has a good reputation, which should not be sacrificed; and that there is a wide diversity of certification

systems already within our current certifiers. Any change would have to work with the existing systems.

Keep in mind that the group does not have the mandate to decide anything, but does have the capacity to suggest ideas to the Members' Assembly, any change will need the approval of the Members' Assembly itself. Along the way, the Standards Committee, Accreditation Council and Supervisory Board have been kept informed. Thus far it has been difficult to find agreement.

We are after all a trademark community. We as a community decide what we stand for (the standards) and certification has to ensure that. In that community we are living in the tension between universal principles and the farm individuality which must exist in its own ecology, culture and economy.

Questions and discussion

The standard will have to adjust to the certification system (which is one reason the standard has not progressed quickly during the meeting of the group).

The group has seen that outcomes could be the responsibility of different committees or groups within the Federation (for example the Accreditation Council, Standards Committee, Trainers and Advisors).

We have been considering this subject for years, is it right that we still put energy into it? At what point do we stop and be satisfied with what we have?

Probably not yet! We also have an opportunity to make certification more truthful to our own processes and needs.

6) Poster Session – Biodynamics across the world

Before looking at the posters, Christian Palamar connects with an exercise to the two cards in the opening session (what do i need to be strengthened and what could i give to others) We form a big circle. every participant has a stone, we start to pass the object to the person on our right side but stones fall down and we have to stop every time. We need focus on delivering holding our left hand open and trusting that the stone is received by us while we are delivering. The left hand represents our needs at that given moment. The right hand represents what I can give to my neighbour or to my community in that moment. The next responsibility is to find a common rhythm, and once we have realised this, the group can go in with the receiving and giving gesture in their heart to look at the posters of the member organisations, what is each organisation doing in its place.

7) Preparing for Kobierzyce

- in an evening lecture, Ueli Hurter and Marcel Waldhausen contextualize the agricultural course in terms of time and place, see *powerpoint*

Sunday 23rd of June – “Reconnecting with our Roots”

Whole day excursion to Kobierzyce and Wrocław

In Kobierzyce Kobierzyce:

- Marcel Waldhausen of Demeter im Westen, Germany, leads guided tours of the palace (in four languages) focusing on the historical significance of the locations
- Ueli Hurter of the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland, gives a short talk contextualizing the agriculture course and the founding of the experimental circle

In Wrocław

- Prof. Agata Swierzowska and Monika Rzeczycka introduce their research on Rudolf Steiner's history in Wrocław
- Pawel Bietkowski, Waldemar Fortuna and Marta Kozłowska, together with three tourist guides, lead guided tours through the city center

Monday 24th of June – “Working on Markets in the world”

1) Opening of the Day

- Rhythmic exercise with Juan Martin Richter

2) Plenary session: Market Development – led by Petra Derkzen and Paz Bernaschina

Through successful examples of opening up Biodynamic/Demeter markets and the exchange of experiences between members from different countries, this session aims to provide a clear perspective on all the key aspects to be considered in the quest for market development (e.g. brand positioning, consumer trends, etc.). The main objective of this session was to broaden participants' understanding and vision of how to develop a market strategy for Biodynamic products appropriate to their local context and to encourage our members to embark on this journey.

Introductory impulses by Helmy Abouleish and Bettina Holenstein

Helmy explained the strategy in Egypt to introduce organic into the market for similar prices as conventional, otherwise in a country like Egypt this would never sell. Aim: to be in every household. Tea was a good product for this, the percentage of raw material from the farm is relatively low and therefore better payment while being price competitive possible. Helmy explained further aspects for developing the local market.

Bettina explained how in Swiss successful collaboration with the supermarket emerged, analysing 5 key points, 1) know your values, 2) have a good visual presentation to the management of the supermarket 3) clarification 4) project with clear dates and milestones, 5) ambassadors, 6) a strict process of product and label approval, 7) close collaboration with

key persons in the supermarket, investment in those persons 8) targeted marketing. Points for attention are a) have your distribution principles clear and agreed by your members, b) have a clear fee scale for what supermarkets need to pay, c) have very good internal communication.

Group discussions in country groups of similar type of markets and situations led by those with developed Demeter markets (people from Germany, Swiss and Austria). Each participant notes his or her action points for their own strategy.

3) Parallel Working Sessions I

a) Connection to Licensees – led by Paz Bernaschina and Petra Derkzen

In many countries, there are farms who export and are certified internationally by the ICO office of the Federation. At the same time, there might be a member organisation – either long existing or a relatively young organisation.

