

PRESS RELEASE

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STADTLANDBIO 2020: Key future issues take centre-stage

- **More organic farming and more regional food for a better future – no organic farming without agricultural land**
- **STADTLANDBIO: forum for more organic food and farming at municipal level on 13 and 14 February 2020**

More organic farming calls for more agricultural land. If the targets for conversions to organic farming are to be met (Germany 20 %, Bavaria 30 % by 2030), there needs to be a considerable amount of additional area of high ecological quality. The question of how to preserve agricultural area and increase the proportion of land for regional organic production, and the impact of this issue at municipal level, will be put centre-stage at the STADTLANDBIO 2020 Congress. The congress takes place on 13 and 14 February 2020, parallel to BIOFACH (12 - 15 February) and brings together municipal decision-makers, elected officials and administration specialists committed to more organic food and farming, including representatives of the European “Organic Cities Network”.

Dr Peter Pluschke, environmental spokesman for the city of Nuremberg: “The German Environment Agency has determined that the amount of land used for agriculture is shrinking. Between 2000 and 2018, the proportion of agricultural land decreased by 9,400 km² from 53.5 to 50.8 % of total land area. This reduction was particularly prevalent in the outskirts of urban agglomerations. A major reason for this is the increase in settlement and traffic areas by 5,880 km² in the same period. Through the ReProLa project (regional product-specific land management in urban-rural partnerships), the European Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg is actively involved in campaigning for more agricultural area. As part of the Organic Cities Network we are also working together to create the conditions for more organic food and farming at a local level throughout Europe. In 2020, the STADTLANDBIO Congress at the Exhibition Centre Nuremberg will once again bring together a large number of stakeholders and experts from the sector with representatives of municipalities to bring us closer to this goal.”

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The congress delegates can look forward to a diverse STADTLANDBIO programme in 2020 with a large range of formats, from TED-style talks, panel discussions and a dialogue forum to workshops and guided tours of BIOFACH.

Danila Brunner, Director BIOFACH and VIVANESS: “We are looking forward to two days of intensive dialogue with stakeholders from local, regional and federal government and to getting a step closer to our shared goal of having a stronger organic component in cities and communities. The highlights of the first day of the congress are certain to include the conversation with Dr Ulrich Maly, Mayor of Nuremberg, on 17 years of NUREMBERG, THE ORGANIC METROPOLIS and five years of the Organic Cities Network.”

STADTLANDBIO is organised by NürnbergMesse in partnership with NUREMBERG, THE ORGANIC METROPOLIS, the German Federation of Organic Food Producers (BÖLW), which is also the national institutional sponsor of BIOFACH, the German Organic Towns Network and Organic Cities Network Europe, and is supported by the Metropolitan Region of Nuremberg.

For details of the current congress programme go to: www.stadtlandbio.de

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