

BioBoden - Cooperative for land protection for organic farming



SUMMARY Founded in 2015, BioBoden is a cooperative that secures land and farms for organic farming on behalf of its members. They buy land and farms and either cultivate them themselves or lease them, they facilitate generational change and support business start-ups. Leasing is aimed at long-term use as organic farm. Every farmer is obliged to manage the land according to the strict principles of an organic farming association.

Contract Type



Land tenure

Public Goods

SOIL

WATER

BIODIVERSITY

Field of action



Basis of Payment



Action-based

Involved contract takers



Individuals

OBJECTIVES

- Maintain and develop healthy soils as a provision of general interest
- Maintain and expand regionally based, ecologically run and diversified agriculture
- Safeguard or create rural areas worth living in the long term
- Strengthen the unity of nature and civilization

CONTRACT DETAILS

Participation & involved parties Bio Boden is a steadily growing community and currently consists of 65 partner farms, 10 societies, more than 4,800 members, over 3,500 hectares of land, more than 1,000 animals, and much more. They work together with GLS Treuhand e.V. for the promotion of organic farming, the GLS Bank, Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft and BioHöfe Stiftung for donations of land and farms, e.g. in the case of the farmer's retirement.

Requirements for participation There are different forms of participation. On the one hand, every private or legal person can buy shares of the BioBoden cooperative in order to contribute to more organic land. A share costs 1,000€, the payment of the price is therefore the requirement for membership. On the other hand, organic farmers or those who want to become organic farmers can contact BioBoden to obtain land for cultivation. The organic form of cultivation is therefore a precondition for the cooperation.

Nature of cooperation The BioBoden cooperative is an independent agricultural company that buys land and leases it to organic farmers at fair conditions. This can happen in many different ways:

Purchase and lease of individual plots of land

- BioBoden buys land directly from farmers who cannot afford to own it and leases it back to them.
- A landowner wants to sell land to a farmer who cannot afford it. In the first step BioBoden gives the farmer a loan to buy the land. In the second step the land is transferred to BioBoden and offset against the loan. In the end, BioBoden remains the owner of the land.
- The seller has anchored the areas in a land ownership company. BioBoden acquires this company and thus all the land.

BioBoden then protects and leases these areas on a long-term basis - up to 30 years, as the German law does not allow for longer periods.

Purchase and lease of land and farmstead

- BioBoden buys the farmstead and part of the land. The farmer leases both from the cooperative.

Purchase and lease of an entire farm

- BioBoden buys a whole farm and the farmer leases it from the cooperative.

Advice & support Within the framework of workshops and information events, BioBoden passes on its experience to companies, students, organic young farmers and all those involved in a possible farmsuccession. In addition, BioBoden farmers are trained with the help of partners and integrated into the network. Where BioBoden runs its own farm, they develop the landscape and business step by step with the people on site. In addition to ecological benefits, this includes developing new products and marketing them directly as well as promoting the dialogue between agriculture and people on site.

Environmental monitoring & control The inspection of the farms takes place primarily by means of a suitability check / it is checked whether the farm is certified organic, which natural conditions and soil quality are present. This is followed by personal discussions and an on-site analysis. The adherence to the ecological and sustainable management is regularly controlled by the grower's associations.

SUCCESS FACTORS

- Development of locally and regionally rooted, organically operated and diversified agriculture
- Long-term and fair lease conditions
- Support of farm succession

www.bioboden.de



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 818190.

©Contracts2.0 – 31/10/2020

www.project-contracts20.eu