Group Discussion on the question: what if a new licensee (of ICO) knocks the door of the local association. What happens? What is offered?

Potential services to licensees listed by all groups during the plenum:

- Conversion and advisory
- Awareness and communication and newsletters
- Visiting licensees
- To be the national platform for exchange – the “local bfdi”
- Community warmth
- Questionnaire / knowing the needs of the licensees
- Services on the preparations
- Bridging offer and demand – online or other
- Sales presentations
- Representing the biodynamic movement towards local authorities
- (PGS) certification
- Training and train the trainer
- Own inspectors who are ambassadors of the association

b) Future of Certification – led by Alysoun Bolger and members of the pre-MA Working Group

In Breakout Groups

There were four working groups, before these groups met there was a more general introduction to clarify what had been considered in detail.

Specifically the group looked to the following for inspiration:

- Common complaints about certification and how to address them

- An anthroposophical view of assessment
- Recognition Project (from Germany)
- Economy of the Common Good, B Corp
- Feedback to farmers: Regionalwert, Public Goods Tool, Global Farm Metric

As well as having three working groups to explore:

- Process/outcome orientation
- Baseline plus points in the standard
- Communication in certification

The only concrete proposal embraced by the whole group so far is that there should be a more thoroughly risk-based approach to allow focus on where there is genuine risk.

Out of the group came some concrete proposals, though the group did not have enough time to really go through the proposals in detail to agree or disagree.

Working Group 1) Certification allows participation in the market – discuss (to be clear the gesture of the economic realm is different than the rules based gesture of the legal sphere). *With Christian Palamar*

To be successful in the market, we must strengthen the biodynamic community by listening and taking care of all the necessities of the growers on the one hand, and by build a community of conscious consumers on the other hand.

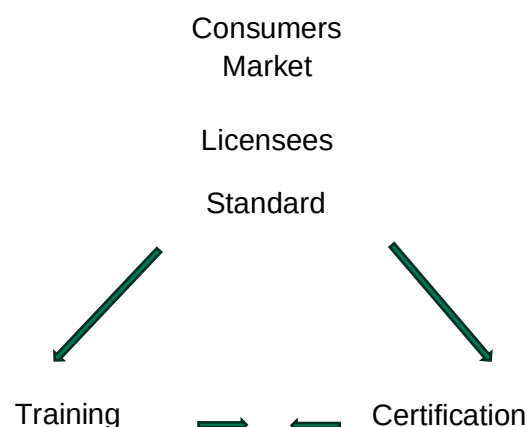
The brand Demeter and the standards as an extension must be a community building tool. Through the community we can develop markets. It is an important aspect, since most of countries at this point have no market.

For the standards to be fraternal we must substitute mistrust through trust.

Working Group 2) How can certification connect to other work? *With Krishnan Venkataraman*

Training and certification should use the same language, there is work in communication to be done! They can complement one another.

Enabling better communication between trainers/advisors and certifiers can lead to consistency that is supportive for everyone.



Working Group 3) Communication – what do we stand for? *With Clara Behr*

What can we communicate based on our standards? What would we like to communicate?

Distinguish between the claims that are substantiated by our standards and the claims that belong more to our vision and mission.

Claims based on our standard: Animal welfare, biodiversity, soil fertility and social responsibility.

Our vision: Human development, farmers sovereignty, positive health. Biodynamic products are made with love, vitality, energy, etc.

Working Group 4) How do we make standards more fair? With Alysoun Bolger

Transparency is key!

We accept a range around the standard (higher standards in some countries and country exemptions) which allows for diversity. The more we can make this transparent the better. This acceptance in itself allows for the standard to be fair. This is already planned into the development of the standard and should be carried through!

4) Verse of the Day

The Initiative

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation) there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too.

All sorts of things occur to help one that world never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issue from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents

and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way.

Whatever you can do or dream you can begin it. Boldness has genius, magic and power in it. Begin it now.

- John Anster, inspired by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

5) Reports and Voting

a) Formal opening of the voting session

- Approval of Assembly president: Helmy Abouleish
- Approval of Minute-Taker: Franziska Bühlen
- Approval of Vote-Taker: Marisa Fogante
- Checking of quorum: 30 votes are present in the room
- Call for voting on motions shared in writing prior to the MA as well as proposed at the MA

b) Voting on motions

Motion 1: Approval of Final Accounts 2023

Motion to approve the final accounts 2023 as presented on two conditions: no material change and approval of final version by auditors

Yes	No	Abstain
29	0	1

Motion 2: Discharge of Supervisory Board

Motion to discharge the Supervisory Board based on same two conditions: no material change of the final accounts and approval of the final accounts by auditors

Yes	No	Abstain
28	0	2

Motion 3: Trademark Fee increase 2025

Motion to increase the Trademark Fee from 3,5% to 4% in 2025.

