MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

A SHORT OVERVIEW OF IFOAM EU’S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE WORK
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IFOAM EU IS THE EUROPEAN UMBRELLA ORGANISATION FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING. WE FIGHT FOR THE ADOPTION OF ECOLOGICALLY, Socially AND ECONOMICALLY SOUND FOOD SYSTEMS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE – HEALTH, ECOLOGY, FAIRNESS AND CARE.

With more than 210 member organisations our work spans the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.

TRANSFORMING FOOD AND FARMING – MAKING IT HAPPEN

The organic movement is setting the stage for fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems across the globe. In the EU, we are making our Vision 2030 happen using our Roadmap to Sustainable Food and Farming Systems in Europe.

VISION 2030

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

IMPROVE INSPIRE DELIVER

FAIR PLAY FAIR PAY

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IFOAM EU OPERATIONS AND ORGANISATION

2018 INCOME

- Membership fees: 13%
- EU grants & co-finance: 27%
- Project foundations & sector: 12%
- Sponsors & donations: 9%
- Operational grant: 31%
- Services & others: 8%

2018 EXPENDITURE

- Salaries & related: 64%
- EU projects (without staff costs): 13%
- Rent & equipment: 2%
- Travel costs: 4%
- Services & others: 17%
GOVERNANCE AND OPERATING STRUCTURES

- The **General Assembly** is formed by all active IFOAM EU members who hold the ultimate power to change the IFOAM EU statutes.

- The **National Assemblies** are organised by IFOAM EU Members in each EU or EFTA country to elect representatives for the IFOAM EU Council.

- The **Board** is comprised of 9 people including a president, a treasurer and two vice-presidents, all of whom are selected according to sector-related and regional criteria.

- The **Council** transmits national interests and specificities to the European level (one member and up to two deputies per country).

- **Interest groups** are established to provide direct involvement from sectors in the organisation in formulating policies and positions of relevance for their sector.

- **Expert groups & task forces** bring together the huge expertise of IFOAM EU membership.

- The **office** grew from one employee in 2002 to 23.6 in 2018 to manage operations and activities in Brussels.

INTEREST GROUPS

- **Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF)**
- **Interest Group of Organic Processors & Traders (IGOP)**
- **Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR)**
- **Interest Group on Organic Certification & Integrity (IGOC)**

WORKING GROUPS

- **Expert groups**
  - Central Eastern Europe (CEE) Expert Group (Capacity Building)
  - EU coordination of the IFOAM Aquaculture Forum
  - European Organic Comms Hub
  - Expert Group on Plant Protection Products (PPPs) and Fertilisers
  - Expert Group on Seed
  - Genetically Modified Organisms – GMOs

- **Task forces**
  - Cosmetics
  - Implementation of the new organic regulation
  - Textile

- **Hosts the secretariat of the TP Organics research platform**
IFOAM EU’S ADVOCACY WORK

ANIMAL WELFARE & HEALTH

RESEARCH & INNOVATION
- Horizon 2020
- Horizon Europe
- European Innovation Partnership
- Host TP Organics

ORGANIC COSMETICS & TEXTILE

GMOs
- Coexistence
- Seed contamination
- GMOs approvals
- New genetic engineering techniques

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
- Eco-schemes
- Rural development
- Organic conversion and maintenance

ORGANIC REGULATION
- New organic regulation (2021)
- Current organic regulation
- Certification and integrity

SEED LEGISLATION
- Development and use of organic seeds
- Adaptation of new varieties to organic farming
- Organic heterogeneous material
- No patents on plants and native seeds

FOOD POLICY
- Green Public Procurement
- Fairness in the supply chain
- True cost accounting
- Coherence of food policies

EU LABELS
- Quality schemes and promotion programmes
- Eco-label

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES
- EU Environment Action Plan
- EU Soil Policy
- Water Framework Directive
- EU Biodiversity Strategy
- Product Environmental Footprint

HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY
- Pesticide and fertiliser legislation
- Food/feed controls

CLIMATE CHANGE
- The cross-cutting issue

EUROPEAN POLICIES
- IFOAM EU’s Advocacy Work

NEED INSPIRATION? HAVE AN INITIATIVE?
VISIT EUORGANIC2030.BIO

SUPPORTERS:
ORGANIC COSMETICS & TEXTILE
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
ORGANIC REGULATION
SEED LEGISLATION
FOOD POLICY
EU LABELS
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES
HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY
CLIMATE CHANGE
ANIMAL WELFARE & HEALTH
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
GMOs
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
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ANIMAL WELFARE & HEALTH
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
GMOs

MAKING IT HAPPEN
AN ORGANIC ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FARMING SYSTEMS IN EUROPE

VISION 2030
ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE
IMPROVE
INSPIRE
DELIVER
FAIR PLAY
FAIR PAY

The middle pages of this publication are a poster. Take it out and help us to transform food and farming systems in Europe!
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MAKING OUR VISION FOR ORGANIC BY 2030 HAPPEN

IMPROVE – INSPIRE

FOOD & FARMING ACTORS

Policy makers & citizens widely recognise the contributions of organic and promote it

Organic and agroecological practices are employed on more than half of EU farmlands

A support programme for young people to take over a farm or found organic businesses in Germany

Visi on 2030

FOOD & FARMING ACTORS

Citizens continue to choose organic food and have easy access to it

Engage and create links with actors beyond the organic sector

Reform the CAP to ensure that environmental and socio-economic outcomes delivered by farmers are fully incentivised and rewarded

To transform food and farming successfully, high quality food must become more widely available. This can be achieved by increasing production, while also raising the level of recognition among consumers and policy-makers of the economic, environmental and social benefits provided by organic production.

To make this happen, the organic sector needs to reach out to food and farming actors working both within and beyond organic. Engaging with conventional farmers, community leaders, citizens’ initiatives, companies and NGOs dealing with sustainability, as well as with schools, chefs and health advocates, will ensure the recognition and support needed in order to put organic food on every table. Creating links with these actors requires improvements in the way we communicate, and the use of diverse channels to tell the story of the benefits of organic food for society and ecosystems.

The success of organic food and farming also depends on their economic viability. This means that farmers, companies and the whole value chain need to invest to increase the production capacity, to support conversions and raise the profitability of organic, and to reduce the dependence on subsidies.

Policymakers also play a key role. A lot can be achieved with appropriate incentives and coherent policies to support the ecological and social services that farmers provide. One example would be to change the focus of the CAP to ensure fundamental support for farmers whose approaches inherently work towards the socioeconomic and environmental sustainability of their farms and their regions. Moreover, through the choices made in the canteens of schools and hospitals, and in the catering for offices and restaurants, public bodies and the private sector alike also play a vital role in shaping how we eat. Finally, access to land is critical for the development of sustainable farming. We need policies that address the phenomenon of land grabbing, limit land concentration, foster generational renewal and support new farmers.

To support start-ups and farms in the organic sector, Demeter Academy and partners offer young farmers and entrepreneurs knowledge, a biodynamic network, free space, feedback and support for legal, economic and social aspects of running organic businesses. The program consists of five modules, each focusing on different aspects of funding a business.

An evidence-based programme that impacts on health and well-being, education, sustainability and inequalities across communities

To inspire further change in our food and farming systems, organic producers need to continue reducing the use of resources at all levels, increasing productivity, recycling and reusing inputs, improving animal health and welfare, and avoiding waste. As processed food plays an ever bigger role in our lifestyles, organic actors also need to improve the quality of such foods, using healthier recipes and adopting minimal processing techniques. By promoting greater consumption of plant proteins and fewer, better quality animal products, the organic sector will contribute to healthier diets with a smaller carbon footprint. There is a direct link between improved performance in organic systems and increased know-how for organic food production. Therefore, organic food and

