

Arable Cross Visit

Organic works!

Findings from the DOK Trial and Farmer-Led Experiments

Northern Switzerland

17- 19 June 2026



The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims to build a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organizes cross-visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange, and share their innovative organic farming practices.

Join us for the Organic Advice Network Cross-Visit on Arable Production in Northern Switzerland! This immersive two-day programme begins with insights from the renowned DOK trial in Therwil and continues with inspiring farm visits and participation in an organic open-day event—bioackerbautag.ch—offering a unique blend of science, practice, and peer exchange.

What you can expect from this cross visit

Deep insights into long-term organic research: Explore the results of the DOK field trial, trial comparing organic, biodynamic and conventional arable farming since 1978, and the scientific evidence behind the environmental benefits of organic farming. While organic systems may yield slightly lower, decades of data demonstrate clear advantages in soil quality, biodiversity, energy efficiency, and climate performance. With more than 140 scientific publications, the DOK trial stands as a cornerstone of sustainable agriculture research.

Field visits to pioneering organic farms: Visit three organic farms with a diversified crop rotation and animal husbandry.

On-farm innovation: The farm-visits will enrich participants' own advisory practice. We will discover concrete examples of collaboration between farmers and FiBL within the on-farm research network—where science and practice evolve together on topics like soil fertility, innovative production techniques, and practical approaches to climate adaptation.

Peer-to-peer exchange: Engage directly with Swiss farmers and advisors in open discussions about challenges, solutions, and future perspectives.

Organic Arable Days: Attend the Swiss Organic Arable Days to explore new crops, soil fertility strategies and practical approaches to climate adaptation.

DAY 1 – 17 June 2026 (half-day)		
TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
13:30	Arrival in Therwil/Bus Station "Oberwil Hüslimatt"	Introduction to the overall cross-visit theme and program Transport/walk to the DOK Trial (Optional: Meeting at 09:30 at FiBL Frick for a short FiBL-visit and joint lunch)
14:00–15:15	Start cross-visit	Get to know each other. Introduction to the Swiss agricultural context, the share of organic farms and the organisation of the sector and advisory. Introduction to the DOK long-term trial comparing conventional, organic and biodynamic farming practices.
15.15–17:15	Start DOK-visit	Guided tour and discussion with Hans-Martin Krause, soil scientist at FiBL Switzerland and co-lead of the Soil Fertility & Climate research group. As lead scientist of the renowned DOK Trial, he will share insights into how agricultural practices shape soil biodiversity, nitrogen cycling, and climate-relevant processes in agricultural ecosystems.
17:30–18:45	Transport to Bad-Säckingen, check-in in the hotel	
19.15	Social Dinner and optional city walk	

DAY 2 – 18 June 2026		
TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
8:30	Departure for the first farm visit	Introduction to the day
09:30–10:45	Farm Visit 1	<p>Django und Sabine Hegglin, Strickhof, Full-Reuental, AG</p> <p>We will exchange about the agronomic and economic rationale behind a diversified crop rotation – including cereals (wheat, rye, barley, spelt), oilseed rape, sunflower, oil pumpkin, maize and temporary grasslands as well as speciality crops (legumes, sorghum, pumpkin) – and how participants can translate the farmer's practices into their own advisory work and regional context.</p> <p>You will learn about FiBL on-farm trials with alternative protein and fibre crops (lupins, cowpeas, hemp) and discuss the relevance of on-farm field trials for farmers and advisors.</p> <p>You will see how ecological compensation areas such as hedges, orchards, extensive meadows, and rotational fallow land can be strategically integrated into farm planning without compromising productivity. There will discover some practical management strategies for balancing arable production with biodiversity targets on mixed family farms.</p>
10:45-11.00	Transport to the second farm visit	
11.00–12.15	Farm visit 2	<p>Daniel and Senta Böhler, Berghof, Mellikon AG</p> <p>This visit explores the use of undersown crops as a strategy to enhance biodiversity and build climate resilience in cereal production. The host farm demonstrates how innovative field management can successfully combine productive arable farming with ecological goals – guided by biodynamic principles.</p>
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Transport to Gut Rheinau	
14.15–16.15	Farm visit 3	<p>Moritz Ehrismann, part of a Private Limited company Ltd., Gut Rheinau, Rheinau ZH</p> <p>This last visit takes us to a large, diversified farm. Our focus will be on the arable areas and the farm's pioneering work in</p>

		developing organically adapted, open-pollinated seeds for grain and vegetables. The topic is about managing diversification, adaptation strategies to climate change and weed management. The farm collaborates with a leading plant breeding organisation to multiply organically adapted seed varieties for organic and biodynamic farming – making seed sovereignty and supply chain resilience a key topic of this visit.
16:15–17:30	Refreshing Break and Reflection	Participants are invited to reflect on the field visits and discuss how the observed strategies could be applied in their own advisory practice – sharing specific experiences, challenges, and opportunities from their national or regional context.
17:30–18:15	Transport to Ramsen and hotel check-in	
19.00	Joint Dinner in Constance / DE and city walk	

DAY 3 – 19 June 2026 (half-day)		
TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
08.30–09:30	Exchange about the field visits and own experiences	Short introduction to the field day.
09:30–10:15	Transport to the “Organic Field Days”	
10:30–12:30	Joint visit	Urban and Nadine Dörig, St. Katharinental 16, Diessenhofen TG https://www.bioackerbautag.ch/
12:30– 14.00	Lunch and closure	Exchange about innovations observed and similar events organised in other countries (impact, target audience, mode of organization). <i>Optional:</i> Longer stay at the bioackerbautag

Practical Information

Requirements

Participation in the entire cross-visit program. The cross visits start on 17 June 2026 at 13.40 and end on 19 June 2026 at 14.00 in Diessenhofen.

There is the possibility

- To arrive in the morning at 9.30 and visit FiBL in Frick.
- To stay longer at the Bioackerbautag

Participants

Agricultural advisors supporting organic farmers or farmers in conversion, as well as advisors or young graduates willing to gain competencies in organic advice, are welcome to join this cross visit. Maximum 20 participants

Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining this visit and your capacity to cover your travel costs. Participation is not guaranteed because the number of advisors who may join the visit is limited. Participants taking part will receive a confirmation message.

First-round registration deadline: 24 May 2026; Confirmation of application: 30 May 2026.

The registration deadline might be extended in case of undersubscription.

Link to Registration: [Cross Visit Arable: Findings from the DOK Trial and Farmer-Led Experiments, Switzerland, – Fill out form](#)

Travel costs

In case you do not have budget to cover your travel costs, the project advisory partner in your respective country can reimburse part of your travel costs. Eligible countries for cost reimbursement are FR, BE, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, PL, GR, SI, RS.

Eligible costs for reimbursement are transport (train, flight), accommodation (2-3nights), social lunch, and dinners, up to a limit of 400-800 EUR/participant.

Once your participation to the cross visit is confirmed, you will receive more detailed information by the advisory project partner in your country about the conditions for cost reimbursement.

Costs during the Cross Visit are estimated to be 350 EUR including accommodation for 2 nights, transport, breakfast, lunch during the visits and the social dinner. Rooms are pre-reserved in Bad Säckinggen and Gailingen. This estimation does not include food and transport expenses to reach FiBL (optional visits) or Therwil.

Contact information

For any additional information, please contact:

- Bernadette Oehen (bernadette.oehen@fibl.org)
- Concerning accommodation Christina Murer (christina.murer@fibl.org)
- Susanne Fittje (s.fittje@naturland-beratung.de)
- Werner Vogt-Kaute (w.vogt-kaute@naturland-beratung.de)