AKADEMIE
SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG
ÖKOLOGISCHE LAND-
UND ERNÄHRUNGSWIRTSCHAFT

VIII.
World Organic Forum

From Revolt to Rights:
The Ongoing Struggle
for Peasants Rights
- UNDROP -

30 June – 1 July 2025
Schloss Kirchberg
Pre-Program 28 - 29 June

CONFERENCE READER

Academy for Organic Agriculture and Food Systems
Schloss Kirchberg, Kirchberg/Jagst, Germany
www.akademie-schloss-kirchberg.de

Foreword

From Revolt to Rights: The Ongoing Struggle for Peasants Rights

- UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) –

500 years ago, in the year 1525, farmers in central Europe fought for their basic human rights. The uprise is known as the German Peasants´ War. Seven years ago, the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration on the current rights of farmers around the world. Among others, the Stiftung Haus der Bauern (The House of Farmers Foundation) assembled more than 400 international farmers and civil organizations at the 1st World Organic Forum 2017 at the Farmers‘ Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst, Germany, to get the farmers movement united with a joint attempt to push peasants‘ rights movement upon the “Schwäbisch Hall Declaration of Global Peasants Rights” resolution providing it to the UN Human Rights Council. Finally on 18 th of December 2018 the UNDROP – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas had been approved by the UN General Assembly in New York with 74.5 % votes. US voted against, Germany declared abstention.

Now it‘s time to localize the Declaration of Global Peasants Rights. Under this focus we will meet again at Farmers‘ Castle in Kirchberg/Jagst and discuss matters to get it on the ground. This historic place was part of the first peasants rights attempt 500 years ago upon the 12 Articles of Swabian Peasants which are considered as the first human rights declaration ever.

Against this background at the World Organic Forum 2025 we will evaluate the present status of UNDROP and bring together experts and actors who have been tirelessly working on the implementation and enforcement of Peasants‘ Rights in Europe and other parts of the world and will discuss opportunities and barriers in nowadays social, political and economic landscapes.

Welcome to all colleagues, valuable guests and activists to join us,

Franz-Theo Gottwald

Rudolf Bühler

Greetings and a warm welcome from Rudolf Bühler, Founder and Chairman and Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald, Head of Akademie Schloss Kirchberg and the entire team!

Programme

Monday, June 30th, 2025

venue: Rittersaal (Knights‘ Hall), Schloss Kirchberg

10.00 am Arrival of Participants, Check-in, Snack

11.45 am Optional Lunch
Marstall-Dining Hall
(for all guests arriving in the morning)

1.00 pm Opening Remarks and Welcome
Rudolf Bühler
Chairman Haus der Bauern Stiftung / House of Farmers Foundation

1.20 pm Assessment of UNDROP from the Scientist Viewpoint
Prof. Dr. Christophe Golay
Senior Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

2.00 pm 7 Years of Global Peasant Rights – Where do we stand? - UNDROP seen by the Expert Group
Genevieve Savigny
President of the Working Group on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, Member of the European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

2.45 pm Open debate / Panel Discussion
The Impact of UNDROP: has it changed the landscape for peasants and where are we headed?

3.30 pm Coffee Break

4:00 pm UNDROP as seen by the German Government
Bernd Schwang
Head of the Right to Food Division at the federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMELH) in Germany

4.45 pm Questions and Response

5.00 pm Thematic Focus: The Right to Seed and Breed
Dr. Stefan Schmitz
Executive Director of the Crop Trust
(Global Crop Diversity Trust)
(digital contribution)
Rudolf Bühler
CEO of BESH (Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall)

5.45 pm Debate with the Floor

6.30 pm Dinner

Until EOD Evening Program

Tuesday, July 1st, 2025

venue: Rittersaal (Knights‘ Hall), Schloss Kirchberg

8.00 am Morning Prayer or Yoga at the Ayurvedic Center

8.15 am Breakfast

9.00 am Implications of UNDROP for Europe – Example Germany
Michael Windfuhr
Deputy Director German Institute for Human Rights and Member of the UNs Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

9.45 am Comments and Reactions

Programme

10.00 am	The Relevance of UNDROP seen from an Asian Farmers' Leader *Henry Saragih, Indonesia former La Via Campesina General Coordinator and Member of the LVC Committee on Peasants' Rights (digital contribution)*
10.30 am	How to strengthen UNDROP in Brazil *Prof. Antonio Andrioli Chapecó-Santa Catarina*
11.00 am	Coffee Break
11.30 am	Panel Discussion with all Speakers
12.30 am	Lunch
1.00 pm	How to work with UNDROP and how to strengthen it on the ground *Working Groups*
2.30 pm	Reports from the Working Groups
3.00 pm	Conclusions *Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald Head of Akademie Schloss Kirchberg* *Dr. Rudolf Buntzel Curator & Organisor*
3.30 pm	The End

Prof. Dr. Antonio Inácio Andrioli

Prof. Dr. Antonio Inácio Andrioli is a philosopher with multidisciplinary background in various areas of scientific knowledge. He completed his doctorate at Osnabrück University in 2006, and from 2008 to 2009 served as a researcher at the Institute of Development Sociology at Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria. Recently he has worked in Brazil as professor of the Master's in Agroecology and Sustainable Rural Development program at the Federal University of Fronteira Sul, a university he has helped build since its inception in 2009, and where he has been campus director and vice rector. He was a member of the National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) as a family farming specialist from 2011 to 2017, and participated for many years in the Agrobiodiversity Study Group (GEA), coordinated by the Center for Agrarian Studies and Rural Development of the former Ministry of Agrarian Development. His book Transgenics: The Seeds of Evil. The silent contamination of soils and food, originally published in Germany, has made him internationally known for his research in the field ofWikipedia

