

Zerti4.0 – Development-oriented certification for organic farming and food processing

Status: current

Project start: 01.08.2020

Project end: 31.12.2023

Funding: Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

Project-Homepage: <https://www.demeter.de/forschung/zerti4.0>

Project Description:

The project assesses the applicability of a development-oriented procedure for certification in organic farming and food production. We will evaluate the effects of such an approach on problem solving and the development of farms according to the principles of the certifying organization based on an ongoing pilot project of the Demeter association for biodynamic food and farming. Further, we will investigate the applicability of the procedure in food processing in a test run with organic enterprises in Germany. The assessment of the procedure also includes a survey on consumer trust and acceptance.

The project comprises three modules:

Module A (Demeter e.V.) includes the coordination of the activities of the different partners, cooperation with the Demeter association, and knowledge transfer and communication.

Module B (BLQ) comprises a test application of the development-oriented certification procedure in food processing. The trial will be set up with enterprises in artisanal food production in the Demeter association. Basically, we will adapt the guidelines of the Demeter pilot project in the farming sector to the requirements and frame conditions in food processing.

Module C (Universität Hohenheim): The main focus of University of Hohenheim is the scientific evaluation of the development-oriented certification procedure both in the farming and food processing sectors. The evaluation in the farming sector is based on the ongoing pilot project of the Demeter association, while the evaluation of the procedure in food processing is done in cooperation with module B (see above). A Theory of Change will be established for both sectors to monitor the development of the development-oriented certification. SMART indicators for the evaluation of the procedure will be developed in a participatory approach with involved stakeholders. In addition, the trust and acceptance of consumers will be assessed by means of focus groups, expert interviews and a quantitative survey.

Involved institutions and persons:

University of Hohenheim, Societal Transition and Agriculture (430b)

- [Prof. Dr. Claudia Bieling](#)
- [M.Sc. Karlotta Koch](#)

Partners:

- Demeter e.V.
- Büro für Lebensmittelkunde & Qualität