

2026 Annual Conference

Agriculture With a Future Arguments and Examples for a New Direction

May 28–30, 2026, Sommerhausen
am Main



Deutsche • • •
• • Gesellschaft
für Humanökologie

Regarding of the 2026 Annual Conference

The title “Agriculture with a Future” builds on discussions the DGH has been holding since the 2000s. Conflicts and the representation of interests continue to shape the discourse on the future of agriculture.

At this year in the conference, we want to do things a little different: We are using the town of Sommerhausen, with its processes of transformation and adaptation in viticulture, as a starting point for a dynamic conference program. In dialogue with local stakeholders, we will discuss topics that are usually confined to theoretical discussions, but here we will address them with a strong focus on practical application.

Another special feature is the input and comments from students, which will run throughout the event. Here, we seek dialogue with the generation whose quality of life will depend on “agriculture with a future.”

As always, we aim to highlight the consequences of growth imperatives and demands for intensification, but the emphasis will be on alternatives and scenarios such as agroforestry and permaculture. Furthermore, the range of topics is broad and culminates in an examination of the foundations of all agriculture: water and soil.

Political conditions cannot be ignored in all of this. What options for action do stakeholders have within the context of regional, national, and international regulations set by lawmakers?

Venue

Evangelical Community Center Sommerhausen,
Kirchplatz 9, 97286 Sommerhausen.

Getting there by public transit

Bus 554/55 runs hourly, and more frequently on weekdays, from Würzburg Central Station or Ochsenfurt Station. The Sommerhausen Community Center is located near the “Kirchplatz” stop in the town center, directly behind the church.

(vvm-info.de). Everything about public transit in Sommerhausen is easily accessible by train. Take the train to Winterhausen and walk about one and a half kilometers over the bridge to Sommerhausen.

Getting there by car

Coming from Würzburg: take the first exit for Sommerhausen and park in the lot on Jahnstraße next to the Sommerhausen roundabout. Coming from Ochsenfurt, please take the first exit for Sommerhausen Südl. Gartenstraße and head down toward the Main River.

Sommerhausen Tourist Information

Phone: +49(0)93338256
touristinfo@sommerhausen.de

Conference Organizer

German Society for Human Ecology Website:
www.dg-humanoeekologie.de

Activities/Annual Conferences

Registration at info@dg-humanoeekologie.de

Agriculture with a Future Arguments & Examples for a New Direction

Thursday, May 28, 2026

12:30 PM to 3:30 PM Field Trip: Human Ecology Meets the Vineyard Guided tour of the Sommerhausen Vineyards; Kickoff in the Sommerhausen Castle Courtyard with light refreshments (*Volkmar Baumgärtner, DGH, and other speakers*)

4:00 PM Conference begins: Welcome, transition from the excursion, introduction: Why this topic?
(*President and Vice President of DGH*)

4:30 PM Session 1 (Moderator: B. Glaeser)
Agriculture and Food – Challenges, Pathways, Steps, Promising Perspectives

Frederic Vester as a human ecologist at Herrmannsdorfer Landwerkstätten. Yesterday, Today, and for the Future (*Gabriele Harrer-Puchner, System-Logics T.T., St. Gallen*)

40 Years of Herrmannsdorf (*Karl Schweisfurth, Farmer and CEO of Gut Herrmannsdorf*)

The Flourishing Path (*John D. Liu, Filmmaker, Ecologist, Ecosystem Ambassador*)

5:30 PM Open Forum Additional Stakeholders & Perspectives: Statements from Human Ecology (*Bernhard Glaeser, Honorary President of the DGH*)

3 to 5 min: Continuous input from students from **1. an ecological, 2. a social, and 3. an economic and holistic perspective** (15 min) – Discussion.

8:00 PM Evening Session with Wine Tasting

Friday, May 29, 2026

9:00 AM Session 2 (Moderated by *V. Baumgärtner*)
Alternatives, Scenarios Along the Cycles

The Future with the Past: Agroforestry in the Tropics (*Horst Fehrenbach, Association for the Promotion of Organic Farming in the Tropics*)

From Agroforestry to Food Forest, Greening of Deserts (*Emil Underberg, Ökozucht Buckow*)
Case Study: Food Forest Ketelbroek, Netherlands

3 to 5 min: Continuous input from students from **1. an ecological, 2. a social, and 3. an economic and holistic perspective** (15 min) – Discussion.

12:00 PM Lunch break

2:30 PM Session 3 (Moderator: *K.-H. Simon*)
Agency and Competencies

Bringing About Change from the Countryside (*Uta von Winterfeld, University of Social Design, Koblenz, online*)

The true costs of our food as a starting point for sustainable Food Service (*Tobias Gaugler, Nuremberg Technical University*)

Transforming our agricultural and food system what (political) framework conditions are needed for this? (*Sabine Daude, Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences*)

8:00 PM Dinner (Restaurant Flohrs)

Saturday, May 30, 2026

9:00 AM Session 4 (Moderator: *E. Underberg*)
New Research Approaches and Perspectives

Managing with the Many: The Potential of a Multispecies Economy in the Anthropocene, Using the Example of Still Waters in Bavaria (*Laura Otto, University of Würzburg*)

Soil Life – A Journey into the Earth's Interior (*Beatrice Voigt, Munich*)

Current insights from philosophy on the vitality of organic matter. The agency of soil bacteria and fatty acids. (*Thomas Schmaus, Alanus University Alfter/Bonn*)

3 to 5 min: Continuous input from students from **1. an ecological, 2. a social, and 3. an economic and holistic perspective** (15 min) – Discussion.

Inspiration (*Anna Lindner, Florist, Sommerhausen*)

11:15 Break

11:30 Review of the conference, outlook Future of the DGH

12:30 General Meeting with elections

Scheduled end: 02:30 PM