Rudolf Bühler

Rudolf Bühler, 72, is an organic farmer on his family farm „Sonnenhof" in Hohenlohe, Germany. After completing his degrees in agriculture science he spent 6 years in rural development projects in Africa, Middle East and Asia in Rural Development Projects. Returning back to Germany in 1984, he took over the family farm Sonnenhof in 14. generation. He developed the first scheme for rescuing extincted breeds and their revitalization ex situ along with the autochthone local breed of his home region Hohenlohe: The Swabian-Hall Pig. It was worldwide adopted as best practice case. In 1987 he developed the first standard for animal welfare in farm-animal husbandry and implemented them along with several quality meat projects. 1988 he founded with 8 farmers the Farmers Association of Swabian Hall, a grassroot initiative and project carrier for rural development in his homeland Hohenlohe. It is known as the oldest regional initiative and includes today more then 1560 farms out of the region. 1997 he founded the organic ECOLAND association with regional development projects in Germany and international organic projects under the umbrella of SEEDS OF HOPE as in India, Serbia, Romania, Zanzibar and others. In 2012 he founded the „House of Farmers" Charity Foundation which aim was to develop a „Charta of Farmers Rights" which was leading in close cooperation with other international NGO´s to the "Declaration of Global Peasants Rights" resolved in December 2018 the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. Under the umbrella of the "House of Farmers Foundation" Rudolf Bühler founded 2016 the "Academy for Organic Agriculture & Food" located at Schloss Kirchberg (Kirchberg Castle) as rural education institute which annually conducts the "WORLD ORGANIC FORUM" Congress als well as the "Organic Marketing Summit" along with several universities and other Partners as Slow Food etc.

Dr. Christophe Golay

Dr. Christophe Golay is Senior Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. His expertise and more than 80 publications relate to the right to food, peasants' rights, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, human rights and sustainable development, the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition with human-rights based approaches, and the United Nations (UN) human rights bodies. Since 2009, Dr. Golay has been providing legal advice in relation to the elaboration and implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). Between 2015 and 2022, he supervised the legal dimension of two research projects on the right to food in Bolivia, Cambodia, Ghana and Kenya. From 2001 to 2008, he was legal adviser to the first UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food and undertook missions with the UN in Brazil, Guatemala, Bolivia, Cuba, Niger, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, India and Palestine. Dr Golay holds a PhD in International Relations (with a specialization in International Law) and a double Master's in International Law and International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald

Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald studied Theology, Philosophy, Indology and Social Sciences. From 1988 to 2020, he was a board member of the „Schweisfurth Stiftung für nachhaltige Agrar- und Ernährungswissenschaften" (Schweisfurth Foundation for Sustainable Agricultural and Food Sciences). He researches and teaches as an Honorary Professor of Agricultural, Nutritional and Environmental Ethics at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Beyond this, he is involved in a variety of voluntary responsibilities, for example as the chairman of the supervisory board of the World Future Council Foundation and chairman of the board of „Verein Kulinarisches Erbe Bayern" (Bavarian Culinary Heritage Association). The author of expert literature on sustainable development, the SDGs and corporate responsibility also acts as a keynote speaker and moderator. Since December 2021, Franz-Theo Gottwald has been the head of the Akademie Schloss Kirchberg, where, together with chairman Rudolf Bühler and the team, he continues to advance the Academy's mission.

Henry Saragih

Henry Saragih is the Chairman of Serikat Petani, the Indonesia Peasant Union. He also is a member of the Peasant Rights Collective of La Via Campesina. From 2000 to 2017 he served on the International Coordination Council of La Via Campesina, and acted as a general Coordinator of LVC from 2004 to 2013.

Geneviève Savigny

The UN Human Rights Council has appointed Geneviève Savigny (France) as member from Western Europe to the Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas (UNDROP). Ms. Savigny is a peasant farmer and member of the organization La Via Campesina. She has extensive practical training in international human rights. She participated in the intergovernmental working group (=EIWG) from the beginning in July 2013 to the end to present the situation of European peasants. She also participated in the negotiations of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Rural Workers (UNDROP) from the beginning, with a focus on European agriculture.

Dr. Stefan Schmitz

Dr. Stefan Schmitz is Executive Director of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. In this function he supervises on behalf of the Donors the Executive Committe of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the worldwide Seed-Tresor in Spitzbergen. Before he was Vice Director of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.He became Coordinator of the Board of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which works under the umbrella of the World Bank. For the German Government he became Commissioner of the Initiative „A World without Hunger“.

Bernd Schwang

Bernd Schwang: Bernd Schwang is a constitutional, social and economic historian. He has worked at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMELH) in the areas of strategic communication and food policy and has built up the social media department. In recent years, he has implemented the focus of the BMEL‘s international project work on the right to food. He currently heads the Right to Food Division and is the Agricultural Ministry´s representative for the right to food.

Michael Windfuhr

Michael Windfuhr was elected in 2016 and 2020 as a member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He holds various advisory roles and board positions in German government and civil society, and has been deputy director of the German Institute for Human Rights (DIM) since 2011. He was head of the human rights team at Brot für die Welt (2006-2010) and held various positions at FIAN International between 1986 and 2006.

1. UNDROP explained by Wikipedia

The Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP; full title: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas) is a United Nations General Assembly resolution on human rights with "universal understanding", adopted by the United Nations in 2018. The resolution was passed by a vote of 121-8, with 54 members abstaining.

