



Swiss Federal Research Station for Agroecology and Agriculture

Eidgenössische Forschungsanstalt für Agrarökologie und Landbau

Station fédérale de recherches en agroécologie et agriculture

Stazione federale di ricerche in agroecologia e agricoltura

Partner Name: Frick Claudia, Dr. Thomas Hebeisen
email: claudia.frick@fal.admin.ch, thomas.hebeisen@fal.admin.ch
web: <http://www.reckenholz.ch>
Postal Address: Forschungsanstalt für Agrarökologie und Landbau (FAL)
Reckenholzstr. 191
CH – 8046 Zürich
Telephone: +41 1 377 71 11
Fax: +41 1 377 72 01

Interest and Expertise of the group “Special Field Crops, Renewable Raw Materials”

We are interested in new alternative crops such as protein and oil plants. The main crops are soja, lupins, peas or sunflower, poppy and safflower, respectively. We carry out field trials with focal point on variety recommendation. We advice farmers on how to cultivate these alternative crops. We are also address for information about plants used as renewable raw materials such as hemp or miscanthus.

Interest and Expertise of the division “Ecological farming systems”

Agriculture should be based on sustainable production systems to maintain soil fertility. We gather basic knowledge in order to allow high quality production of foodstuffs and feed with as little damage to the environment as possible. We investigate the influence of various farming systems on biotic and abiotic environmental factors and encourage alternative farming methods as well as non-chemical plant protection strategies. We develop holistic farming systems according to which crop rotations, selection of varieties, soil cultivation and use of fertilisers as well as non-chemical plant protection and ecological compensation areas are perfectly tuned to one another. We endeavour to develop environmentally sound farming methods and to adapt them to the prevailing geographical and climatic conditions. In plant breeding and biological pest control, we apply biotechnological methods.

Interest and Expertise of the institute

As the National Center for Agroecology, FAL takes into consideration the requirements of agricultural practice and extension, and of political, environmental and public demands. We keep in touch with all our stakeholders. Our research integrates ecological aims and agricultural production aspects.

We cooperate closely with universities as well as with our five sister research stations. Together with the Research Station for Plant Production in Changins (RAC), we form the center of competence for "field crops, grasslands and agroecology".

We combine environmental protection and agriculture and promote the diversity of plants and animals. We develop environmentally sound cultivation techniques and assess the impact of protective measures.