Discussion:

- Motion was shared very late with members; statute does not provide any deadline; this might need adjustment in the future
- For several member countries, the increase is difficult to live up to as their own income is shrinking; reminder from Supervisory Board that the strategy to gradually increase trademark fee had been agreed since founding of the federation
- Request to provide further information on expenses of the federation
- Upon request, voting on the motion is postponed to Wednesday, to give room for further informal exchange and receive the requested info on federation expenses

Motion 4: Membership application of Portugal

Motion to accept the membership committees proposal to accept Demeter Portugal as new candidate member

Statutes require motions on new members to be shared 8 weeks in advance of the MA

Question by the MA president Helmy Abouleish: Would the MA wish to vote on the proposal despite the failure to meet the eight weeks deadline?

Vote on this question:

Yes	No	Abstain
29	0	1

Motion to accept Demeter Portugal as candidate member

Yes	No	Abstain
29	0	1

Motion 5: Co-Chairs for the Future Supervisory Board

Motion 5.1.:

Motion submitted to the MA by the newly elected Supervisory Board: Change of statutes to foresee for two Co-Chairs of the Supervisory Board instead of one president and vice-president

Vote on the motion after brief discussion of Pros and Cons

Yes	No	Abstain
28	0	2

- Voting on candidates for the Co-Chairs will take place on Wednesday, the Supervisory Board has to propose to Co-Chairs

c) Introduction and discussion of proposed statutes' changes

- Brief introduction of statutes changes that were shared prior to the MA
- Voting will be done electronically to leave more time for discussion in country groups
- Proposed changes:
 - Since the nature and working methods varies significantly between different committees, proposal to no longer elect members for a fixed term for the committees on Lobby and Public Relations, Marketing and Trademark; instead, open them to broader participation and have them appointed by the Supervisory Board
 - For the Nomination Committee, experience shows its role – of pre-selecting committee compositions – was not what we really want as it undermines democratic voting; proposal to dissolve the committee, let nominations be reviewed by the executive and let all nominees be voted on by members
 - Editorial changes to clarify that the MA can take decisions throughout the year electronically

6) Evening Concert in Peace Church, Świdnica

Tuesday 25th of June – “Strengthening our Associations”

1) Opening of the Day

- Singing with Alysoun Bolger

2) Insights into your Organizational Development – led by Petra Derkzen and the Membership Committee

Is what happens in my association unique or could it be understood as part of a biography of the organisation? What are the characteristics of the stages in the biography of an organisation?

These were questions that were taken up by Jean-Michel Florin and Daphne Amory based on the work of Lievegoed and Glaser. At least 4 biographical stages in organisational development can be identified:

- 1) The pioneer stage, in which the fire for the purpose is strong and a few leaders can transmit this passion to others. Downside is a lack of transparency on how to decide and distribute.
- 2) The differentiation stage, in which the organisation becomes too big to be led by a few and needs to differentiate in areas, departments, working areas etcetera for which clarity is needed on who decides on what when and other procedures to structure the work. The downside is over-bureaucratization and too much formality which hinder warmth in human relationships.
- 3) The integration stage, in which more attention is paid to the interfaces between working areas and people and internal communication. The downside is that the organisation becomes too much focused on itself, too much autonomy from the outside world.
- 4) The associative stage, in which the organisation identifies the need to collaborate with other organisations as well as internally coordinate the work. The downside is that power block could occur and that the field of work is hindered by lack of change and movement. It could be needed to step out completely and start a new impulse, hence to become a pioneer once more.

Stages are overlapping and there are no clear boundaries. The development often is a spiral or a lemniscate in which similar themes appear again in a slightly different way.

All participants receive a short questionnaire on their organisation. Based on the foundation year, all organisations are put to stand in a row from the oldest association in Germany in 1924 towards the newest association, Demeter Portugal in 2023. Based on this line up, people can find their neighbours and form little groups for discussion on the question: what are your organisational development challenges at the moment?

Each association should search 1 member organisation to have a peer interview on the topic of organisation development in the second half of 2024.