Background

In 2008, the Declaration of Rights of Peasants – Women and Men was launched by La Via Campesina with support from other civil society organisations, presented it to the United Nations Human Rights Council.
The text was then used as a basis from 2009 to 2018 to negotiate the text of the final UNDROP Declaration. The negotiations were supported by civil society groups such as La Via Campesina, FIAN International, or the Europe Third World Centre (CETIM), but also by academics such as the Peasants Rights group of the Humanitarian Rights and several Special UN Rapporteurs.

Farmers' rights

The concept of peasants' rights build over the farmers rights recognized, among others, in FAO´s Plant Treaty and in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Negotiations of the text

The negotiations, initially led by Bolivia, were initiated by the UN Human Rights Council and ultimately adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Human Rights Council.

On 28 September 2018, draft resolution A/HRC/39/L.16 was presented to the UN Human Rights Council supported by various states.

General Assembly's Third Committee

On 19 November, the draft gained enough support. It was subsequently submitted to vote, which result was positive: with 119 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 49 abstentions.

General Assembly 73rd Plenary Session

At its 55th plenary meeting on 17 December 2018, the session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted its Resolution 73/165, containing the UNDROP as an annex, and which introduction reads:

The General Assembly,
Welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 39/12 of 28 September 2018,1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas,
1. Adopts the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, as contained in the annex to the present resolution;
2. Invites Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Declaration and to promote universal respect and understanding thereof;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to include the text of the Declaration in the next edition of Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments.

Before the adoption, the representative of Switzerland (one of the few non-developing countries that votes favourably) declared about the UNDROP that it "seeks to summarize the rights of peasants in a single document in order to better raise awareness about their situation. It is a very important political signal."

2. "Farmers´Rights" as Part of the FAO´s Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

For thousands of years farmers all over the world have domesticated plants, developed new breeds, saved seeds and planting material for the following season, and exchanged seeds and plants with their neighbours and other farmers. Through trial and error, they bred and grew crops that could cope with their environment and needs. In so doing they created diversity – a wealth of plant genetic diversity of global importance for food and agriculture. With their knowledge and skills, they managed and conserved the food crops that feed the world today. However, this important role of farmers, as custodians and innovators of plant genetic diversity that are of global significance to food and agriculture, was not formally and explicitly recognized at the international level, with its essential dimensions, until the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Farmers' Rights were part of the background against which, following many years of discussions, the Members States of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The International Treaty was adopted by the FAO Conference on 3 November 2001, entered into force on 29 June 2004. The International Treaty explicitly recognises, in Article 9, the efforts and the enormous contribution of farmers, local and indigenous communities in developing and conserving crop diversity.

Farmers' Rights are important for millions of farmers throughout the world, particularly in developing countries whose agriculture is based on the cultivation of traditional varieties or varieties that farme

3. The Charta of Farmers‘ Rights

Introduction

The Charta of Farmers‘ Rights was developed 2012 by the Foundation House of Farmers – Stiftung Haus der Bauern - at Schwäbisch Hall and its content is sanctioned within the founding statues of the foundation. Content development was done in close cooperation with the THE FRIDTDJOF NANSENS INSTITUTE, Norway, Dr. Regine Andersen who published in 2005 a background study upon „The History of Farmer´s Rigths“.

Development Process of International Law and Governance for the Protection of the lndigene Rights of Global Farmers‘ Community.

Definition of Farmers:
Farmers are individuals of farming families which live on their own land or shared or leased land in the countryside and are cultivating their farmland themselves with sustainable practices.

1. Basic Right of Farmers for free access to nature and natural resources as
   - to crop genetic resources as farmers commons
   - to animal genetic resources as farmers commons.

2. Basic Right of Farmers of farmland in farmers hand; protection against land grabbing.
3. Basic Right of Farmers for the fair share on the value of food and natural products. Additional an economic compensation for their contribution to nature and landscape protection as these are external values to be compensated by the industrial society.
4. The farmers‘ community‘s social right on cultural self determination and rural life.
5. The farmers‘ social right of equal pension claim in comparism to members of the industrial society.
6. The protection of the indigene knowledge of the farmers‘ societies as their own intellectual property not to be grabbed by multinationals.
7. Further assets and claims

The project aims into a process for the development of a „International Convention on the Basic Rights of Farmers“ worldwide.

A number of farming individuals and farming cooperatives/societies/bodies are working on a draft concept for the farming rights convention which will ne intro duced after its emerging process and final declaration by an international farmers convent.

In the final stage the „Farmers‘ Rights Charta“ should become an essential part of the UN treaties, f.e. WIPO.

The foundation „The Farmers‘ House“ based in Schwäbisch Hall is promoting this project and coordinates the global activities.
Rudolf Bühler, Founder & Chairman of Foundation House of Farmers.

4. Schwäbisch Hall Declaration of Peasants‘ Rights – Getting a step forward for the future of humanity

Almost 500 years ago, growing encroachments on peasants’ common lands by princes and churches led to rural uprisings in Southern Germany and to the drafting of the peasants’ „Twelve Articles“. This document represents the first record of demands for human rights and liberties in Europe, and included the right to equal access to lands, forests and fishing grounds. Although the feudal lords brutally crushed this revolt, peasants kept resisting and showing that the feudal nobility hadn’t defeated them. History shows that when peasants are rolled back in one place they reappear in another one. Peasant revolts are still ongoing!

