

Country Report 2019 Spain. Asociación para la Agricultura Biodinámica en España (AABDE)

Year 2019 was a very difficult year for the Association. Discussions and polarization between Board members arisen in two Member's Assemblies held in year 2018 ended in a tense Member's Assembly by June 2019. Then a Management Commission was elected to take the administration of the Association until a new Board could be elected by the members this year 2020.

Two different views for the future development of the Association were under discussions. On the one hand those who wanted to continue with a major focus on the certification strategy developed along the last seven – ten years. That was before and after the Association became a full member of the Demeter International Federation (year 2013) were all the Association will was concentrated on the support of the certification activity. This view was led by the director of the certification office.

On the other hand were those who wanted to change that predominance where the main focus should be the cultural life of the Association: advisory, training and research. Then the certification should become a service to those members who want to be identified in the organic and biodynamic market by their step forward committing with the biodynamic principles and vision for the future.

The Management Commission was settled for one third of each group mentioned before and a further third including people more independent: nine members in total. Little progress has been made so far due to very difficult relationships within the Commission and two members of the Commission resigned after a few months. Some progress however was possible in the integration of the certification office within the activities of the Association by unifying the physical office and the website. Nevertheless the certification unit continues in fact working as an independent organ within the Association.

The director of the certification office was fired up before the Member's Assembly: June 2019. That causes a deep crisis within the Association but also in the team in charge of the certification work. Nevertheless it was possible to end the year with no too bad results on that particular side (see details in annex). The direction of the certification office was taken up by an appointed expert chosen by Demeter International but the full membership of the Association within the Federation was kept and still remains. The Management Commission also hired new people to reinforce the team in charge of the certification.

On the other hand the Association was present in several national and international fairs as usual: Biofach in Germany, BioCultura in Madrid (Spain) as well as in the second edition of the Iberian Biodynamic Fair held in Albacete (central eastern of Spain) organised by Con Respeto Group.

*Ricardo Colmenares
Member of the Management Commission of the "Asociación para la Agricultura Biodinámica en España" (AABDE)
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