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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

As Board Vice President of IFOAM Organics Europe and prospective member of the TP Organics Steering Committee, it is my great pleasure to announce the [Organic Innovation Days 2020](#) on 24 and 25 November. This year's edition is jointly organised by [TP Organics](#), the European Technology platform for organic food and farming of which IFOAM Organics Europe hosts the secretariat, and the [LIVESEED project](#). Given the worsening Covid-19 situation, it will take place online.

The Organic Innovation Days are the only EU-wide annual event on research & innovation for organic. This year, those among you active on organic seed use and plant breeding will find your liking in the LIVESEED project's final conference and the LIVESEED European workshop. The LIVESEED project is increasing transparency in the organic seed market and providing recommendations on organic seeds and plant breeding. You will also have the opportunity to learn about the opportunities for organic in Horizon Europe, the European Union's next research and innovation framework programme. Horizon Europe will offer many funding opportunities for research on and related to organic, so if you are working on research projects related to organic, this session is key to you.

In more detail, this is what you will learn about:

### 24 November, day 1: LIVESEED final conference

LIVESEED, a four-year Horizon 2020 research project, aims to increase the performance and sustainability of organic farming by boosting organic seed use and plant breeding. The opening day of the Organic Innovation Days 2020 will be dedicated to the project's final conference. On this day, the project partners will share the project's innovations and results.

### 25 November, day 2: Parallel sessions on Horizon Europe and LIVESEED workshop

#### **Parallel session I: Organic Innovation Days - Opportunities for organics in Horizon Europe**

TP Organics is organising the first parallel session, dedicated to opportunities for organics in Horizon Europe. Emile Frison, member of IPES-Food and the Soil Health and Food Mission Board, will give a keynote speech, after which the European Commission will introduce Horizon Europe. A policy debate with representatives from the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and DG Research & Innovation will take place following, focussing on the Missions as new instruments in Horizon Europe.

In the afternoon of day two, the stakeholder forum for TP Organics members will take place. Do note that this is a member-only event.

#### **Parallel session II: LIVESEED European workshop**

The second parallel session, the LIVESEED European workshop, will look at the implementation of the organic seed regulation as well as national progress made in the context of LIVESEED. Participants will have the possibility to discuss case studies on seed expert groups, organic field trials, and national seed databases as well as increasing the production and use of organic seeds.

I would like to invite you to join the online event. [Visit TP Organics' website for the latest edition of the programme](#) and make sure to [register by 17 November](#).



All events will take place digitally, using SpotMe. It will launch a week before the live event to allow participants to get familiar with the tool's look and functions.

If you have any questions about the Organic Innovation Days, please contact Maria Gernert, TP Organics Coordinator, at [info@tporganics.eu](mailto:info@tporganics.eu).

If you are present on social media, please use the following hashtags to share information about the event: #OrganicInnovationDays #OID2020 #TPOrganics, and tag [@LIVESEEDeu](https://twitter.com/LIVESEEDeu).

We are looking forward to seeing many of you!

Organic regards,  
Dr. Dóra Drexler  
IFOAM Organics Europe Board Vice President



## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

### Main results of CAP Week in Brussels and Luxembourg

On 19-20 October, EU-27 agriculture ministers met in Luxembourg to adopt their general approach on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). During the same week, Members of the European parliament (MEPs) voted the three pieces of legislation – strategic plans, horizontal and common market organization – during an online plenary. On both sides, results are particularly disappointing on the environmental aspects and will not lead to [a system change that the organic movement is urging for](#).

After months of tough exchanges, EU agriculture ministers finalized their positions on the reform package, based on the German Presidency's proposal. Ministers chose not to mention the EU Green Deal nor the Farm to Fork targets in the text and secured a lot of flexibility on key aspects such as redistributive payments, capping or conditionality. 20% of the first pillar's budget is dedicated to Eco-schemes, with a non-binding "learning phase" of two years (2023-2024) during which funds not allocated will be redistributed via other channels. Member States would be free to choose the content of their Eco-schemes, based on their own self-described circumstances. The Council also would like to include Areas with Natural Constraints (ANCs) in the environmental and climate ringfencing (30%) which would take a huge part of second pillar's decreasing budget. This would decrease money available for organic, and agroecological transition in the rural development pillar.

In Brussels, the European Parliament also put the CAP to vote during an online plenary. A few good amendments went through, such as the obligation for Member States to analyse their organic sector, assess the situation and level of support needed for its growth, and the inclusion of a new article on social conditionality. Parliamentarians also chose to ringfence 30% of pillar one to Eco-schemes but did not decide about eligible practices and asked the Commission to propose a list in the form of a delegated act. MEPs also included 40% of the budget for ANCs into the second pillar's 30% environmental ringfencing. And while the Parliament refused to explicitly include the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies in targets, a few positive amendments were nonetheless adopted to take these into account in the assessment of national strategic plans.