The Global Peasants’ Rights Congress, taking place from the 8th to the 10th of March 2017, shows this. More than 400 peasants, fishers, pastoralists, beekeepers, indigenous people, migrant and seasonal workers, rural women, youth, food consumers, NGOs’ representatives, academics, lawers, activists and government representatives from more than 50 countries gathered together in the city of Schwäbisch Hall, a hotspot of the 16th-century “Great Peasants’ War”, to exchange views, to learn and to increase awareness about the current process of drafting a United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas.

This Declaration has its roots in a long term peasants´ rights movement from all parts over the world. With the sponsorship of the Bolivian Government, the process has been rapidly advancing in the UN Human Rights Council and will now go to a fourth round of negotiations in May 2017. This week’s Global Peasants’ Rights Congress showed that while we come from highly diverse backgrounds, we are nonetheless able to join hands in defense of human dignity and nature. This process resembles a river, with an increasing number of tributaries, crossing different landscapes and flowing together in a mighty stream of life.

Yesterday’s oppressors today have new faces. Instead of feudal lords we now confront the weapons of capital: Corporations, national elites and governments are grabbing our territories, including our oceans, and endangering our livelihoods, social cohesion, peoples’ sovereignty and peace. Whenever we are prevented from controlling our territories, food sovereignty is under huge danger. For pastoralists, especially, this amounts to disrupting their mobility and particular way of relating to their diverse ecosystems. Violence against our territories is closely interlinked with violence against women. Women suffer violence on their bodies and are not recognized as political subjects of transformation. Land concentration is sharply increasing everywhere, driven by a development and production model that destroys biodiversity and the environment and contributes to climate change.

At the same time, the cessation of agrarian reform programs means that landless tenants experience new forms of slavery, ultimately leading to migration. The absence of international mechanisms to manage migration increases the vulnerability of migrants and their communities. Especially women are often left behind with an increased burden of productive and reproductive labour. On the other hand plantation and migrant workers are heavily exposed to pesticides and have to do piece rate labour without job security; they are denied social security, prevented from organi-

zing freely and are often vulnerable to be deported. Women and migrants are the most exploited rural workers.

Our animals are at risk as well of being grabbed by research centers and companies that apply for patents on their genetic traits. Trade agreements, the World Bank, G7 and so-called philanthropic foundations are forcing governments in the Global South to introduce industrial seeds and to align their laws with international regimes of intellectual property protection.

Thus, peasants in Europe and other places are criminalized for saving and replanting seeds which fall under the protection of the UPOV convention. Our knowledge as peasants, livestock producers and beekeepers, our innovations and further development of biodiversity, suffer discrimination from proponents of the allegedly superior knowledge of science and academia. The intertwined and holistic relationship between our communities, our cultures and nature in our territories is violently disregarded.

Furthermore, we often lack access to means of production such as credit, infrastructure and insurance. We are deprived of access to markets, which, along with agricultural policies, are primarily geared to international trade. The market power of companies and intermediaries keeps prices for fish and other peasants‘ products low. Former public local food markets are being privatized.

Finally, we are facing brutal repression. In many countries the media, in collusion with governments, manipulates public opinion against resisting rural communities and, more broadly, underpins a system of oppression and inequality. Whenever we stand for the defense of our rights, territories and livelihoods, governments physically and legally harass us. With the pretext of preventing terrorism, right-wing governments are criminalizing a huge number of social movement leaders using anti-terrorism laws. Furthermore, the worldwide rise of xenophobia, nationalism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia is putting food sovereignty and people’s sovereignty at high risk and threatening our rural people’s identities.

In light of these common threats, we go out of this congress deeply convinced of the strategic importance of a UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. This Declaration strengthens the legitimacy of our demands and makes visible our social, cultural and political values. It acknowledges our enormous contribution to ensuring collective well-being – whether through the provision of nourishing food or the development of biodiversity and the protection of the environment. It reaffirms our rights to land, water and natural resources, to seeds, biodiversity, food sovereignty, decent income and means of production, and their collective dimension. It contributes to the emancipation of women from patriarchal structures. It considers the importance of intergenerational thinking and knowledge transmission in rural areas.

Ultimately, it recognizes that our collective future, and the very future of humanity, is bound up with the rights of peasants and other people working in the rural areas. The Declaration is an important tool for the struggle, compiling our rights in one instrument in a holistic and coherent way. It is creating a shift in consciousness and inspiring new law making. It can become a vehicle for the convergence of movements and struggles committed to larger systemic changes.

Selected Scripts

In order to achieve stronger support from states for this Declaration, participants in the Global Peasants’ Rights Congress call on all movements of the Declaration’s rights-holders – peasants, livestock producers and pastoralists, fishers, forest dwellers, indigenous peoples, rural artisans, traditional communities, among others – to build alliances in their local and national contexts, to keep resisting and to jointly mobilize. The struggles at the grassroots level are crucial for ensuring recognition and support by our national governments and for generating strong and broad pressure towards a swift approval of this Declaration.

We call on the world’s governments to seriously commit to this process. We especially call on the German and European governments to live up to their commitment to human rights by strongly engaging with this historic process. Violations of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas also take place here in Europe, where the Common Agriculture Policy is supporting the logic of “increase in size or disappear”. This production and export-oriented European industrial agriculture and food system leads to depeasantization in Europe and has enormous external impacts on the entire planet.

We acknowledge that although we come from countless different backgrounds, we suffer intersecting forms of oppression and must stay in solidarity with each other – South and North, women and men, elders and youth, rural and urban, peasants, migrant and seasonal workers, indigenous people, fishers, pastoralists and beekeepers. We affirm our interconnected struggles. If one of us loses, we all will lose. Our capacity to organize is our instrument of power and will lead to effectively enforcing our rights as human beings and as peasants.