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

The environmental, social and public programme that unites organic beef farmers in Estonia. The scheme aims to give more grass-fed beef products and offers the highest prices country’s diverse grasslands. Organic and agroecological practices are resilient, continuously improve their performance & inspire change

Visi on 2030

A paradigm in knowledge, learning and teaching with farmers

Promote sustainable diets and the consumption of healthy food

Policy makers &

citizens widely

recognise the

contributions of

organic and

promote it

Leadership of food and farming systems is needed to ensure that value and power in the system, and that the costs and benefits of organic production for society and the environment do not go unrewarded. For food systems to make the transition to a more sustainable future, the whole food system – from primary producers to end consumers – needs to work together to ensure that value and power are fairly distributed. Value chains need to invest in increasing the production capacity, to support conversions and raise the profitability of organic, and to reduce the dependence on subsidies. Policymakers also play a key role. A lot can be achieved with appropriate incentives and coherent policies to support the ecological and social services that farmers provide. One example would be to change the focus of the CAP to ensure fundamental support for farmers whose approaches inherently work towards the socioeconomic and environmental sustainability of their farms and their regions. Moreover, through the choices made in the canteens of schools and hospitals, and in the catering for offices and restaurants, public bodies and the private sector alike also play a vital role in shaping how we eat. Finally, access to land is critical for the development of sustainable farming. We need policies that address the phenomenon of land grabbing, limit land concentration, foster generational renewal and support new farmers.

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Visi on 2030
It is a good time to be organic. Never before has the market been as big, nor has it grown as rapidly. But while the sector begins to expand beyond the niche market, the supply chain actors must retain their organic spirit and should play a role in finding solutions for fairer and more transparent food systems. They should do so in cooperation with entrepreneurs and economic actors outside the sphere of food and farming. For food systems to be transparent and fair, all actors need to work together to ensure that value and power are fairly distributed among all the operators in the system, and that the costs and benefits of food production are accounted for. In the organic sector, a continuous dialogue between producers, traders, certifiers and distributors would benefit the whole chain. There is a need for business models and supply chains that generate more added value for the primary producers, and which connect citizens with producers – both physically and virtually. The organic sector should also capitalise on technological developments, such as the Internet of things or block-chain technology, which promise to greatly enhance transparency about the origin, true value and production methods of food we buy. Policymakers also play an important part in maintaining balance in the value chains. Accommodating the costs and benefits of food production is complicated. It can be done in various ways, such as taxes on pesticides and fertilisers, or rewards for beneficial environmental practices. Europe needs to develop and adopt a basic set of indicators showing the impacts on soil quality, water use, waste production, energy and suchlike. A conducive environment for sustainable food and farming also depends on the availability of information on production and market trends, as this helps inform future investments. Policymakers must create incentives to encourage operators to exchange price and production data. At the same time, promoting local approaches, such as community-supported agriculture, bio-districts and city food networks, will encourage rural revival and build trust in the food systems.
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IFOAM EU is recognised by the EU Institutions as the leading advocate on EU policy for organic food and farming

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**
Executive body of the EU
- Strong contacts with the European Commission at all levels, especially with the Organics Unit as well as other Units in the Directorates General for Agriculture & Rural Development, Environment, Climate Action, Research & Innovation, Health & Food Safety, Maritime Affairs & Fisheries
- Participation in diverse consultations and European Commission Advisory and Civil Dialogue Groups on topics related to organic farming, CAP, direct payments, rural development, food chain quality and promotion, environment and climate change, EIP-AGRI, environment and climate change, research & innovation and the European structural and investment funds

**COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**
Legislative body of the EU
- Regular contact with national Permanent Representations and coordination of advocacy work at the national level to influence Council positions
- Cooperation with Council Presidencies: events such as the European Organic Congress with the Estonian Presidency in 2017
- Participation in high-level events like the Interparliamentary Meeting on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Cohesion Policy organised by the Romanian Presidency in 2019

