



European Research Alliance

ERA Pesticide Free

Towards a chemical pesticide free agriculture

NEWSLETTER #11 HUNGARY

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Every two weeks, this newsletter will be prepared by a different Alliance member.

Today we are happy to share a contribution from the [Research Institute of Organic Agriculture \(ÖMKi\)](#) in Hungary.

Organic Food Consumption in Hungary - Factors Supporting Consumption Growth

Read the [new scientific publication](#), in which ÖMKi's colleagues together with researchers from Budapest Business University and Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences have analysed the consumption habits of organic food in Hungary.

The aim of the research is to assess the behaviour of the consumers of organic products, with a particular focus on the frequency of consumption, the groups of purchased products, the preferred sales channels, the consumer motivations, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the market development.



Reference : Kis, Gyöngyi Gyööréné, Drexler, Dóra, Soós, Gabriella, Lugasi, Andrea and Ujj, Apolka. "Organic Food Consumption in Hungary - Factors Supporting Consumption Growth" European Countryside, vol.15, no.4, 2023, pp.579-597. <https://doi.org/10.2478/euco-2023-0031>

Annual BIOEAST Bioeconomy Conference in Budapest 6-7 March 2024 in Budapest, Hungary



The BIOEAST Initiative was given a new boost for the next three years with a new Horizon Europe project, called BOOST4BIOEAST (follow-up of the BIOEASTsUP project), launched in January 2024.

The project aims to mobilise and connect bioeconomy stakeholders with policymakers through national expert communities (BIOEAST HUBs) to strengthen their engagement in bioeconomy policy, research and innovation environments and to set-up long-lasting structures for cooperation and networking at national and macro-regional levels.

To kick-start the community-building and establishment of the national BIOEAST HUBs, the BOOST4BIOEAST consortium and the BIOEAST Initiative jointly invite you to the [Annual BIOEAST Bioeconomy Conference organised on 6-7 March](#) on "The role of national HUBs in national and macro-regional bioeconomy policy and R&I developments in the BIOEAST countries" hosted by the Research Centre for Natural Sciences in Budapest, Hungary.

Registration and information: <https://bioeast.eu/events/bioeast-bioeconomy-conference-boost4bioeast/>

Pesticide-free gardens for the diversity of our spiders



The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKi) assessed the spider population of Hungarian gardens from spring to autumn last year with the involvement of volunteer researchers. The task of the volunteer researchers was to register their garden, answers some questions about their gardening habits and take photographs of our eight-legged friends. The different species of spiders are excellent indicators of the state of a habitat: a large number of spider species indicates a high level of biodiversity. There are more than 800 species of spiders in Hungary, and dozens of species can be present even in a single garden.

Based on our preliminary results, it appears that, for instance, based on the frequency of the use of chemical plant protection agents (pesticides - including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides), the "degree of naturalness" of the garden can be broadly assessed, and the findings seem to support the researchers' hypothesis that the use of chemicals (once or multiple times per year) results in a decrease in the number of spider species compared to gardens that do not use chemicals, meaning that the use of pesticides has a negative effect on the biodiversity of gardens. ÖMKi specialists presented the first results of the programme at the SEEN (Social Engagement in Ecology Network) Hungary 2024 citizen science conference. The study was carried out within the framework of a social responsibility programme which last week was awarded a special prize by the jury at the fourth DoingGood - CSR Award.

More information: <https://biokutatas.hu/en/page/show/spider-web-citizen-science-1-year-results>

This is the newsletter of the European Research Alliance *Towards a chemical pesticide free agriculture*

Visit the Alliance's website: <https://www.era-pesticidefree.eu/>

This issue has been prepared by [ÖMKi](#) as a member of this Alliance.

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