Swabian Hall, March 10th, 2017

5. La Via Campesina

Introduction

Why Peasants of the World need an International Convention on the Rights of Peasants.
Almost half of the people in the world are peasants. Even in the high-tech world, people eat food produced by peasants. Small-scale agriculture is not just an economic activity; it means life for many people. The security of the population depends on the well-being of peasants and sustainable agriculture. To protect human life it is important to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the peasants. In reality, the ongoing violations of peasants’ rights threaten human life.

Violations of Peasants’ Rights

Millions of peasants have been forced to leave their farmland because of land grabs facilitated by national policies and/or the military. Land is taken away from peasants for the development of large industrial or infrastructure projects, extracting industries like mining, tourist resorts, special economic zones, supermarkets and plantations for cash crops. As a result, land is increasingly concentrated in a few hands.

States neglect the farm sector and peasants receive inadequate income from their agriculture production.

Monocultures for the production of agrofuels and other industrial uses are promoted in favor of agribusiness and transnational capital; this has devastating impacts on forests, water, the environment and the economic and social life of peasants.

There is an increasing militarization and a number of armed conflicts in rural areas with severe impacts on the full realization of civil rights of peasants.

As they lose their land, communities also lose their forms of self-government, sovereignty and cultural identity.

Food is increasingly used for speculation purposes.

The peasants' struggle is criminalised.

Slave labor, forced labor and child labor are still found in rural areas.

Women's and children's rights are the most affected. Women are victims of psychological, physical and economic violence. They are discriminated in their access to land and productive resources, and marginalized in decision making.

Peasants have lost many local seeds. Biodiversity is destroyed by the use of chemical fertilizers, hybrid seeds and genetically modified organisms developed by the transnational corporations

Access to health services and to education is decreasing in rural areas and peasants' political role in society is undermined. As a result of these violations of peasants' rights, today millions of peasants live in hunger and suffer malnutrition. This is not because there is not enough food in the world, but because food resources are dominated by transnational corporations. Peasants are forced to produce for export instead of producing food for their communities.

The crisis in the agricultural sector causes migration and the massive displacement and disappearance of peasants and indigenous people.

The policies of neo-liberalism worsen the violations of Peasants' Rights

The violations of peasants' rights are on the rise because of the implementation of neoliberal policies promoted by the World Trade Organisation, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), other institutions and many governments in the North as well as in the South. The WTO and FTAs force the opening of markets and prevent countries from protecting and supporting their domestic agriculture. They push for the deregulation in the agriculture sector.

Governments of developed countries and transnational corporations are responsible for trade

Selected Scripts

dumping practices. Cheap subsidised food floods local markets thus forcing peasants out of business.

The WTO and other institutions force the introduction of food such as GMOs and the unsafe use of growth hormones in meat production. Meanwhile, they prohibit the marketing of healthy products produced by peasants through sanitary barriers.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has implemented structural adjustment programs (SAPs) leading to massive cuts in subsidies for agriculture and social services. Countries have been forced to privatize state companies and to dismantlesupport mechanisms in the agricultural sector.

National and international policies directly or indirectly give priority to transnational corporations or food production and trade. TNCs also practice biopiracy and destroy genetic resources and biodiversity cultivated by peasants. The capitalist logic of accumulation has dismantled peasant agriculture.

The struggle of the Peasants to uphold and protect their Rights

Facing these realities, peasants all over the world are struggling to live. All over the world, thousands of peasant leaders are being arrested because they are fighting to protect their rights and livelihood. They are being brought to court by unfair justice systems, incidents of massacre, extrajudicial killings, arbitrarand political persecution and harassment are common.

The global food crisis in 2008 precipitated and exacerbated by policies and transnational corporations (which unilaterally act according to their own self-interest) clearly shows the failure in promoting, respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights

Declaration of Rights of Peasants - Women and Men of peasants. This affects all people in the world, in developed and developing countries. While peasants work hard to ensure the sustainability of seeds and food, the violation of the rights of peasants damages the world's capability to feed itself.

The struggle of the Peasants is fully applicable to the framework of international human rights which includes instruments, and thematic mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, that address the right to food, housing rights, access to water, right to health, human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, racism and racial discrimination, women's rights. These international instruments of the UN do not completely cover nor prevent human rights violations, especially the rights of the peasants. We see some limitations in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) as an instrument to protect peasants' right. Also, the Charter of the Peasant- produced by the UN in 1978, was not able to protect peasants from international liberalization policies. The other international conventions, which also deal with peasants' rights, can not be implemented either. These conventions include: ILO Convention 169, Clause 8-J Convention on Biodiversity, Point 14.60 Agenda 21, and Cartagena Protocol.y arrests and detention

6. Implementation of UNDROP

Peasants and other people working in rural areas represent 70 percent of people living in extreme poverty and 80 percent of the world's hungry.

To better protect their rights, the UN General Assembly adopted the UNDROP in 2018. After having provided key academic support to the negotiation of this important instrument, this research project focuses now on its implementation.

Towards the Implementation of UNDROP

UNDROP's implementation is dependent on actions to be taken by various stakeholders. States shall take steps to implement this instrument notably by establishing mechanisms to ensure the coherence of national laws and policies with the rights of peasants, and by elaborating, interpreting and applying relevant international agreements to which they are a party in accordance with UNDROP's provisions. UN human rights mechanisms, regional human rights bodies and international organizations should also include UNDROP in their work, while civil society organizations and social movements are pushing for UNDROP's implementation at national, regional and international levels.

Focus on Key Rights

Among all the rights enshrined in UNDROP, the rights to land and seeds are crucial for protecting the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of peasants, for preserving crop and agrobiodiversity and for rebalancing unequal power relations.

