



## Carrot makes a school

### The RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation supports school gardens and agricultural training worldwide

*Legau, 19th September 2024 – In summer 2024, the RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation approved over 350,000 euros for charitable projects in Germany and internationally. The focus is on organic horticulture as a field of learning and experience in schools worldwide. The funded projects also improve food security in the Global South and help to generate income.*

In summer 2024, the foundation supported 16 charitable initiatives in Germany and around the world. The focus of the funding, some of which runs over several years, is on projects that combine organic horticulture with educational measures. The foundation has already provided over 350,000 euros in funding this year. 'We expect to award around the same number of grants again this year,' explains Margarethe Epple, Deputy Chairwoman of the Foundation's Executive Board. 'Educational access for children and further training programs in organic farming will definitely be included again.'

The initiatives supported include school gardens and horticultural education in Germany. More and more children and young people are lacking spaces where they can experience a connection to nature and self-efficacy. Gardening together promotes social skills and creates new connections.

'Children today are so far removed from natural cycles, even here in the countryside. And understanding develops through touching ...', says Kristina Wucher, head of Martinszell primary school in the Allgäu region, explaining why she is delighted to receive funding from the RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation for a school garden.

Headmaster Peter Kramer at Georgenhof, a children's and youth welfare centre with a school at the home on Lake Constance, adds: 'The digitalization of our access to the world and media consumption are exacerbating alienation and endangering a development that demands the opposite, namely connectivity, wonder, drive, compassion, joy, activity and commitment. With its fields of experience, horticultural education is human-forming, transformative and sustainable.'

The foundation also promotes horticulture and agriculture according to ecological principles in countries of the Global South. For example, it supports school gardens in Tanzania to combat malnutrition and undernourishment. Another project in Nepal, which is run by Weltweit e.V., integrates locally produced organic food into school lunches. This project also includes further training opportunities in organic farming and sustainable education programs at schools.

An initiative by the Timbaktu Collective, a farmers' association in Andhra Pradesh in India, supports smallholder producers in establishing regional distribution channels for organically produced vegetables. This project also contributes to improved food security and at the same time helps to generate income in an impoverished region.

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#### Contact:

RAPUNZEL Eine Welt Bio-Stiftung (One World Organic Foundation), Rapunzelstr. 1, 87764 Legau, Germany  
E-mail: [info@rapunzelbiostiftung.de](mailto:info@rapunzelbiostiftung.de), Phone: +49 (0) 83 30 / 529 – 13 20, [www.rapunzelbiostiftung.de/en](http://www.rapunzelbiostiftung.de/en),  
Coordinator: Holger Epp



‘We see actively giving children an understanding of natural cycles at an early age and equipping them with the ability to understand and create natural products themselves as an investment in the future,’ emphasises Leonhard Wilhelm, Chairman of the Foundation Board. ‘In the countries of the Global South, there is another important component: equipping people with methods of truly sustainable agriculture improves their living conditions in a decisive way - and in the long term. This is one of our foundation’s fundamental concerns.’

#### **About the foundation**

The RAPUNZEL One World Organic Foundation based in Legau in the Allgäu region is committed to strengthening organic agriculture, education and eco-social initiatives as well as health education and nutrition counselling both regionally and worldwide. The foundation sees itself as a consistent further development of the ecological and social commitment of Rapunzel Naturkost GmbH. The natural food pioneer provides the foundation with annual donations, including the Rapunzel Bio-Cent for every Rapunzel product sold. In addition, donations are made by other companies and private individuals.

More information about the foundation can be found at [www.rapunzelbiostiftung.de/en](http://www.rapunzelbiostiftung.de/en).

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Coordinator: Holger Epp