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**
Legislative body of the EU
- Good relationships with key Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the organic regulation, CAP reform, GMOs, climate change and other environmental issues
- Many political events organised with key MEPs on various topics, such as agricultural and rural development, GMO-free seeds and climate change
- Invitations to speak in the European Parliament on Horizon 2020 and on the EU Organic Action Plan, CAP, plant protection and seed legislation

That’s why IFOAM EU has formed alliances with farmer organisations, environmental, animal welfare and development NGOs and other civil society groups, including Via Campesina, Friends of the Earth Europe, European Environmental Bureau, BirdLife Europe, Greenpeace, Slow Food Europe, Compassion in World Farming, COPA-COE, ACT Alliance, Oxfam, WWF, Corporate Europe Observatory, Pesticide Action Network, Fair Trade Advocacy Office and many more.
MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC MILESTONES

ORGANIC PRESENCE AT THE HEART OF THE EU
• High level of influence on relevant EU policies
• Unified organic voice now heard at all levels of the European institutions
• More than 210 member organisations spanning the entire organic food chain: farmers & processors, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders, researchers, and environmental & consumer advocacy bodies
• Strategic alliances with other NGOs

All reasons to be proud

ENSURING SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGROECOLOGICAL APPROACHES AND ORGANIC FARMING

under the Commission’s proposal for the future CAP. Organic farming is eligible for support under both pillars of the CAP via Eco-Schemes and Rural Development. The European Parliament’s Environment Committee went even further, requesting Member States to define a clear strategy for their organic sector under the CAP Strategic Plan and by assigning a budget to Eco-Schemes

WINNING EU FUNDING FOR ORGANIC DEVELOPMENT
through extensive work on the EU research & innovation policy for agriculture, together with TP Organics. Organic farming is mentioned in the legal texts of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. In Horizon 2020 more than €400 million has been allocated to organic topics and to calls explicitly mentioning that organic farming should be addressed

SHAPING THE NEW EU ORGANIC REGULATION
by working with the European Commission, the EU Member States and the European Parliament. Between 2012 and 2018, IFOAM EU continuously provided political and technical input to the revision of the organic regulation. Our advocacy activities were crucial to reach a new organic regulation (EU 2018/848), which will stimulate the development and fit the needs of the organic sector from 2021 onwards

FIRST IFOAM EU CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION ADVISORY GROUP ON ORGANIC FARMING
was IFOAM EU president Francis Blake, elected in 2004, while former president Christopher Stopes was elected Chair in

**FOUNDED A RESEARCH & INNOVATION PLATFORM**

2007 marked the start of what has become an influential advocacy platform for organic research & innovation, TP Organics. More than 100 organisations are involved, and since 2013 it is officially recognised by the European Commission as a European technology platform.

**MAINTAINING A LEGISLATION ON GMOS AND NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES**

Together with civil society and environmental NGOs since 2005. The fight to make Europe GMO-free continues through IFOAM EU’s “Keeping GMOs out of food” project, which has been running since 2014.

**DEVELOPING ALMOST 200 COMMON POSITIONS**

And bringing the reality of organic farming to decision-makers, based on the expertise and diversity of organic producers and operators. This is the movement’s and IFOAM EU’s strength!

**GIVING ORGANIC FARMERS, PROCESSORS, RETAILERS AND CERTIFIERS A VOICE**

Within IFOAM EU, and making sure that they have the space to form positions on issues relevant to their unique needs by setting up interest groups for organic processors (2006), farmers (2012), retailers (2018) and certifiers (2019).

**EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESSES AND PROCESSING CONFERENCES**

Attended by high-level policy-makers and authorities, and recognised as key events for being informed about Europe-wide developments, for providing input to IFOAM EU positions and for networking.