Brief further items

- Richard Swann invites all members to the Biodynamic Research Conference that will take place in the UK in 2025
- Anne Flohr and Helmy Abouleish briefly recap the income streams of the federation because requests have come up after yesterday's postponed vote

- Participants are asking for everyone's contacts; hence question to the plenary: Does everyone agree that his/her contact details will be shared with the whole group?
Everyone agrees

3) Open Space - Members' Topics

a) **Animals on Farms** – *with Giovanni Buccheri (Demeter Italy)*

Presentation (see powerpoint attached) on the project on how to integrate more animals on farms with more than 5 hectares after the MA in Italy voted on such a motion. Giovanni presents the project, its milestones and results. Lessons learned:

- Offer support and guidance
- Look very specifically what is possible in each case without demanding how many and which animal
- Let people exchange to make them warm for how it could go on the farm
- Procedure at the certification office for time periods of implementation and exemption rules
- There are many successful integrations of animals on farms that other countries could learn from.
- **A BFDI good practice manual on this topic?**

b) **Transformation of the Food System** – *with Jasmin Peschke*

- see powerpoint presentation attached

c) **Open-pollinated seeds and hybrid breeding** – *with Jörg Hütter*

- The group worked out a declaratory text to be voted on by the Members Assembly, see below (Wednesday's session 3))

4) Verse of the day

*The wishes of the soul are springing,
The deeds of the will are thriving,
The fruits of life are maturing.
I feel my fate,
My fate finds me.
I feel my star,
My star finds me.
I feel my goals in life,
My goals in life are finding me.
My soul and the great World are one.
Life grows more radiant about me,
Life grows more arduous for me,
Life grows more abundant within me.*
- Rudolf Steiner

5) Visit to Zdonov Farm in Czech Republic

Wednesday 26th of June – “Working together towards the Future”

1) Opening of the Day

- Exercise prepared by Oliver Clisson was postponed to Thursday morning

2) Parallel Working Session II

a) Working Group on policy work – led by Clara Behr

Discussion on the state of play regarding the development of new GMOs around the world, the worldwide political situation and on the EU Green claims directive aiming to substantiate in the future all environmental claims on products and websites.

First discussion on potential key political messages of the Federation, among other ideas: peace, farmers' sovereignty, GMO-free farming, fair prices, animal welfare, etc. The idea would be to collect these in a document that could be circulated with politicians and stand as the basis of our political work. To be continued and developed over the next months.

Discussion on how to spread further the political work of the Federation: regular updates shared through the newsletter every month, possibility also to create a policy mailing list to share more regularly short updates about the political activities and developments.

b) Federation Academy – led by Paz Bernaschina and the ART Committee

The main aim of the session was to exchange visions and ideas for a possible "Federation Academy" to support farmers' development and continuous learning, especially in places where there are no local associations or well-established networks offering training or advisory services to support farmers on their biodynamic or Demeter journeys. Members of the ART committee exchanged with members and collected visions to help with the initial conceptualization of this initiative.

All the ideas collected point in the same direction. Not really in the direction of an "Academy" but more of a "Learning community". A place to welcome Biodynamic and Demeter farmers into the global community. A place where farmers can feel part of a community, have a perspective of the international movement, where they can network with different actors, have an overview of different worldwide training activities and somehow feel supported on their individual paths. In this learning community different resources can be shared, examples of good practice in biodynamics, online meetings, etc.

The aim is to start working on this initiative together with the Agricultural Section.

c) Exchange on PGS initiatives – led by Martina Reinke

The 6 principles that frame the Demeter PGS were presented. And for each, examples of how they are fulfilled in different countries participating in the pilot: Chile, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Colombia.

The 6 principles are:

1. Participation of farmers, presence of legal contract between the parties involved .
2. Understanding the Standards
3. Verification process
4. Records
5. Review, 4 eyes principle
6. Qualification of re-verifiers and reviewers

In addition, a commitment was made to peer review other PGS systems, to report in MA 2026, as well as to demonstrate steps towards local market development and local marketing after 3 years.

d) Associative Economics – by Edouard Rosseau

Reflections by Edouard Rousseau

Our last General Meeting gave us the opportunity to look back over 100 years of existence and to immerse ourselves in the roots of our movement. Thanks again to all those who made this event possible!

Over the past 100 years, the biodynamic movement has managed to go against the general trends of human society: wars, the excesses of collectivism, blind capitalism and the excessive use of chemicals and genetics.