The trilogues between the three institutions are supposed to last from November to April 2021, but may be slowed down because of Covid-19. IFOAM Organics Europe will continue to support all initiatives by the Commission to better integrate the EU Green Deal into the CAP, and we will make sure the organic voice is heard during the negotiations between the three institutions.

Please contact [lena.brisset@organicseurope.bio](mailto:lena.brisset@organicseurope.bio) for questions on the CAP. Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

# 1 NEWS

## 1.1 Policy

### Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

#### Have your say on the future of rural development in Europe: Participate in the Commissions' public consultation

The European Commission is consulting stakeholders to shape the future of rural development all over Europe. It wants to create a vision of future developments and identify key elements to foster prosperous rural areas. This public consultation will help the Commission to get a picture about all different kinds of matters from concerned stakeholders.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we will call on our members to fill out the consultation to help shape a long-term vision for rural areas by filling out and promoting their [public consultation](#). We are convinced that the dynamics around organic farming are a key asset for many rural areas in Europe, with leading initiatives such as the creation of biodistricts. We will share our draft replies with you during the next two weeks.

The consultation covers topics such as:

- The needs of rural areas today
- What makes rural areas attractive
- Opportunities for the future of rural areas
- Governance in rural areas
- Optional set of questions on the CAP

Feedback is welcome until 30 November.

Please contact [lena.brisset@organicseurope.bio](mailto:lena.brisset@organicseurope.bio) for questions on rural development. Do note that we prioritise our members' requests

### Organic Regulations

#### Organic movement welcomes one-year postponement of the new Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 implementation

The new EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 was set to apply from 1 January 2021. As the development of the secondary legislation is still ongoing and many Delegated and Implementing Acts still have to be adopted. Most acts were planned to be published in November and December 2020, giving organic operators little to no time to adapt.

In April 2020, IFOAM Organics Europe asked for a one-year postponement of the application of the new rules, from 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2022. IFOAM Organics Europe and its members advocated at all levels to make sure the implementation would be feasible for those working in organic. Convincing policy-makers on the need of this change of date was not easy as basic regulation are rarely amended before their implementation, but our work paid off.



The Commission issued a proposal for a one-year postponement on 4 September 2020. The Special Committee on Agriculture (preparatory body of the EU Council) adopted it on 28 September 2020 and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, the EU Parliament voted on it in plenary session with 683 votes in favour, 3 against and 8 abstentions.

On 19 October, the Council of Ministers also adopted the proposal unanimously.

The postponement will be published on the EU Official Journal in around two weeks.

### **Webinar on the new EU Organic Regulation: What is going to change?**

International Trade Centre organized a web meeting on the main changes that the implementation of the new Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 will bring, namely its impacts on the Global South.

Michel Reynaud, IFOAM Organics Europe Board member and sector representative for certification, highlighted the current and future legal requirements on organic group of operators as well as the potential impacts of the new Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on the existing ones.

Other presenters were Karen Mapusua, Vice-President of IFOAM Organics International. Sergi Corbalán, Executive Director at Fair Trade Advocacy Office, and Marike de Peña, Board member of the Fairtrade Foundation, brought in perspectives from the Fair Trade movement.

Around 1.150 participants from all over the world attended the webinar. The majority of participants represent government institutions (32%), development organizations (22%), private companies (20%), farmers or farmer cooperatives (15%) and certification bodies (11%).

[View the recorded webinar.](#)

### **EGTOP reports on cleaning & disinfection and potassium available on Commission website**

The Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) published two new reports.

The first one is a draft technical report on [Criteria for evaluation of products for cleaning and disinfection to be applied in all organic production fields including the post-harvest application](#). It aims to:

- Provide appropriate criteria for the evaluation of products for cleaning and disinfection with a responsible and ecological approach;
- Conceive the criteria for evaluation of products for cleaning and disinfection;
- Endorse a priority list of substances to be fully evaluated and schedule the needed work;
- Carry on some worked examples for the evaluation of products for cleaning and disinfection.

To reach the draft conclusions, the group took into consideration previous EGTOP Reports namely “Aquaculture – Part B adopted in 2014” and “Cleaning and disinfection 2016”.

The second EGTOP report is a technical report on the [Reassessment of the use of Potassium Phosphonate as a plant protection mean to control downy mildew on grapevine](#), discussed at the plenary meeting of December 2019. The EGTOP evaluated the request and concluded that there are



no major changes concerning the reasons for rejection of potassium phosphonate since its previous evaluation in 2014 which leads to a need for a new evaluation.