We therefore primarily focus on the recognition and implementation of these two rights at the national, regional and international levels – by inputting key discussions and processes touching upon their recognition, building capacity of national actors, focussing on concrete cases of implementation and encouraging UN human rights mechanisms to address them in their work and jurisprudence

The UN WG on UNDROP as a Catalyst for Promoting and Protecting Peasants' Rights

In October 2023, the Human Rights Council created the Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, composed of 5 independent experts. The Working Group started its activities in May 2024.

The Working Group is mandated to promote the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) adopted in 2018, to identify gaps in its implementation, to disseminate good practices, to facilitate exchanges and international cooperation, and to report to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly.

The Working Group is mandated to collaborate with States, UNDROP's rights holders and their representative organizations, specialized agencies, funds, programmes, bodies and organizations of the UN system, international, regional and national human rights mechanisms, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia.

Selected Scripts

The Working Group can act as a catalyst for UNDROP, by providing visibility and support to advance the promotion and protection of the rights enshrined in the Declaration, by clarifying the implications of the Declaration, by identifying key challenges to its implementation, and by recommending concrete measures to be adopted by States and other actors.

Informations

Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald

Director
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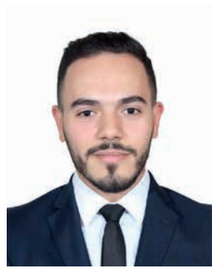

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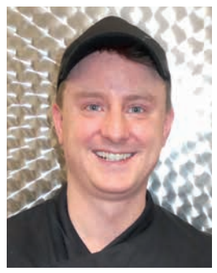

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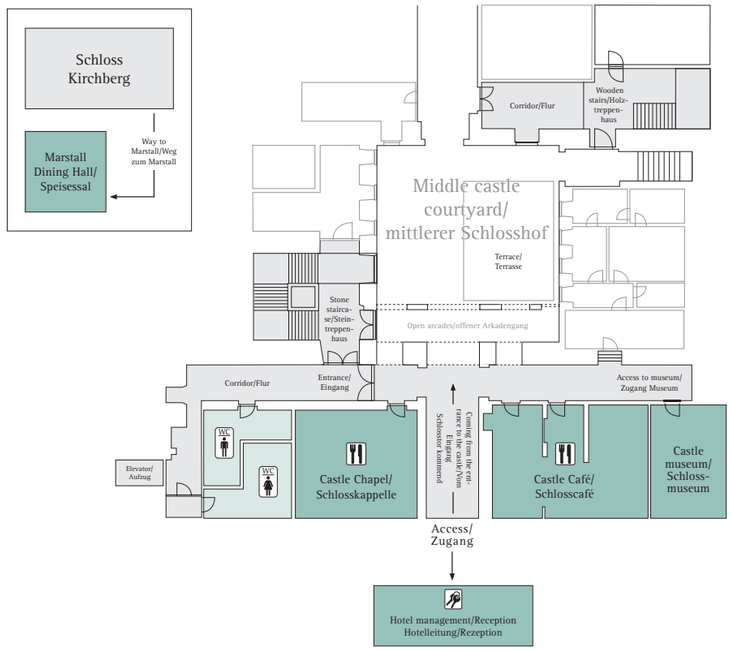
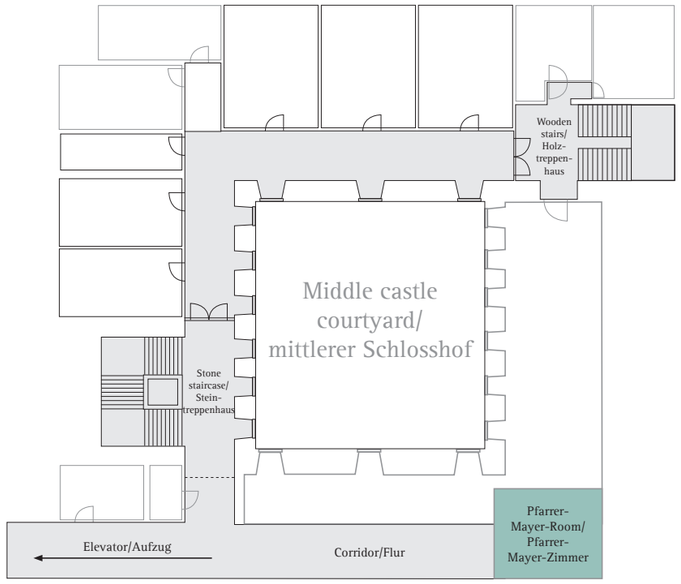
Plans

