

# WWOOF NETWORK

## WORLD WIDE OPPORTUNITIES ON ORGANIC FARMS

[WWOOF - World Wide Opportunities On Organic Farms](#) is a worldwide movement linking volunteers with organic farmers and growers in an educational and cultural exchange. Born in 1971 in the United Kingdom, WWOOF celebrates in 2021

its 50 years of international activity helping to build a global community for organic farming and sustainable practices.

WWOOF is a cooperative network which offers members the opportunity to stay as volunteering guests on a wide variety of organic farms, smallholdings, gardens and other rural enterprises. The program is open to any person of 18 years of age or older, regardless of their experience. In return for volunteer help, WWOOF hosts offer volunteers food, accommodation and opportunities to learn about ecological lifestyles.

[The movement was founded in the United Kingdom by Sue Coppard](#) together with some experts and promoters of organic agriculture. They began the first WWOOF group opening up the way for interested UK organic farms to offer weeks of work and accommodation to volunteers in exchange for help. Soon this initiative began to spread to other countries, starting with New Zealand, where the second world's WWOOF was created.

Today WWOOF is a global movement, with over 100,000 volunteers helping out on more than 12,000 host farms in more than 130 countries. WWOOF's aim is to:

- Create a network within the ecological movement;
- Promote, inform and educate about agro-ecological farming and sustainability;
- Present ecological methods as viable alternatives;
- Promote solidarity between people as well as an ethical economy.

The WWOOF website presents the [map of the countries and organic farms involved](#) in the movement. The map, in addition to represent a tool for potential volunteers for choosing their destination, also shows the great success of the initiative, which brings benefits to the farmers following the principles of organic farming and to young people interested in learning the work of a new sustainable agriculture for the future.

The farms associated with WWOOF open their homes to receive visitors from their own country or abroad who want to have contact with the land and support the organic movement. The volunteers will live next to their host helping with daily duties and experiencing life as a farmer. For the volunteers this initiative represents a great



opportunity to make a farming and agricultural experience by learning skills such as bread making, weaving, cheese making, bee keeping, cider making, building straw bale houses, working with animals, making wine, and much more. It is also an opportunity of friendships with people from many different cultures and nationalities and the chance to experience different ways of life in other countries and continents.

From the beginning WWOOF promoted the implementation of national organizations to involve the largest number of organic farms in each country. These WWOOF organisations grew with a shared mission to educate people through practices inspiring cultural exchanges, and support local producers who are feeding their communities and training the next generation of farmers.

In 2013 WWOOF started the [Federation of WWOOF Organizations \(FoWO\)](#) to unite and support the WWOOF movement around the world. Starting with 12 member countries, this network of national organizations has now grown to 49. WWOOF groups around the world are recognized for the role they play for an organic agriculture as organic growers, for tourism, and even more important as the vehicle for people to travel and learn.

[In the WWOOF International website the list of the national WWOOF organizations is available](#) to establish direct contacts and become involved in the WWOOF community.

Farmers can also participate in the Movement as [WWOOF Independents](#) in countries without a national WWOOF organisation. WWOOF Independents links today 765 organic farmers & growers based in more than 80 countries. Any farm, community or garden project using organic methods that would like to participate in a cultural and educational exchange may join the program.

The WWOOF movement represents an extraordinary opportunity for young people interested in learning about agricultural development experiences inspired by the principles of organic farming ongoing in many countries of the world. It can simply represent a specific opportunity for knowledge and learning, but it can also generate motivation to engage in a challenging activity like ecological agriculture that will have a future if it manages to involve the younger generations.

The WWOOF movement represents at the same time a great opportunity for organic producers, to make their pioneering work know, to strengthen it in the countries where they work and to establish international partnerships through the volunteers welcomed and the WWOOF organizations of other countries.

### **To know more**

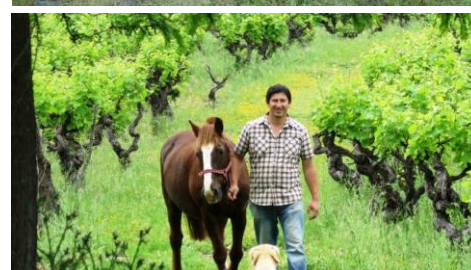
[WWOOF.net website](#)

[WWOOF in Facebook](#)

[WWOOF - Map](#)

[WWOOF Independents](#)

[WWOOF History](#)



[WWOOF national organizations](#)

[Guide - Living and Learning on Organic Farms](#)

[Erasmus Project in eedvory.weebly.com](#)

[Articulo en youth-time.eu](#)

[Article in ramblinfarmers.com](#)

