



EARA

European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture

Founding Farmers Conference

15 to 17 November 2023 | Akademie Schloss Kirchberg/Jagst

Press Release | 17 November 2023

Farming Pioneers Found European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture at Schloss Kirchberg

Kirchberg/Jagst, Germany, November 17, 2023 – The European Alliance of Regenerative Agriculture is officially founded.

For two days, 50 of the most advanced farmers of regenerative agriculture from more than 20 countries across Europe have convened to self-organize in a coordination and political advocacy alliance. This conference is the culmination of an accelerating urgency and a growing regenerative community in Europe and beyond.

It is more imperative than ever to farm for regeneration - for nutrient-dense, resilient and high yields through farming for biodiversity and ecological functions.

EARA serves to make the voices of farming pioneers central in relevant political discourses towards the urgently needed regenerative transformation of our agri-food ecosystems. At the conference a common mission, vision and organizational institution to enable coordination and policy advocacy have been established.

The alliance aims at guiding political and economic decision-making in the EU member states and in EU institutions and corporations, and to prevent industries from dominating the discourse on defining regenerative agriculture. It is self-evident that its defining principles need to be shaped by the pioneers of regenerative agriculture. The four defining principles for stewarding towards Regenerative Agriculture EARA is declaring are the following:

1. Regeneration is an outcome-oriented process regarding social, ecological and economic health
2. Regeneration is context-specific
3. Regeneration is a life-enhancing process, rather than a permanent state, which is evolving within context
4. Regeneration is systemic

EARA is currently working on a White Paper for a Regenerative Agri-food Ecosystem in Europe which will be presented at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28).

EARA will develop a farmer and soil health centred proposal for the CAP post-2027. We advocate for a CAP that can build fairness, planning security, debureaucratization and performance-based remuneration for farmers while growing resilience and innovation in agricultural production through socio-ecological regeneration for multiple benefits to farmers, people and the planet alike.

Background

Farmers across Europe are under heavy pressure from climate change, bureaucratic burdens, labour shortages and other factors. Farmers and citizens alike suffer from growing market and power asymmetries in agri-food ecosystems.

The current governance mode fails to facilitate the needed socio-ecological trend reversals. Competing policy narratives employed to facilitate the trend reversals have led to a practical deadlock of agricultural policy. The regenerative transformation is impeded by a practice-based and short-term policy approach that alienates farmers who are struggling to plan for security in a volatile market environment.

Press requests:

Simon Krämer, Policy Steward

skraemer@eara.farm

+49 15125181191

Natascha Schwarzkopf, Alliance Builder

nschwarkopf@eara.farm

www.eara.farm



Picture Caption

The Founding Farmers present at the Founding Conference of the European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture at Schloss Kirchberg on 15 to 17 November 2023

Credit © Jakob Krüger, Nina Reichmann, Paul Näther

The Akademie für ökologische Land- und Ernährungswirtschaft Schloss Kirchberg („Akademie Schloss Kirchberg“ in short) belongs to the Haus der Bauern Foundation. The non-profit foundation was established in 2012, being the socio-political institution of the Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall, an association of 1,560 family farms from the Hohenlohe region in Baden-Württemberg. The Akademie Schloss Kirchberg organises and conducts education and policy work along the value chain from field to fork. Within that framework it focuses on climate resilience, the Agenda 2030 and global farmers' rights.

Akademie Schloss Kirchberg
Stiftung Haus der Bauern
Schloss Kirchberg
74592 Kirchberg an der Jagst
Phone: +49 (0)7954 9211880
Email: akademie@hdb-stiftung.com
www.akademie-schloss-kirchberg.de

The European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture (EARA) is a farmer-led coordination and political advocacy organisation of the movement of regenerative agriculture at the European level. It is firmly rooted in its pioneering farming stewards from all of Europe's diverse contexts. EARA is striving to enable the transformation of our agri-food system through accountable ecological, economic and social regeneration, beginning with the health of our living soils.

EARA is hosted and co-enabled by
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Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 34, 10178 Berlin
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