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Life Sciences and
Facility Management

17th Day of Life Sciences

Shaping the Future Bioeconomy: Innovations from Biomass

Wednesday, 3 June 2026
ZHAW Wädenswil

Register now!

www.zhaw.ch/icbt/day-of-lifesciences

Day of Life Sciences

The 17th 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!

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Program, Wednesday, 3 June 2026

Campus Grüental

08:30–09:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee	Foyer GA	
09:00–09:30	Welcome to the ZHAW	Aula GA 203	**Christian Hinderling** ZHAW, Switzerland
	Opening & Keynote Expanding Biogas Processes into Broader Biorefinery and Bioeconomy Systems		**Jerry Murphy** University College Cork, Ireland
09:30–10:30	**1: The Hidden Session – Microbiology as an Instrument**	Aula GA 203	Host: Hajo Nägele
09:30–09:45	Helpers in the Rumen: How Anaerobic Gut Fungi can Support Biomass Utilization		**Claudio Kalbermatten** ZHAW, Switzerland
09:45–10:00	Hydrogen-Based In-Situ Methanation: Powerhouses for Future Energy Systems		**Diana Schweizer** ZHAW, Switzerland
10:00–10:15	From Nutritional Proteins to Functional Materials: Prolamins as Candidates for Technical Applications		**Andrea Baier** ZHAW, Switzerland
10:15–10:30	Plastic Reduction in Green Waste		**Salomon Billeter** FHNW, Switzerland
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break & Networking / Exhibition	Foyer GA	
11:00–12:00	**2: The Carbon Session – Biomass C-Molecule Power**	Aula GA 203	Host: Wolfgang Merkle
11:00–11:15	Boosting Lignocellulose Biorefinery – Toward Full Biomass Utilization		**Thomas Pielhop** ZHAW, Switzerland
11:15–11:30	Bio-Based Solid Carbon Removal to Reach a Net-Zero Agriculture		**Roman Hüppi** myclimate, Switzerland
11:30–11:45	Biomass Carbon Removal and Storage (BiCRS): Comparison of Different Approaches, with a Deep Dive into Hydrochar		**Ryan Graf / Pirmin Aregger** Recoal AG, Switzerland
11:45–12:00	Hydrothermal Carbonization (HTC) for Contaminated Biomass: Treatment and Valorization Pathways		**Gabriel Gerner** ZHAW, Switzerland
12:00–13:30	Lunch Break & Exhibition	Kalthaus Foyer GA	

13:30–14:30	**3: The Value Session – High-Value Biomass Pathways**	Aula GA 203	Host: Hajo Nägele
13:30–13:45	Producing Volatile Fatty Acids from Waste – Pilot-Scale Experiences		**Bernhard Drosg** BEST, Austria
13:45–14:00	Cocoa Powder and Chocolate Based on Plant Suspension Cells		**Lukas Hausherr** ZHAW, Switzerland
14:00–14:15	Stabilizing Modern Power Grids: Coupling Flexible Biogas CHP Operation with on-Demand Biogas Production		**Andreas Lemmer** University of Hohenheim, Germany
14:15–14:30	Unlocking Value from Food Side Streams: Opportunities, Challenges & Case Studies		**Claudio Beretta** ZHAW, Switzerland
14.30–15.00	Coffee Break & Networking/ Exhibition	Foyer GA	
15:00–16:15	**4: The Future Session – Turning Biomass into Business**	Aula GA 203	Host: Wolfgang Merkle
15:00–15:15	Beyond Oil: Engineering the Bio-Revolution		**Slava Driglov** PeelPack
15:15–15:30	Biobased and Biodegradable Elastomers for Abrasion-Critical Applications		**Arthur Groh** KUORI
15:30–15:45	Carbon Removal: Turning Microalgae and Waste Streams into Climate Impact		**Mirko Kleingries** Arrhenius AG
15:45–16:00	Mycelium Materials: The Path from Novelty to Commodity		**Jonas Staub** Mycrobez AG
16:00–16:15	Fueling the Future: How Metafuels will Decarbonise Aviation Sector		**Pedro Álvarez** Metafuels AG
16:30–16:45	**Closing & Outlook** Summary and Invitation to Collaboration	Aula GA 203	**Hajo Nägele** ZHAW, Switzerland
from 16:45	Aperitif & Networking/Exhibition Guided lab tour at the GU site	Foyer GA GU	

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.

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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

May 2026