

17<sup>th</sup> Day of Life Sciences

# Shaping the Future Bioeconomy: Innovations from Biomass

Wednesday, 3 June 2026  
ZHAW Wädenswil

Register  
now!

# Day of Life Sciences

The 17<sup>th</sup> Day of Life Sciences of the Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology (ICBT) at ZHAW is dedicated to one of the most pressing topics of our time: the future of the bioeconomy. Under the guiding theme “Shaping the Future Bioeconomy: Innovations from Biomass”, the event highlights how renewable resources, biotechnological processes and chemical innovation can drive sustainable economic development.

Biomass is far more than a source of energy or raw materials. It forms the basis for new value chains, circular material flows and innovative business models. From biorefinery concepts and carbon management to novel materials, sustainable packaging solutions and cellular agriculture, the life sciences provide the scientific foundation and technological tools needed to reconcile environmental responsibility with economic performance.

The Day of Life Sciences 2026 brings together researchers, students, industry partners and stakeholders to showcase current projects, pilot applications and forward-looking concepts from applied

research and development. In a series of focused sessions—ranging from microbial processes and carbon utilisation to high-value biomass pathways and business-oriented innovations—we explore how scientific insights are translated into practical solutions.

We warmly invite you to join us at the ZHAW Campus Grüental in Wädenswil to exchange ideas, gain new perspectives and actively engage in interdisciplinary dialogue.

Be part of the Day of Life Sciences 2026!

# Program, Wednesday, 3 June 2026

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## Campus Grüental

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08:30–09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee	Foyer GA	
09:00–09:15	Welcome to the ZHAW	Aula GA 203	<b>Christian Hinderling</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
09:15–09:45	<b>Opening &amp; Keynote</b> Expanding biogas processes into broader biorefinery and bioeconomy systems	Aula GA 203	<b>Jerry Murphy</b> University College Cork, Ireland
09:45–10:45	<b>The Hidden Session – Microbiology as an Instrument</b>	Aula GA 203	
09:45–10:00	Helpers in the Rumen: How anaerobic gut fungi support biomass utilization		<b>Claudio Kalbermatten</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
10:00–10:15	Hydrogen-based in-situ methanation: powerhouses for future energy systems		<b>Diana Schweizer</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
10:15–10:30	Plastic reduction in green waste and substitution of mineral fertilizers		<b>Annelies Uebersax</b> Biomasse Suisse, Switzerland
10:30–10:45	Mustertext reduction in waste and substitution of mineral fertilizers		<b>Andrea Muster</b> Musterfirma
10:45–11:00	Coffee Break & Networking	Foyer GA	
11:00–12:00	<b>The Carbon Session – Biomass C-Molecule Power</b>	Aula GA 203	
11:00–11:15	Boosting lignocellulose biorefineries toward full biomass utilization		<b>Thomas Pielhop</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
11:15–11:30	Bio-based solid carbon removal for net-zero agriculture		<b>Roman Hüppi</b> myclimate, Switzerland
11:30–11:45	Biomass carbon removal and storage (BiCRS) – focus on hydrochar		<b>Ryan Graf / Pirmin Aaregger</b> RecoAL, Switzerland
11:45–12:00	Hydrothermal carbonization for contaminated biomass		<b>Gabriel Gerner</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
12:00–13:30	Lunch Break & Exhibition	Kalthaus Foyer GA	

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13:30–14:30	<b>The Value Session – High-Value Biomass Pathways</b>	Aula GA 203	
13:30–13:45	Producing volatile fatty acids from waste – pilot scale experiences		<b>Bernhard Drog</b> BEST, Austria
13:45–14:00	Cocoa powder and chocolate from plant suspension cells		<b>Lukas Hausherr</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
14:00–14:15	Biogas plants as flexibility providers in modern energy systems		<b>Andreas Lemmer</b> University of Hohenheim, Germany
14:15–14:30	Unlocking value from food side streams		<b>Claudio Beretta</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
14.30–15.00	Coffee Break & Networking	Foyer GA	
15:00–16:00	<b>The Future Session – Turning Biomass into Business</b>	Aula GA 203	
15:00–15:15	Startup pitch		<b>Slava Dirglov</b> PeelPack
15:15–15:30	Startup pitch		<b>Arthur Grow</b> KUORI
15:30–15:45	Startup pitch		<b>Peter Muster</b> Musterpitch
15:45–16:00	Startup pitch		<b>Peter Muster</b> Musterpitch
16:00–16:15	Closing & Outlook Summary and invitation to collaboration	Aula GA 203	<b>Hajo Nägele</b> ZHAW, Switzerland
from 16:45	Aperitif & Networking / Lab Tours	Foyer GA	

### Getting There

Whenever possible, please use public transport.

The journey by bus from Wädenswil railway station takes approximately 5–10 minutes.

### Public Transport

Bus line no. 123 or  
Bus line no. 126 to  
the stop Campus Grüental

### By Car

A limited number of paid parking spaces are available on Campus Grüental.

# Acknowledgement of our sponsors

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their valuable contribution to our Day of Life Sciences at ZHAW, as well as for their long-standing partnership. We wish everyone an inspiring and memorable day at ZHAW.

## Sponsors

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## Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology (ICBT)

The Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology at ZHAW focuses on applied research in the fields of chemistry, biotechnology, biomedicine and environmental sciences. Interdisciplinary teams conduct practice-oriented projects, including the development of biopharmaceuticals and innovative technologies such as 3D bioprinting.

With around 180 lecturers, researchers and scientific staff, ICBT has a strong international research profile. Through three Bachelor's degree programmes and two Master's specialisations, the institute educates more than 400 students, preparing them for successful careers in the growing life sciences sector.

For further Information  
to the Day of Life Sciences

