



Open field day of 23rd May 2017: Mulching in vegetable crops and climate friendly farming at the Pfänder Farm

Johannes and Florian Pfänder are farmers at the [Bioland farm Pfänderhof GbR](#) in Schwabmünchen, Bavaria, Germany. The internal supply of nutrients within their organic vegetable farm to have a closed nutrient cycle without having to purchase fertilizers is particularly important to them. They aim to achieve this without having any animals on the farm, thus ensuring optimal nutrient management is crucial for them.

For this reason, they are also involved in the European joint project SOLMACC. Within the scope of this project, more climate-friendly cultivation methods in organic farming are implemented and scientifically evaluated on twelve organic farms in Italy, Sweden and Germany.



Pfänderhof open field day; Credits: Sigrid Griese

“Even a farm without animal husbandry is able to grow high-quality foodstuffs and maintain soil fertility with the farm's own fertilizers” say the farmers Johannes and Florian Pfänder. In the course of the project, they have introduced an innovative mulching process for this purpose. In this process, the cut of clover grass is spread between the vegetable crops and thus fulfils other functions such as protection against soil erosion and dehydration as well as weed suppression in addition to the fertilizing effect.

The open field day participants were able to find out about the objectives of the projects as well as the more technical details about the implementation of the climate-friendly practices being applied at the Pfänder farm. Lectures on mulching in vegetable crops and other climate-friendly cultivation methods were on the agenda, along with practical and concrete introduction to the various mulching methods with explanations by the Bioland consultant and the farmers Johannes and Florian Pfänder.



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