**LEADING ORGANIC PROCESSING**

By working on products and techniques to be allowed in organic processing, by pushing for reaching 100% organic ingredients and by asking for even more transparent labelling.
HOT TOPICS FOR 2019 AND BEYOND

MAKING THE EUROPEAN ORGANIC VISION 2030 HAPPEN

The organic movement’s vision is one of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring system widely adopted in Europe by 2030. Achieving our vision is only possible through the joint efforts of the entire organic value chain, policymakers and citizens. IFOAM EU is leading the movement to share its examples, which are showcased on euorganic2030.bio

IMPLEMENTATION RULES OF THE NEW ORGANIC REGULATION (EU) NO 2018/848

IFOAM EU is the voice of organic for EU legislators and is working tirelessly with the European Commission, the EU Member States and the European Parliament to make the new organic regulation workable in practice. We are advocating on a wide range of topics important to farmers, processors, certifiers and other stakeholders in the organic value chain

THE CAP REFORM AND ITS FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION

IFOAM EU is actively working with its members to achieve a reform of the CAP that rewards farmers who contribute to public goods. We are also preparing the implementation of the post-2020 CAP with a focus on Pillar 1 Eco-Schemes and Rural Development Programmes by supporting Member States during the design phase of their CAP Strategic Plans. Ensuring a supportive environment for the development of organic farming using the new CAP is a key priority, following the principle that public money should be used to provide public goods

SEEDS

The new organic regulation is a step forward to enable less homogeneous seeds to access the market and be used in organic agriculture. IFOAM EU will continue advocating to adapt varieties’ criteria (DUS) to the needs of organic farming. We will continue working collaboratively to increase the use and availability of organic seeds and towards a legislation that supports the development of the organic seed sector and organic breeding. IFOAM EU is leading the LIVESEED project that consists of 49 partners and aims to improve the competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector and to encourage greater use of organic seeds by farmers

NEW GMOS AND NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES

IFOAM EU, its members and like-minded organisations are working to maintain an efficient legal framework to regulate new genetic engineering techniques as GMOs.
This advocacy work is key to maintain a GMO-free supply chain in the EU.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURE

As a key stakeholder, IFOAM EU is influencing the selection of innovation priorities to drive sustainability of the EU’s food and farming system based on the principles of organic and agroecology. We are also advocating for the knowledge and innovation needs of the organic sector and facilitate collaboration between researchers and practitioners through Horizon Europe and the CAP.

COUNTERING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

IFOAM EU and its members are working on facing the challenges climate change puts on agriculture. We are also influencing policies, so the entire agriculture sector contributes its fair share to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, we are demonstrating organic’s value as a front-runner in the fight against climate change by highlighting practices that help farmers mitigate and adapt to its effects, and that also protect biodiversity.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION FUNDING

By advocating for funding to be allocated to the integrated approach and value provided by organic food and farming systems and agroecology. We do this together with TP Organics and are focussing on the €10 billion being made available for food, natural resources and agriculture in Horizon Europe, the EU’s Framework Programme for Research & Innovation.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN ORGANIC FARMING

By leading and taking part in research projects that address crucial knowledge gaps in organic farming. We are also promoting the exchange of knowledge among organic farmers, farm advisers and scientists. For example, IFOAM EU and partners have established the Organic Farm Knowledge platform, which offers access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production.

HEALTHY PLANTS AND ANIMALS

IFOAM EU is continuously working to close the nutrient cycles and improve the current legal framework for natural plant protection products and fertilisers suitable for organic farming. Moreover, we are involved in the RELACS project that seeks to find alternatives to contentious inputs in organic farming systems. This includes the development of cost-efficient and environmentally safe alternatives to antimicrobials and anthelmintics.
JOIN THE EUROPEAN ORGANIC MOVEMENT

Contact us and learn more about how your organisation can

- Become a member
- Become part of IFOAM EU’s Interest Groups
- Become part of IFOAM EU’s Working Groups
- Attend IFOAM EU’s events
- Donate to make Europe more organic
- Sponsor IFOAM EU
- Establish a partnership with IFOAM EU
- Receive more information

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