

PRESS RELEASE

Organic food and farming calls for agroecology to be at the heart of the farm to fork strategy

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 9 DECEMBER 2019 – The organic food and farming movement defends a transition to agroecology as the direction for the upcoming Commission’s “Farm to Fork” strategy. In a [new paper on agroecology](#), IFOAM EU emphasises to consider organic and agroecology through their synergies, common principles and drivers.

IFOAM EU’s President Jan Plagge states that: “Agroecology should be the new horizon of the EU farming policy and of the upcoming Farm to Fork strategy”. IFOAM EU welcomes that the Commission is developing a systemic ‘farm to fork’ strategy on sustainable food along the whole supply chain. It is an opportunity to make our food system truly sustainable, building on the transformative vision brought by agroecology and on the successes of organic farming. Organic and agroecology are part of the solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to store more carbon in soils. They can make our farming systems more resilient to extreme weather events and contribute to halt the collapse of European and global biodiversity, of which intensive farming is largely responsible for.

Jan Plagge added that “agroecology is a transformative concept that should not justify 'business as usual'. IFOAM EU’s vision of agroecology is based on the principles of organic farming, it should lead to a drastic reduction of the use of pesticides in Europe, to the regeneration of soils and to the reinforcement of farmers autonomy and economic well-being. It is not compatible with the use of GMOs or glyphosate.”

The organic movement sees itself as a central part of the agroecology dynamics in Europe. Organic farmers put agroecology in practice on the ground everyday, organics is a powerful social movement that brings closer food operators to consumers, and the organic movement is driving the research agenda to make innovation socially responsible and up to the challenges of climate change and biodiversity preservation. Globally, millions of small farmers use organic practices without being certified as organic. It is key to strengthen organic farming as a practical and certified approach of agroecological practices.

Ends.

Background

The farm to fork strategy: The von der Leyen Commission has announced a European Green Deal which should push Europe to be the first climate-neutral continent. The farm to fork strategy on sustainable food along the whole value chain is part of this European Green Deal.

IFOAM EU’s position paper on agroecology: While drafting the position paper, it received extraordinary interest from inside and outside the organic sector. This position paper is the result of many rounds of consultation mainly within the sector, and also from stakeholders and researchers outside of the sector.

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IFOAM EU represents more than 200 member organisations in the EU-28, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations span the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy

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