The farms we visited during our stay in Poland and the former RDA are living illustrations of this turbulent and painful history. They highlight what a small handful of visionary and spiritually guided people can achieve.

However, rebuilding successful, diversified farming and food organisations requires a great deal of knowledge, skills, economic and financial resources and inspiration.

Without the support of private funds, family patrons, industrialists and philanthropists, these initiatives would not have been able to achieve economic and financial equilibrium.

Without this support, these farming systems would not be able to survive on the fruits of their labour alone. This is indicative of the value placed on agricultural work in general, and particularly on agricultural work carried out using natural methods, whether organic or biodynamic.

What's more, the current level of public funding for our farming system is still insufficient, and very uneven between countries and continents, to provide sufficient support for our work to regenerate and rebuild our environments.

There are, however, initiatives such as North-South or North-North (in Europe) fair trade, which are a step in the right direction but lack teeth, as they generate costs and quickly become bureaucratic without adding sufficient value to agricultural production.

These fair trade approaches are still too much based on compartmentalised transactional methods and habits within the same sector, where each player seeks first and foremost to maximise its own profit without worrying about the overall economic efficiency of the sector as a whole.

This is the very modernity of the principle of social tripartition proposed 100 years ago, which calls out to us and offers us the opportunity to flourish in the next 100 years by constructing

differently the economic, financial, legal and social links and balances between the players in the same value chain.

e) Alternative source of Income for the Federation – led by Jean Marie Defrance & Paweł Bietkowski

- The meeting began with Helmy Abouleish (HA) explaining how the financing model in SEKEM was developed over many years. An important experience from SEKEM is the development of Value Added offered to sponsors. It was only the added value that attracted donors. According to HA, the task of building stable financing is challenging and very difficult.
- Next, Ueli Hurter (UH) has presented his experience with fundraising at Goetheanum. He compared the current situation to spring and summer droughts, followed by the autumn-winter rainy season. Funds necessary to cover fixed costs (especially salaries) are spent and then funds come like refreshing rain. The process is somewhat out of control, and it is not entirely predictable or possible to plan. The situation is stabilized by a database of Major Donors & Goetheanum Friends that has been built over decades. The budget is significantly improved by a rich calendar of cyclical events, which already have predictable budgets and provide funds to cover some fixed costs. One-time events, projects, and project-based applications are also important. Finally, members of the Anthroposophical Society provide support. Thus, the key is both the database of major donors and regular participants in events, combined with skillful management.
- Paweł Bietkowski (PB) pointed out the need to change the financing paradigm of BFDI. It is necessary to look for a model that other large organizations around the world use to finance their activities and adapt it to BFDI's needs. PB referred to the "Banana Project" by Christoph Simpfendörfer as an example of a Success Story that should be replicated. PB also pointed out other models based on external funds from private and governmental international agencies and organizations.
- Jean-Marie Defrance (JMD) noted that attempts had been made to submit applications to international EU agencies, but they were unsuccessful. JMD emphasized that BFDI does not have a unit dedicated to fundraising because there are no funds in the BFDI budget for such a department. The lack of funds means that activities are not carried out continuously, so they do not bring benefits, even though there is a significant need for such activities within the Board and BFDI bodies.
- Mezei Mihály (MM) pointed to the fatigue of national organizations, using the Hungarian organization as an example. Its farmers pay relatively much in certification and license fees without receiving any funds in return for development and marketing. MM pointed out that many organizations, BFDI members, are in a similar situation, with more than 50% unable to issue certificates.
- Christopher Brock (CB) shared experiences from Forschungsring e.V., which involves collaboration with many donors. Many years of work have resulted in a donors' database. Many years of experience have made financing stable and predictable, although not easy. ChB will support the fundraising initiative in BFDI.
- Edouard Rousseau (ER) emphasized the necessary flexibility, the need to take a "helicopter view" to focus on what is possible. He noted that such an initiative has not existed before and will be built from scratch. The initiative is needed, but BFDI's ability to create it must be carefully calculated.

- Miguel Elissalt (ME) strongly emphasized that it is essential to strengthen biodynamic organizations in South America, Asia, and Africa so that they can quickly become financially independent. He also stressed that these organizations would not cope on their own. As a source of income for BFDI, he suggested the production of B-D/Demeter seeds.

