

Annual Report 2024



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*innovativ
powerful
independent*

Management report of the managing directors 2024



*Hans Matzenberger
Managing Director*

*Maria Geitzenauer
Authorized signatory / Head of
Control and Certification*

Dear customers,
Dear employees,

We are publishing our first annual report in 2024. The aim is to give our valued customers as well as our employees an insight into the company's developments – in addition to all the information that is otherwise available on our website.

When Austria Bio Garantie (ABG) was founded in 1993, few believed in the success of organic on the market and in the vision of an independent, reputable and transparent control system. Time has proven us wrong – organic has grown steadily and the organic inspection system has been continuously improved and optimized.

In 1998, agroVet GmbH was founded as a subsidiary with the aim of being able to offer customers highquality inspections of conventional standards in addition to organic standards.

In 2019, the founders of ABG founded EASY-CERT group AG (ECG) together with the owners of bio.inspecta AG and transferred the ownership shares to ECG. In Austria, the organic farming division of Austria Bio Garantie GmbH was transferred to the non-profit organization Austria Bio Garantie – Landwirtschaft GmbH.

In January 2020, the customers of BIKO Tirol were included in the Bio Garantie network, and the location in Innsbruck has since been a strengthened location of our network.

Then came COVID-19 and with it an economically difficult time for all of us. Together with the ECG, we dived through this valley, we reorganized as a company and partly reinvented ourselves without losing our roots.

The digitalization of processes and the implementation of many interfaces to partners and standard holders now make us a highly modern and customer-focused certification body. We are proud of our employees in the departments and locations, who work successfully for our customers with great commitment and motivation. We would also like to make special mention of our freelance inspection bodies, who work professionally on site every day.

In conclusion, we would like to thank our customers, partners and employees for the trust they have placed in us, their often long-standing cooperation and their willingness to break new ground with us.

Best regards,

Hans Matzenberger and Maria Geitzenauer



Processing innovations 2024



Sandra Feiler
Head of Processing

Resource planning – targeted use of expertise

Inspections are increasingly being carried out by competent contract inspectors. Some of them have many years of industry experience (e.g. as quality managers or production managers in food or animal feed production) and are very familiar with the challenges faced by the inspected companies. Communication at eye level is possible!

Internal employees check the inspections carried out using the 4 eyes principle and carry out certifications and assessments. They are competent contacts for companies for all questions relating to inspection and certification.

Organic certificates – Traces

Since March 2024, customers have received their organic certificate in a standardized layout with the collected information in one document. The Austrian annex is no longer used to present the certified products; instead, the products are presented in the optional part (Part II – Specific optional information) under point 1) List of products on the Traces certificate.

Customer survey in the new design

After the main inspection, every customer receives a newsletter containing the customer survey. The questionnaire is simple and covers the assessment of the inspection performance, the inspector and the overall assessment of the inspection body: details can be found on the homepage under "News".

Adapting the range of services to market requirements

The range of services is continuously checked for market attractiveness in order to always offer companies the inspections and certifications that are in demand on the market. Effective and cost-saving cooperation with other certification bodies is becoming increasingly important. In 2024, agroVet gave up accreditation for the QS standard. Affected customers were offered the opportunity to continue this certification with the QAL certification body. This enabled a smooth and assisted transition.

Modern training via Academy

Training and further education are the basic prerequisites for carrying out inspections and certifications. In order to make this necessity attractive, training courses have been held exclusively via the Academy since 2024. This modern training program offers the opportunity to complete learning units when there is sufficient time to do so. Content can be worked through as often as required. A quiz at the end ensures that the learning content has been understood. This new and attractive training program is very popular with inspectors and employees!

Service	Number of customers as at 31.12.2024
Organic Regulation VO (EU) 2018/848	2.290
Directive on the definition of "GMO-free production" of food and its labeling	280
Protected designation of origin "Heumilch g.t.S"	46
Protected designation of origin "Tiroler Bergkäse g.U."	7
Protected designation of origin "Tiroler Speck g.g.A."	7
Feed guideline of Agrarmarkt Austria pastus+	197
ISCC (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification)	134



Innovations in agriculture 2024



Günther Schopper
Head of Agriculture

Digital transmission of documents

In 2024, a start was made on transmitting certificates, invoices and other correspondence to customers digitally as far as possible. The response from businesses has been consistently positive.

This was a further step in the digitalization process that Austria Bio Garantie (ABG) has been pushing for several years.

In order to make inspection processes more efficient and cooperation between departments and locations more flexible and independent of location, the inspection and the entire certification process is carried out exclusively digitally – and therefore paperless.

"Antonius" inspector app

ABG has developed its own app to prepare for inspections and provide important documents and information. This facilitates efficient route planning and inspection preparation.

If a data release declaration for the AMA data has been granted by the customer, the overview of the area data is available to the inspector during the inspection. This means that site plans no longer need to be available on the farm for areas specified in the multiple application. Further development of this app is also planned for the coming years.

New inspection staff

As it was already foreseeable that human resources in the area of inspection personnel would have to be increased in 2024, all customers were contacted by newsletter in the second half of 2023 in order to recruit practitioners from the industry as inspection bodies.

Due to the numerous responses, the demand was well covered.

Competent on-site inspections ensure an efficient inspection and certification process.

World-Climate Farm Tool

The World-Climate Farm Tool is a digital instrument for climate accounting in agriculture. It enables the systematic recording and evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to make climate protection potential visible and to support farms in reducing their emissions sustainably.

In 2024, a pilot project was launched with more than 340 organic farms. The findings: data collection is simple and efficient and is carried out directly on the farms by trained specialists. The time required is only one to two hours and the survey can sometimes be combined with other inspections such as organic or GMO-free inspections.

In the long term, the World-Climate Farm Tool is intended to represent a new field of activity for ABG – as an additional service for climate-friendly and future-oriented organic farming.



Corporate structure May 2025

