

The BLE.

Diversity makes
us strong



Federal Office
for Agriculture and Food



The Federal Office employs round about 1,800 people,
including more than 200 at sea.



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



More than 600 publications on nutrition and agriculture
can be downloaded at www.ble-medienservice.de.



The BLE develops over 260 IT processes
in a modern, hyper-converged data centre.



Each year, almost 700,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables
that are subject to regulatory standards are inspected during import and export.



The BLE administers around 406 million euros in funding annually
as a project sponsor.



The BLE takes work-life balance seriously,
offering more than 1,400 mobile workplaces.



The BLE provides training:
on land and at sea.



Around 300 procurement procedures are carried out each year.
As an administrative service provider, the BLE counts the Office of the Federal President and the Federal Chancellery among its customers.



More than 9,000 citizens queries
responds the team responsible for consumer protection every year.

We combine knowledge with impact – for agriculture and nutrition.

With its expertise, the BLE works as a co-design and implementation authority for sustainable agriculture, food, fisheries, and livable rural areas.

For over 30 years, the BLE has been the central interface between agriculture, food, the environment, and society. The agency is headquartered in Bonn. It supports the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH) by implementing strategies and measures. The focus is on:

- Control tasks, crisis management, and agricultural market stabilisation
- Support for funding projects and implementation of federal programmes
- Communication on agricultural and food issues

In addition, it provides administrative services to the BMLEH and other authorities. To ensure that everything runs smoothly from a technical perspective, the BLE's IT landscape is based on a data centre certified for IT baseline protection in accordance with ISO 27001.

Control tasks, crisis management, and agricultural market stabilisation

To ensure that we can enjoy safe food, it is crucial that we have quality control, transparency and traceability. It is equally important to maintain a reliable supply, even during crises such as natural disasters. Stable agricultural prices in the EU protect the interests of both consumers and producers.

As the market regulation authority, the BLE supports price stability and issues import and export licenses for agricultural products. It also implements EU law, such as the regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR). The BLE performs a wide range of control tasks both on land and at sea. It monitors emergency food supplies for crisis situations. In the fisheries sector, the BLE carries out control tasks, cooperates with the Maritime Safety and Security Centre (MSSC), and operates three fishery protection vessels and three fishery research vessels.





Supporting funding projects and implementing federal programmes

Putting scientific findings into practice, driving innovation, or strengthening international cooperation: as a project management agency, the BLE supports research projects on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH) from the initial idea to practical implementation, thereby creating incentives for investment. The topics covered span the entire agricultural and food industry value chain. What they all have in common is future viability and sustainability.

Topics covered by the BLE as a project management agency include:

- Sustainable livestock farming
- Digitalisation and AI
- Climate protection and climate adaptation
- Biological diversity
- Rural development
- Healthy nutrition
- International cooperation and the global food supply
- Consumer protection
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Sustainable forestry
- Organic farming
- Resource-efficient crop production

The BLE oversees numerous BMLEH programmes, for example in the following areas:

- Organic farming
- Digitalisation and AI in the agricultural and food industry
- Rural development and regional value creation
- Restructuring of animal husbandry
- Innovation promotion
- Arable farming strategy

Communication from field to plate

Effective communication is essential – particularly when it comes to issues that directly affect our everyday lives: such as what we eat, how we produce food, and how we take responsibility as a society. The BLE transforms scientific and practical findings into added value for society. It translates complex content into understandable, realistic and practical messages tailored to specific target groups.

The Federal Information Centre Agriculture (BZL) communicates in a balanced, reliable, and knowledge-based manner about agriculture, including



horticulture and viticulture, special crops, fisheries, beekeeping, nutrition, and forestry. The BZL conveys a realistic picture, promotes understanding, highlights perspectives, and encourages constructive social dialogue – for sustainable agriculture in Germany.

The Federal Centre for Nutrition (BZfE) is the competence and communication center for nutrition issues in Germany.



It provides clear, neutral, and scientifically sound information on food and drink-related topics. The BZfE offers a wide range of ideas for everyday eating – covering all stages of life from pregnancy to old age. In this way, it promotes health-conscious and sustainable lifestyles.

Other units of the BLE also provide their target groups with relevant information on topics such as organic farming, rural development, and biodiversity.

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