Summary and Conclusions/recommendations:

- a. Establishing an entity/commission/expert group for fundraising, located between BFDI, the Agriculture Section of Goetheanum, and Forschungsring e.V.
- b. Seeking financing for BFDI activities within the appropriate value chains of Demeter products. Participants in Value Chains must create added value that will allow financing the organization (a commission earned from the sale of biodynamic products).
- c. The fundraising entity must participate in the BFDI budget creation process and be particularly involved in the revenue side.
- d. B-D start-up incubator as part of the entity/commission/expert group dealing with fundraising will actively create business around BFDI.
- e. The Economic Circle of Goetheanum will meet from November 1-3; it is worth continuing the discussion in this forum.

3) Voting and Final Decisions

A number of items of the previous days were concluded during this session

a) Breakout Group: Open-pollinated seeds and hybrid breeding

- The group recapped its discussion against the background of two breeders' conferences previously held at the Goetheanum in Dornach
- It then presented the declaratory text that it would like to be approved by the Members Assembly, *see attachment, to be shared at the end of September 2024*
- Short opinion poll shows overwhelming majority for voting on the text; formal voting will be done electronically after the assembly
- Spontaneous thank you and applause for the good work done by the group

b) Final voting on motions

- Two votes had been postponed to today
- The MA once more confirms Helmy Abouleish as president of the Assembly and Marisa Fogante as vote-taker; Alysoun Bolger is confirmed as minute-taker (because Franziska Bühlen had to leave the Assembly)

Motion 6: New Co-Chairs for the Supervisory Board

- On Monday, the MA had voted to change the statutes from president and vice-president to two Co-Chairs
- The Supervisory Board proposes as Co-Chair Maja Kolar from Slovenia and Jean-Michel Florin from the Agricultural Section
- Maja Kolar and Jean-Michel Florin introduce themselves
- Voting on new Co-Chairs

Yes	No	Abstain
29	0	1

Motion 7: Trademark Fee increase 2025

- voting on this motion was postponed on Monday
- Helmy Abouleish briefly presents the main expense streams of the federation
- also outlines: there has been a proposal to vote on an increase towards 3,75% only; this is the less far reaching proposal; therefore it only comes to vote if the farer reaching fails to be adopted

Voting on motion to increase the Trademark Fee from 3,5% to 4% in 2024 (compare motion shared in writing before MA)

Yes	No	Abstain
18	3	9

c) Gratitude to Supervisory Board and Committee Members

- the Members Assembly expresses its great gratitude to the Supervisory Board members who are stepping down – Helmy Abouleish, Regina Haller and Ueli Hurter – and thanks them for the invaluable support they have lend the federation throughout its founding years
- the Members Assembly expresses its great gratitude to Richard Swann who has served on the Standards Committee for many years (exact number impossible to confirm) and to Lucy Yuriko-Pelliser and Bettina Holenstein who have served for the past term

Please see the song of appreciation attached.

4) Verse of the Day

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much

seek to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

Thursday 27th of June – “Getting to know Juchowo”

1) Opening of the Day

- joint exercise by Oliver Clisson and Maja Kolar: Qui Gong and Seed meditation

2) Introductory Lecture by Dr. John Paul

- Introducing Karlowski and the history of Juchowo Farm, see *powerpoint attached*

3) Presentation of Juchowo Farm today by Renata Żelazna

- outlining in particular the central importance of the social economy topic in development of Juchowo

4) Guided tours of the farm

- Three thematic groups:
 - Preparations, compost and water management
 - Social Economy
 - Livestock longevity and production

5) RegionalWert-Leistungen – presentation by Christian Hiss

6) Formal Closing of the Members Assembly by Maja Kolar and Paweł Bietkowski

- Words of gratitude from Paweł Bietkowski on behalf of the members for the wonderful work on Policy in Brussels by Clara Behr of BFDI
- Gratitude to everyone in the MA organizing team: Anette Jorry, Anne Flohr, Paz Bernaschina, Petra Derkzen, Ute Bucholski of BFDI and Marta Kozłowska, Waldemar Fortuna and Paweł Bietkowski for Demeter Poland
- Announcement: Members Assembly 2026 likely to happen on invitation of Spain, to be confirmed by the Spanish Board;
- Formal closing by new Co-Chair Maja Kolar and host Paweł Bietkowski on behalf of Demeter Poland

7) Concert and Festive evening

Friday 28th of June – “Celebrating 100 years of Biodynamics”

- Day of Celebration at Brodowin Farm in Germany hosted by Demeter e.V.
- For impressions, see website and press releases by BFDI and Demeter e.V.