

Biodynamic Agricultural
Association of
Southern Africa



*To strengthen, promote and advance
the practice of biodynamic agriculture
in Southern Africa*

THE BIODYNAMIC ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA OFFERS A 2 YEAR, HANDS-ON, ON-FARM TRAINING PROGRAMME - OVERVIEW:

Introduction: This course is based on the one given in the United Kingdom by the Biodynamic Association (www.biodynamic.org.uk) and is quality assured by Crossfields Institute (www.crossfieldsinstitute.com). It is thus an internationally recognised course. (We are in the process of applying for South African accreditation for this course.) It is therefore non-credit bearing in South Africa. However, it is important to note that whilst this is not credit bearing, it is highly regarded in organic, biodynamic and alternative farming communities and allied practices.

Course Aims and Objectives: The BDAASA Agricultural Training Programme aims to provide its trainees with the skills, knowledge and understanding to work confidently and independently in a biodynamic enterprise.

The BDAASA Agricultural Training Programme aims to prepare its trainees for the vocation of the biodynamic farmer/gardener.

Experience and Probation: Ideally the applicant must have completed 6 months practice on a farm. However all trainees must undergo a probation period between 3 – 6 weeks regardless of experience prior to full registration. If the probation period is successful, the trainee will be offered full registration placement.

Programme structure: The Trainer on each farm or holding carries ultimate responsibility for the welfare and education of the trainees. The Biodynamic Agricultural Training Group coordinates the training and supplements the practical learning with courses designed to inspire a deepened understanding of biodynamic agriculture. Trainees are expected to take part in regular study groups and tutorials and to complete a certain amount of project work. Additional seminars on key subjects are arranged between the farm centres during the year. The keeping of a daily work diary, a portfolio of evidence and the independent completion of assessed work is an essential component of the training. Trainees can start at any time and

will slot into the programme from that point on for 2 years (the themes are not progressive but stand alone).

The Programme has 1000 Notional Learning Hours, and is taught at level 3 (UK). Trainees must take all nineteen mandatory units, two mandatory selected units and in some instances optional units totalling 1000 Notional Learning hours. This training, must be successfully completed before a certificate of completion can be issued to the trainee.

Learning Units

Themes	Units
(1) World task of agriculture (Human/Social)	History of agriculture, Nutrition and food, Personal development, Cycle of the year and culture, People and land
(2) Soil	Compost, Major elements and their cycles, The biodynamic preparations and peppers, Soil cultivation, Soil science
(3) Plant	Cosmic and terrestrial forces, Plant science and phenomenology, Crop rotation, Plant health, The cropping plan and seed order, Plant propagation, The growing crop, Crop harvest, Seed saving and breeding, Protected cropping, Irrigation, Fruit growing, Forest woodland and hedges, Grassland and fodder, Arable cropping.
(4) Animal	Animal anatomy and phenomenology, Draft animals, Biodynamic dairy cattle husbandry, Biodynamic beef husbandry, Biodynamic sheep husbandry, Biodynamic pig husbandry, Biodynamic poultry husbandry, Bee keeping.
(5) Astronomy (cosmos)	Weather, Ethers, Evolution of consciousness, Cosmic phenomenology, Agricultural astronomy.
(6) Economic/Management/ Business	Regulatory requirements, Enterprise management, Gross margins and farm economics, Marketing.
(7) Farm Organism	Farm organism, Sustainable farm fertility, Farm Development, Energy on farms, Sustainable development in farming, Waste and resource management.
(8) Fencing, Machinery, Work Experience and Final Project	Fencing, Horticultural and garden Machinery. Tractor driving and maintenance, Work experience, Final project

Fees

The registration fee (non-refundable) of £350 Pounds Sterling is payable before commencement of the course (but after successful probation). A non-refundable monthly fee of R2000* is payable at the beginning of each month. (*Effective January 2016).

Next Step:

- Please request/peruse the Prospectus from training@bdaasa.org.za
- Contact training@bdaasa.org.za or call 021 881 3628 (Mon, Tues, Thur 8-12am)
- Request or fill in the Application form and return it to training@bdaasa.org.za