

Innovative Organic Agriculture in Tropical Greenhouses

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Abstract

Since spring 1999, a pilot tropical greenhouse with an area of 1'500 m² has been operating in Ruswil, near Luzern, Switzerland to evaluate various options to use waste heat for agricultural production. In this "Tropenhaus" (tropical house), which is unique in Switzerland and on an international scale, tropical fruit like bananas, papayas, starfruit, and guava, as well as tilapia fish, are produced successfully. The pilot project shows that fresh organic tropical products can be grown profitably and that there is a great demand. The enormous public interest in the project has given rise to several tropical greenhouse projects in Switzerland, Italy, and Germany. Some of them were implemented in 2007.

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