

2006 Annual Report

Bioinstitut, o. p. s.

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IČ: 268 569 48

Legal status:

public benefit corporation

Introduction

Dear readers, dear supporters of organic farming,

We often wonder about the interests of organic farmers, about why there is an insufficient volume of organic products in the Czech Republic which then have to be imported, about how the public perceive organic farmers. Answering these questions, we find out that our country still lacks stable conditions for organic farming comparable with those of advanced European countries. The level of subsidies for organic farming is always uncertain, rules often change and mechanisms of state inspection are very formal and strict. Legal requirements and standards for processing organic produce on farms or in small communal processing plants are not favourable for the development of the local organic market. Collective purchase of organic produce is not well organized and the public are beginning to think of organic farming as a branch of agriculture which is very demanding in terms of subsidies, without real organic production. There is, unfortunately, no great interest in specialist issues, e.g. those relating to the transfer of conventional enterprises to organic,

nutrition and protection of plants, animal husbandry, production of organic vegetables, fruit or seeds... this is why Bioinstitut, o.p.s. in its first two years of existence (2005 and 2006) dealt mainly with education and publication activities regarding legislation, subsidies, international relations and environmental aspects of organic farming.

The main project of Bioinstitut is "Organic Farmers for Nature" which links/joins other projects of Bioinstitut and its founders. This means introducing the positive aspects of organic farming regarding nature protection, showing positive examples proving that subsidies for organic farming are justifiable but that farmers do not rely on them and are able to produce valuable organic foodstuffs in cooperation with nature.

The specialist themes of practical organic farming will be dealt with more as of 2007. We will start a verification project on pig-breeding, practical manuals of FiBL will be adapted for Czech conditions, a practical course on organic farming (OF) has already begun on Sasov organic farm.

Development of Bioinstitut as a public benefit corporation is, however, limited by financial means which mainly originate from international grants and projects. We have not yet succeeded in convincing our national institutions about the usefulness of Bioinstitut for Czech organic farming. We must newly formulate projects focusing on OF in practice. We are sure that they are necessary, and that, especially thanks to our founder, FiBL Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, we have a lot to offer to Czech organic farmers.

Thank you all, who helped us in 2006.

Ing. Jiří Urban
ředitel Director

About us

Bioinstitut, o.p.s. ("obecně prospěšná společnost" = public benefit corporation) was founded in 2004 to create an umbrella for research, application of its results in practice and education in the area of Czech organic agriculture.

In the second year of its existence, Bioinstitut, thanks to successful applications for independent projects and orders, and an increased number of employees and external workers, succeeded in full providing the services and activities listed in the Foundation Charter.

Services provided:

- research, transfer between research and agricultural practice
- advice, lectures, consultancy and specialist activities
- providing specialist information
- training, education
- project coordination
- publishing activities
- international cooperation, transfer of information to Central and Eastern Europe countries

Bioinstitut continued cooperation in common projects together with its founders: the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture - FiBL, Palacky University Olomouc, and the PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers Šumperk.

In autumn 2006, Bioinstitut was incorporated in the Green Circle - Association of environmental NGOs. At the same time Bioinstitut joined the Ethical Codex of Ecological Organizations and became a member of the Platform of Ecological Organizations.

The visual identity of Bioinstitut was worked out according to FiBL Graphics Manual (logo, business cards, graphics in publications, educational presentations and website) which is important both for national and international levels. From the graphic outputs of Bioinstitut projects, its partnership with FiBL and its Austrian and German branches should be recognizable. The new form and content of Bioinstitut website in Czech-English version is also a result of this.

Structure of Bioinstitut:



FiBL, Frick, Switzerland

PRO-BIO Association, Šumperk

UP Olomouc

Board of Management		
Vice Chairman	Chairman	
Dr. Ing. Urs Niggli	Ing. Petr Trávníček	Prof. RNDr.

		Otakar Štěřba, CSc.
Dipl.-Ing. Agr. ETH Martin Lichtenhahn	Ing. Zdeněk Perlinger	Prof. RNDr. Lubomír Dvořák, CSc.
Supervisory Board		
Chairman		
Dr. Elisabeth Stöger	Ing. František Chlad	Ing. Jiří Jirka
Director		
Ing. Jiří Urban		
Employees		
Mgr. Pavlína Samsonová, Mgr. Karolína Dytrtová, Ing. Alena Malíková, Mgr. Stanislava Čížková, Bc. Jana Kvapilová		
External co-workers		
Prof. Dr. Ing. Bořivoj Šarapatka, CSc., Dr. Josef Dlouhý, Ing. Vilma Hladíková, Ing. Bohuslava Pajurková, Ing. Jan Klír, Ing. Josef Škeřík, Ing. Marek Bednář, Josef Sklenář, PRO-BIO accredited advisors in OA / akreditovaní poradci EZ svazu PRO-BIO		

Meeting of Supervisory and Management Board

During 2006, two meetings of BI Supervisory and Management Board took place. The agenda of the first meeting held in March included, among other things, voting on extension of term of office of the Supervisory and Management Board Members representing the founder – PRO-BIO Association, and also voting on the proposal for a new Management Board member representing UP Olomouc – Prof. RNDr. Otakar Štěřba was elected to this position, replacing Prof. MUDr. PhDr. Jana Mačáková, CSc. who had left the position at her own request.