Ground Floor

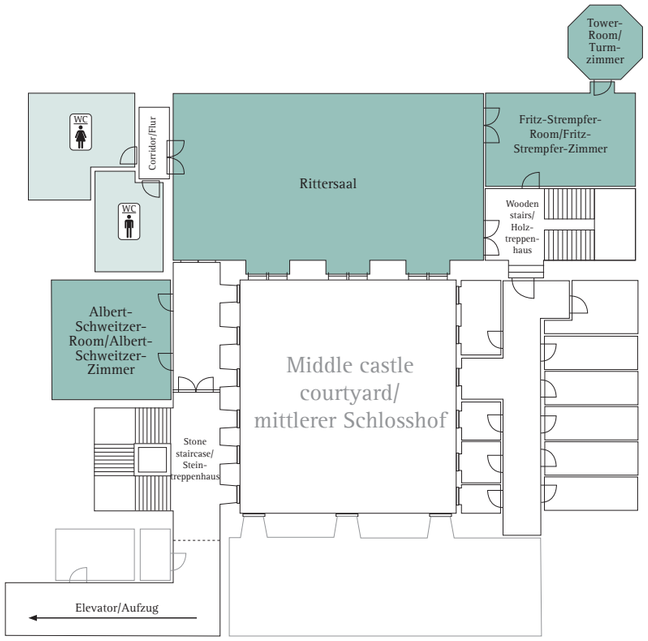


First upper floor

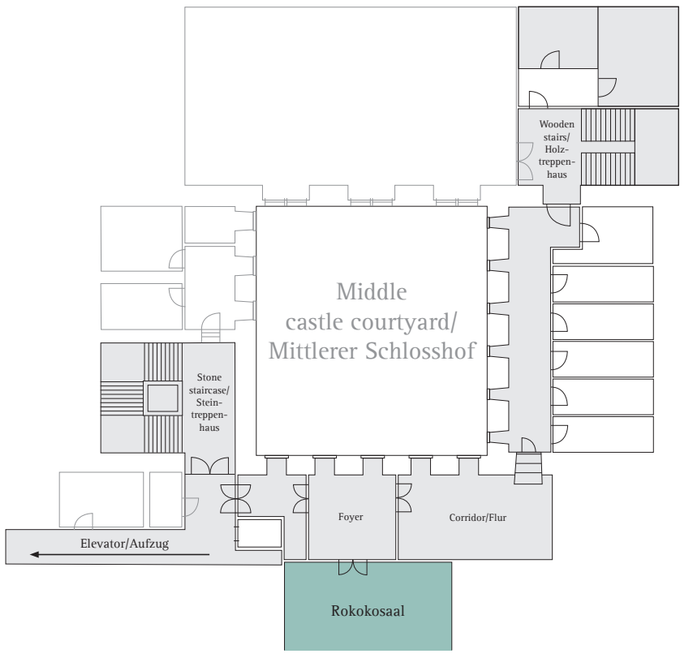


Plans

Second upper floor



Third upper floor



Informations

Cab/Taxi

Taxi Crailsheim
Taxi Aksoy (07951) 8181
Hatlanek-Druckenmüller (07951) 2 80 28
Taxi Jenter (07951) 22 0 11
Taxi Kettemann e.K. (07951) 2 33 45

Taxi Schwäbisch Hall
Taxiruf Hall (0791) 25 23
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Donations and endowments for the Stiftung Haus der Bauern (House of Farmers Foundation)

In order to support the precious work of the Foundation including the Akademie Schloss Kirchberg, a donation to the „House of Farmers“ Foundation or a solicitation for donations and endowments in your personal environment would be greatly appreciated. You can find more information about our projects and ways to support us on our homepage.

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BÄUERLICHE ERZEUGERGEMEINSCHAFT SCHWÄBISCH HALL

Bio-Kontroll INSTITUT
DE-ÖKO-073

Kirchberger Fest

June 28 – 29, 2025 Schloss Kirchberg/ Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst

In remembrance of the Peasants‘ War 500 years ago: Scholarly Symposium: The Peasants‘ War in Württemberg-Franconia - events, interpretations, comparisons. Conference of Historischer Verein für Württembergisch-Franken (Historical Association for Württemberg-Franconia, 27.6. 5 pm - 28.6.2025 5.30 pm
Location: Schwäbisch Hall, Kunsthalle Würth/Brenzhaus

Saturday Evening 28.6.2025

8 pm Concert of the Cuban musicians “Los Capitanes del Son”
Latino Music and dance
Location: Rosegarden, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst

Sunday, 29.6.2025

11 am Prayer & Service
Father Robin Joseph, Dr. Armin Münch, Marlene Wollmann & Dr. Detlef Kapteina
Remembering the victims of the Peasants‘ War 500 years ago.
Location: Marstall, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst

Opening speech:
Rudolf Bühler, Founder and Chairman of Foundation House of Farmers

12 am - 8 pm Farmers Market and Information
Location: Eastern Area of the Castle

Wholeday “From Rebellion to Global Peasants‘ Rights”, Exhibiton contributing to the former Peansants‘ Rights Movement
Location: Staircase, Main Building

12.30 pm Lunch
Location: Marstall-Restaurant & Café, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg

1.30 pm “What interests you about the Peasants‘ War?”
Interviews with visitors to the festival by Thorsten Hiller, Gerabronn
Location: Rosegarden, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg

1.30 h pm “The Peasants‘ War in film - a comparison based on feature films, biopics and documentaries”, with comments by Horst Edler, former cultural editor
*Location:*Chapel, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg

3 pm “The Gospel ‘uffrichten’- Did the farmers misunderstand Luther‘s freedom of a Christian man?”,
Reflections on the example of Wolfgang Kirschenesser from Frickenhofen
Speaker: Dr. Armin Münch, Schwäbisch Hall
*Location:*Marstall, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst

4 pm “Stories, events, episodes from the Peasants‘ War”,
Lectures and narration by Catriona Blanke
Location: Rosegarden, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst

5 pm The monumental panorama painting on the Peasants‘ War by the Werner Tübke”, interpreted by Petra Wäldchen, historian, Bad Frankenhausen
Location: Marstall, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg/Jagst

6.30 pm Concert by the Saloniker Orchestra from Stuttgart
Location: Rosegarden, Farmers Castle of Kirchberg

9 pm End of the fest
Farewell by Rudolf Bühler

BIOHOTEL SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG

Biohotel – Tagungs- und Eventhotel im Schloss Kirchberg

Ob Hochzeiten, Tagungen, Galadinner oder einfach mal hinfahren und gemütlich im Schlosscafé plaudern und die wunderschöne Umgebung genießen: Die historische Schlossanlage lädt Besucher von Nah und Fern ein zum Verweilen und Flanieren.

