

The BLE.

For agriculture
and food



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food



The Federal Office employs more than 1,700 staff, of whom almost 200 work at sea.



The BLE operates 6 vessels, which are also involved in the work of the Maritime Safety and Security Centre (MSZ), Cuxhaven.



More than 600 publications on food and agriculture are available for download at www.ble-medienservice.de



The BLE is developing over 260 IT processes at a modern, hyper-converged data centre.



Around 700,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables subject to standards are imported and exported each year.



The BLE manages around 370 million euros in funding each year as a project management agency.



Achieving a „work-life balance“ is an honoured promise. The BLE offers over 1,000 remote jobs.



The BLE provides training: on land and at sea.



Well over 300 procurement procedures are processed each year. The BLE is an administrative service provider - clients include the German Bundestag and the Federal Chancellery.



More than 10,000 consumer questions are answered by the consumer helpline team every year.

*A secure supply
and sustainable food
produced by sustainable
agriculture in strong
rural areas:*

*This is what the Federal
Office for Agriculture and
Food (BLE) would like to
contribute to.*

The federal office's headquarters are in Bonn. It supports the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) by implementing strategies and measures. This is done in a broad range of topics relating to agriculture and nutrition. The focus is on:

- Securing and stabilising the agricultural market
- Supporting funded projects and federal programmes
- Providing information for a broad public

In addition, it acts as an administrative service centre for the BMEL. It also offers this service to other authorities and institutions of the federal administration. To ensure that everything runs smoothly from a technical point of view, the BLE's IT Landscape in its data centre is built on IT baseline protection in accordance with ISO 27001.

Securing and stabilising the agricultural market

Quality control, transparency and traceability are necessary so that we can enjoy good quality food without any worries. Security in the value chain also includes ensuring that supplies are guaranteed in the event of a crisis – for example, in the event of natural disasters. Finally, EU-wide price stability in the agricultural sector ensures that consumers pay reasonable prices and producers are remunerated fairly.

- The BLE, as market regulatory body and EU paying agency, supports EU-wide price stability through intervention and storage, when required.
- The BLE issues import and export licences for agricultural products in the EU-wide movement of goods.
- Both on land and at sea, it takes on a variety of control tasks. In the event of a crisis the BLE monitors nationwide emergency food supplies.





Supporting funded projects and federal programmes

Translating scientific findings into practice, driving innovations, or strengthening international cooperation: As project management agency, the BLE is commissioned by the BMEL to accompany research projects from the idea stage through to practical applicability and thus provides investment incentives.

The topics extend along the entire value chain in the agriculture and food sectors. What they all share as a common trait is future viability and sustainability.

Topics covered by project management agency BLE

- Resource-saving crop production
- Animal welfare
- Sustainable fishery and aquaculture
- Healthy diet
- Organic farming
- Biological diversity
- Rural development
- EU-research issues
- International co-operation and global nutrition
- Consumer protection

The BLE oversees numerous BMEL programmes

These include, for example:

- Organic Farming (BÖL)
- Digitalization and AI in the agriculture and food sectors
- Rural development and regional value creation (BULEplus)
- Livestock husbandry
- Energy efficiency
- Innovation support
- Arable farming strategy

Providing information to a broad public

Independent and reliable information is important for forming a differentiated opinion. The BLE provides a broad public and special target groups from agricultural practice or nutrition counselling with up-to-date information. The federal office's media offerings range from websites, newsletters, and print products to events, press relations, and social media activities.

The **Federal Information Centre Agriculture (BZL)** accompanies and supports the change towards socially accepted and sustainable agriculture in Germany. Information and communications on agriculture, horticulture and viticulture, fisheries, beekeeping, the food industry, and forestry are its areas of expertise. It also collects data and conducts evaluations in accordance with legal requirements.

The **Federal Centre for Nutrition (BZfE)** supports a resource-conserving and more sustainable approach to food along the entire food chain. It aims to help individuals develop a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle. To do this, it compiles and classifies the wealth of information, and makes the results available in a way that is appropriate for specific target groups.

The **German Networking Unit for Rural Areas (DVS)** seeks to bring together committed people in rural areas and to support them through knowledge transfer. It keeps a broad professional public informed through events and the media.

In addition, other BLE units, such as the in-house federal programmes, provide their target groups with suitable information on topics such as organic farming, biological diversity, or digitalisation in agriculture.

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www.ble.de