The second meeting of BI Supervisory and Management Board was held in June 2006, at the time of the 6th European Summer Bioacademy in Lednice na Moravě, in which all Management Board members took part. Final accounts and Annual Report of Bioinstitut were approved at this meeting.

Scientific Board

With regard to the fact that Bioinstitut is currently implementing its first research project (other activities are rather in the form of advice, education and training), it has not yet been necessary to establish the Scientific Board.

Research, transfer between research and practical agriculture

■ „Landscape“ research project

Bioinstitut began implementation of a research task within the 2B06101 Project entitled “Optimizing agricultural and river landscape in the Czech Republic with accent on development of biodiversity”, supported by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. The Palacký University in Olomouc is the main workplace for this project.

In this project, BI is to solve the V007 partial task: “Creation and verification of procedures for planning environmentally friendly management of an agricultural enterprise in the landscape”. The first phase of the task focused on study and evaluation of procedures for drawing up such plans, on survey of existing procedures used in Austria and Germany, and also on analysis of the situation in the Czech Republic. Plans for environmentally friendly farming will be drawn for ten pilot agricultural enterprises in the Czech Republic. These pilot enterprises differ in production conditions and represent both vegetable and livestock production. The project is thematically linked to another project under implementation - “Organic Farmers for Nature” which ensures advisory and training activities.

Advice, consultancy and specialist activities

- Within the “Organic Farmers for Nature” project, Bioinstitut is a partner of the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL Frick and FiBL Vienna. The project focuses on maintenance and further support of species diversity and landscape features on Czech organic farms. The project’s aim is to cooperate with organic farmers who have a positive attitude to nature protection and are willing to contribute to natural diversity by implementing new measures on their agriculturally-utilized land and also non-productive land. The project exploits experience from Switzerland and Austria, focuses on motivating more farmers and provides educational service in relation to both specialist and non-professional public. The PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers and the Palacký University in Olomouc are also Bioinstitut’s partners in this project.
- Bioinstitut participated in carrying out specialist tasks assigned by the Board of PRO-BIO Association. These included e.g. compiling a list of registered preparations for plant protection which can be used in organic farming, or elaboration of a handbook on processing organic products as primary producers.

- ■ Bioinstitut was also actively involved in preparation and implementation of the European Summer Academy on OF in Lednice na Moravě in 2006.

Providing specialist information

Bioinstitut is one of the information centres (IC) for organic farming and agro-environmental programmes, which have been newly established in Pardubice, Olomouc, Moravia-Silesian and Zlín Regions and are coordinated by the PRO-BIO Association. Such a network of linked ICs came into existence under the OP RLZ project, financed by ESF and supported by the Czech Ministry of the Environment. Bioinstitut, as an IC active within Olomouc Region, provides services for existing organic farmers (specialist advisory service), farmers interested in converting to organic methods of farming, and also for consumers of organic food and the general public. The IC has Bioinstitut's own information and promotional materials as well as PRO-BIO materials and those produced by the EPOS Association of Advisors. These materials are offered to visitors of the IC and posted to other people interested in OF. The IC also runs a specialist library focusing on OF, and public Internet with links to the PRO-BIO member database. The IC regularly publishes its own column in the monthly Olomouc Biozpravodaj (Bio-reporter), published by Duha movement (Friends of Earth).

Training and education

- ■ Important activities of Bioinstitut include: preparation of specialist information for lectures and seminars, organizing seminars and excursions, training of state-administration workers. These activities have been carried out especially thanks to a project entitled Operational Programme for Human Resources Development (OP RLZ)
- ■ During 2006 Bioinstitut also organized other educational seminars financed by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture – e.g. for workers of inspection authorities and for organic farmers – PRO-BIO members.
- ■ “Organic Farming and Water Protection” educational and training presentations were compiled within a finished project financially supported by UNDP/GEF Danube Regional Project. The aim of the project was to create an effective tool for promotion of OF, prevention and reduction of water pollution caused by intensive agricultural activities. The project was coordinated by the Czech office of the Regional Environment Centre (REC) in Prague.

- Bioinstitut was also involved its educational activities within various promotional events for the public, e. g. at a festival entitled “This is About You As Well” (Týká se to také tebe) held in Uherské Hradiště.

