



Biodynamic Viticulture Training Curriculum



**Biodinamikus
Mezőgazdálkodásért
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Introduction to Biodynamic Viticulture Methods

A comprehensive guide for introducing and expanding biodynamic viticulture. This structured framework is designed to help build networks, host engaging introductory courses, and deepen practical knowledge for winegrowers and multipliers like inspectors or retailers.

1. Build Up a Network: Map and Identify Pioneers

In regions where biodynamic viticulture is in its early stages—where certified wineries are rare and stakeholders are disconnected—fostering community is essential to broadening the movement.

- **Map & Connect:** Identify local pioneers, initiatives, and interested projects to encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing, and conversion.
- **Utilize Resources:** Work with structured guides like the **VITA catalogue of measures for biodynamic viticulture** to provide a clear roadmap.
- **Host Low-Threshold Events:**
 - Organize visits to established biodynamic wineries, farms, and gardens to look beyond just winemaking.
 - Invite international experts and practitioners from neighboring countries to share their personal conversion stories.
 - Focus initial workshops on practical, foundational concepts such as compost making, preparation making, and soil understanding.
 - Address the burning questions and immediate needs of participants.

2. Introduction Courses: Hands-On and Peer-to-Peer Learning

Designed to awaken interest and let participants experience biodynamics in living practice on-site, these courses emphasize a practical approach to sustainable, climate-friendly, and resilient viticulture.

- **On-Site Experience:** Courses take place directly with experienced winemakers where original elements of biodynamic viticulture are actively practiced.
- **Knowledge transfer** on relevant topics by national and international experts
- **Support & Inspiration:** The curriculum strengthens participants' motivation to pursue biodynamics while supporting winegrowers through their personal conversion journeys.

3. Deepening Courses: Advanced Mastery

For those ready to take their practice further, deepening courses transition from general concepts to advanced, specialized topics.

- **Sharpen Sensory Skills:** Refine observation techniques in both the vineyard and the cellar.
- **Advanced Preparations:** Master preparation making, evaluate preparation quality, and learn technical application methods.
- **Extending the Philosophy** of the vineyard into the winemaking and aging process
- **Develop Personalized Conversion Planning**
there is no one-size-fits-all template. It requires a tailored strategy
- **Philosophy-** dive deeper into the meaning of the Agriculture Course

Note: Biodynamic viticulture is above all a living practice. Success comes from direct observation, hands-on experimentation, and strong community collaboration.

Content Pillars

Biodynamic methode

- general introductory: what is Biodynamic Viticulture
moving from chemical reliance to holistic farm individuality
burning issues in viticulture, nutrition, environment and medicine, social life
- philosophy, soil and the living vineyard
- the farm as an organism and preparation overview
- case studies: visit biodynamic wineries as a good practice and learn about
 - soil aspects
 - the winery as a living entity
 - looking at the vineyards and surroundings
 - how are animals integrated
 - identifying human resources

Understanding of nature, soil-plant-animal-human, perception of nature and landscapes

- circular economy
- what is a farm organism
- how can I arrange my winery in a living organism
- climate change adaptation – how biodynamic practices improve water retention, vine resilience and frost protection

Understanding of soil

- how to work with the soil
- how to manage green cover crops
- simple spade diagnosis to evaluate soil compaction and root depth
- how to maintain fertility in the soil
- how are soil, fertility, manure and composting interrelated

practice in Biodynamics and hands-on workshop

- rhythms of nature and plant protection
- salutogenese and pathogenese, deeper look at certain grape diseases
- soil management
- compost making
- natural plant protection – teas, decoctions, micro-dosages of minerals, biodynamic sprays
- soft pruning and canopy management
- animals in the winery
- varieties and grafting
- how to make and use preparations, understand their effects
- cellar work and minimal intervention winemaking – translating vineyard health into the cellar

identity of a winegrower in conversion towards Biodynamics

- practical realities of conversion – shared experiences from local pioneers
- why do I change my way of viticulture
- what do I expect from this new method
- how will my colleagues, my family, my parents see this step
- where do I find support

peer-to-peer-learning

- peer review circles during courses: small group breakdown where participants discuss lectures, specific questions or personal challenges
- establishing local peer-support groups and scheduling ongoing mutual farm visits

international standards, inspection, certification

- where to find the relevant standards
- what are the core elements of biodynamic standards
- conversion of the whole winery
- animals in the vineyards, welfare of animals
- composting
- biodynamic preparations
- biodiversity
- cooperation between farms
- list of allowed inputs
- documentation

Goetheanistic approach

- the Agricultural Course – aspects and reading workshop
- Goetheanistic approach of science – methods, work with plants, observation of plants, landscape, weather
- artistic elements

Marketing

- how to connect to the Demeter market
- how to sell wines or alcoholfree and other products with a better price
- export and local market development
- local associations and selling points
- international development of markets

Not all subjects can be treated in the course, but the idea is to balance the topics out of all these primary aspects. In an introduction workshop 4-6 aspects should be present. Trainings could also focus on one specific topic, e.g. like soft pruning.