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Ob Ayurveda-Massagen, Yoga Seminare oder Pancha-Karma-Kuren: Das Wohlfühl-Zentrum im Biohotel Schloss Kirchberg lädt Gäste ein zum Erleben original indischer Heilkunst und zur Erholung vom Alltagsstress.

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Mobil 0162 6 35 87 89
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www.ayurveda-kurzentrum-schloss-kirchberg.de

Akademie für ökologische Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft

Kongresse und Tagungen zu den wichtigen Themen unserer Zeit: Klimawandel, Ökologisierung der Wirtschaft, Studium zur Fachkraft Bio und vielfältige Tagungen, Workshops und Seminare im ökologischen Umfeld.

Rezeption Biohotel Schloss Kirchberg

Wohnen im Schloss – mit und ohne Betreuung

Für Gäste und Langzeitbewohner im reiferen Leben bietet das Schloss Kirchberg über die gesamte Anlage barrierefreies Wohnen und Erleben bei Langzeitmiete vom 1-Zimmer-Appartement bis zur Luxuswohnung.

Tagungen & Seminare sowie Hochzeiten, Galadinner:
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tagungen@schloss-kirchberg-jagst.de

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AKADEMIE SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG
ÖKOLOGISCHE LAND- UND ERNÄHRUNGSWIRTSCHAFT

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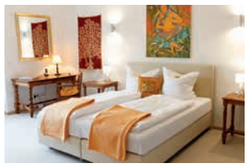
AYURVEDA ZENTRUM SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG
MASSAGEN, KUREN & YOGA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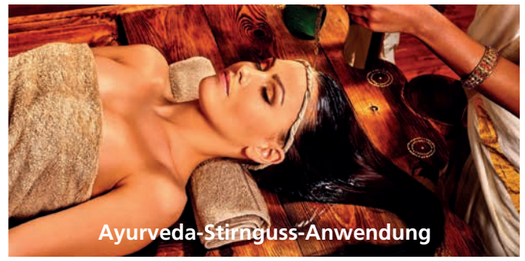
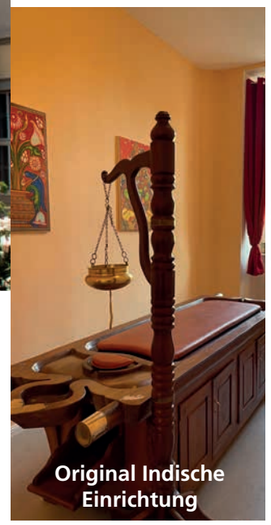
AYURVEDA ZENTRUM
SCHLOSS KIRCHBERG
MASSAGEN, KUREN & YOGA

Schloss Kirchberg an der Jagst

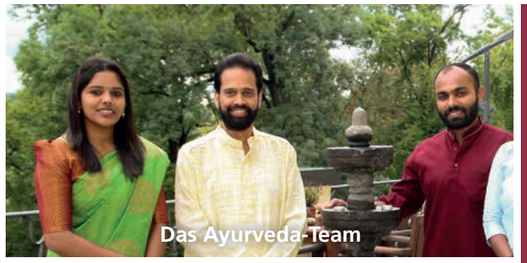


Ayurveda-Stirnguss-Anwendung

Ayurveda-Hall

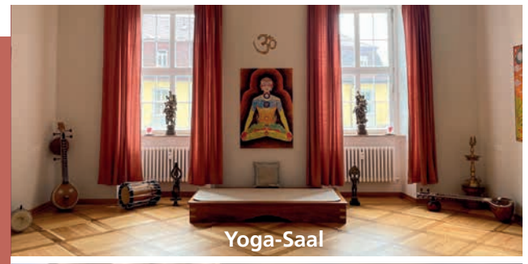


Original Indische Einrichtung



Das Ayurveda-Team

Ayurveda-Komfort-Zimmer



Yoga-Saal

Ayurveda-Öl-Massage

Ayurveda-Ärztinnen

Ayurveda-Kur-Gästezimmer

Terasse im Ayurveda-Kurzentrum

Sommerangebot: Panchakarma-Kur

10 oder 14 Tage

Die Panchakarma-Kur besteht aus fünf Methoden der Entgiftung und Verjüngung für Körper, Geist und Seele. Die Kur fördert den allgemeinen Gesundheitszustand und regt den Körper somit zur Selbstheilung an.

Unser Angebot ist buchbar bis 30. September 2025.

10 bzw. 14 Tage (Ankunft ab 8.30 Uhr)

- 9 bzw. 13 x Übernachtung im BioHotel Schloss Kirchberg
- Ayurvedische Vollverpflegung jeweils 9 bzw. 13 Mal: Frühstück, Mittagessen und Abendessen inkl. Ayurvedischen Getränken und Wasser
- 10 bzw. 14 x Consultation mit Ayurveda Doktor
- 10 bzw. 14 x individuelle Ayurveda-Behandlung am Vormittag (je 60 Min.)
- 9 bzw. 13 x individuelle Ayurveda-Behandlung am Nachmittag (je 30 Min.)
- 9 bzw. 13 x Yoga & Meditation (je 60 Min.)
- Sauna, Entspannungsraum & Terrassen (täglich nutzbar)

10 Tage: ~~2.800 €~~ 2.400 € p.P.
14 Tage: ~~3.920 €~~ 3.300 € p.P.

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