Publikační a vydavatelská činnost Publishing activities

- At the end of 2006, work was completed on the comprehensive publication of the **Organic Agriculture in Practice** handbook, in which Bioinstitut was also involved. This handbook follows the two parts of the OF textbook published in 2003 and 2005. It includes up-dated texts complying with new findings, legislative changes and specific practical needs. The aim of publishing this book is to help further development of the modern way of farming which is friendly to the environment, animals and, via organic foodstuffs, also to us, humans. Bioinstitut has been working on translating the handbook into Russian, the translation being financed by the Dutch AVALON Foundation and Swiss SVWO Foundation Fund. The Russian version is to be published in 2007. The authors are considering an English version, too.
- Bioinstitut began publishing a series of Practical Handbooks on organic farming. In mid 2006 the first one was published under the title “**Preparations for plant protection registered in the Czech Republic which can be used in organic farming**”. This handbook presents a list of preparations usable in organic agriculture according to NR 2092/91 which are available on the Czech market and are subject to registration. The list also includes duties resulting from contemporary legislation, information on specific qualifications for work with the preparations, and a contact list of distributors of individual preparations.
- In December 2006, the second Practical Handbook was issued under the title “**Processing organic products as primary producers**”. Czech organic production is often exported or offered for conventional processing. This is mainly due to the complexity and lack of clarity in the regulating legal standards, which make processing of organic products difficult especially in small enterprises. The handbook gives general information on food production regarding its safety and regarding demands of legislation. It focuses on processing plant raw materials and organic production in the conditions of a primary producer – particularly on drying fruit, herbs, preserving fruit and

producing jams and puree.

- Bioinstitut, o.p.s., in cooperation with the PRO-BIO Association and financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, has issued the National Report on the State of Organic farming in the Czech Republic or the so-called Country Report. This report provides information for the public about latest developments in Czech organic agriculture. At the time of compilation, the available statistical data was mostly from 2005, although some data is from 2006. The Czech Year Book on OF was published in a bi-lingual version (Czech/English) and was used as the Czech Country Report for www.organic.europe.net.

International cooperation, transfer of information to Central and Eastern European countries

- In 2006 Bioinstitut, together with its founder FiBL Frick and FiBL Vienna, worked on the form of their common “Organic farmers for Nature” project. Numerous workshops and exchange of information were held in relation to the topic. In the future, Bioinstitut is to extend the project to other Central and Eastern European countries. Preliminary meetings have already been organized in Poland (NNO Swieca of Wroclav University of Agriculture) and in Slovakia (Daphne and Ekotrend). More cooperation with the Bioinstitut founders has been going on within preparation of themes for the 7th Bioacademy and within know-how transfer – translation of FiBL Advisory Sheets (prepared topics: growing organic potatoes, summary of reasoning for OF). Preparation of a research project entitled “Family Pig-breeding Organic System” has begun in cooperation with Sasov organic farm and FiBL Frick.
- Bioinstitut began negotiations on cooperation with Bioforsk – Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research – at the beginning of 2006. In July 2006 Bioinstitut together with Bioforsk representatives began preparation of application within Financial mechanism EEA / Norway. Bioinstitut evaluated its own capacity and decided to apply for an NGO block grant. The planned project includes activities which should provide specialist supervision from Bioforsk within the process of increasing the positive environmental aspects of OF in the Czech Republic. The result of the selection process will be known in May 2007.

- Work on translating the “OF in Practice” Handbook into Russian has begun, with the financial support of the Dutch AVALON Foundation and the Swiss SVWO Foundation Fund. The Russian version of the book will be published during 2007 and will support the development of organic farming in other Central and Eastern European countries.
- Bioinstitut has been working on creation of a network of cooperating organisations throughout Central and Eastern Europe, and in the future should organize collection of data and information on OF from this area. This information will serve for www.organic.europe.net - FiBL Frick being this website’s provider and guarantor.

2005 Financial Report

Costs

Structure of costs	Kč	EUR
Materials – routine consumption	174,222	6,336
Travel expenses	109,932	3,998
Other services	240,320	8,740
Wage costs	598,518	21,768
Compulsory social insurance	170,106	6,187
Other taxes and charges	140	5
Loss on exchange rates	3,861	140
Other costs	7,162	260
TOTAL	1,304,261	47,436

Income

Structure of income	Kč	EUR
Sale of own produce	47,114	1,714
Income from services provided	133,386	4,851
Interest	1,861	68
Contributions received (donations)	386,827	14,069
Operational subsidies	1,029,346	37,438
TOTAL	1,598,534	58,139

Business result

	Kč	EUR
Total costs	1,304,261	47,436
Total income	1,598,534	58,139
Net result	+294,273	+10,703