Several facts were taken into consideration to conclude mainly, the new limitation on copper use and its real needed amount and the alternative products for copper replacement. Moreover, agronomic preventive measures, the problem of residues as well as the extreme weather conditions were also examined.

## GMOs

### **Reveal of a detection method for a gene-edited rapeseed – What is the significance and why is there a controversy?**

A regulation is only worth so much as it can be enforced. This is why on 7 September, an open source detection test was announced for the first gene-edited crop on the market, SU Canola, developed by US company Cibus. The test was published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, Foods.<sup>1</sup> The work was funded by a consortium of NGOs (including Greenpeace) and non-GM industry food companies.

SU Canola is a rapeseed engineered with oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis (ODM), a gene editing technique, to withstand spraying with certain herbicides. Products of gene editing fall within the scope of EU GMO law, according to a [European Court of Justice ruling of 2018](#). Gene-editing, refers to a technique that allows to add, delete or change single base-pairs in the genetic code of plants and animals.

If applied, the test would allow national authorities (tasked with the enforcement of EU GMO law) to test imports for this GM rapeseed that is grown in the US and Canada and has no EU authorization. This would be a big step forward in ensuring that organic as well as non-organic products do not contain any products that should not be in there. The reveal came as a surprise to some, since some developers claimed that gene-edited crops could not be detected in the marketplace and therefore couldn't be regulated under existing EU law.

#### **The controversies: Nothing new & not even detecting a GM-organism?**

The test stirred up some controversy because of two aspects. First, some seed sector representatives that advocate for the producer of the rapeseed, Cibus, claimed the test does not contribute anything new to the current state of knowledge because it cannot detect the technique with which the crop was engineered. This statement is misleading, as the detection method is the first of its kind that allows national authorities to detect a crop in which genetic engineering was applied to make small changes that have big impacts. In this case, one base-pair was changed to achieve resistance against a spraying with certain herbicides. It is correct that this test was not designed to detect the specific technique that has been used. However, it can detect the crop itself and therefore fulfills the requirements of a detection test, as confirmed by Austrian detection laboratories.

Secondly, the developer company Cibus claimed that the rapeseed was not gene-edited, unlike previously claimed. This came as a surprise, since the crop was listed as a GMO in the [EU GMO database](#) run by German regulator BVL and Wageningen University, and in the [Clearinghouse](#) of the UN

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mdpi.com/2304-8158/9/9/1245>

Convention on Biological Diversity. So, while the rapeseed was advertised as the first commercial seed product using a gene-edited tool, it is now claimed to be a spontaneous mutation that occurred randomly.

**In conclusion: Detecting gene-edited crops is possible & EU GMO law is enforceable for new techniques of genetic modification**

Apart from the fact that these controversies shine a new light on the claims of the developer company Cibus, what can we conclude? The revealed detection method has shown that it is possible to detect gene-edited crops in principle and that the current EU GMO law can be enforced also for products from these new types of genetic engineering. This allows the EU to make sure that no unauthorized foods are entering the EU market and to protect our high standards on food safety. Even if the rapeseed is actually a random by-product of the genetic engineering process that was not intended, this conclusion still applies.

The organic movement and sector will continue providing constructive input in the debate around New Genomic Techniques on which the EU Commission will present a study in April 2021.

**Further reading**

- [Greenpeace's press release 'First open source detection test for a gene-edited GM crop'](#)
- [Letter to Commissioner Kyriakides on open-source detection test for first commercialized gene-edited plant ready for integration in routine EU GMO controls](#)
- [The organic movement's position on new genetic engineering techniques](#)
- [Our work & publications on GMOs](#)

**Seeds**

**LIVESEED: Tools and incentives for the value chain involved in organic seed**

According to Article 48 of Regulation EC No 834/2007, the establishment of a national database to list all offered organic seed and seed potatoes is mandatory for all EU Member States. Any organic seed offer that has not been registered in the national organic seed databases shall be considered 'unavailable' and derogations on the use of untreated, conventional seed can be granted. To match organic producers' realities, the European Union set a deadline to phase out these derogations by 2036 (Regulation EC No 2018/848), but in the meantime, organic seed offers must be added to the national databases.

**EU router database connecting national organic seed databases**

Within the Horizon 2020 LIVESEED project, an [EU router database](#) has been programmed aiming to give access to national organic seed databases of 28 EU Member States and Switzerland with one single login. The EU router database is designed as a back-end database allowing information exchange between seed suppliers and representatives of national competent authorities.

The platform can grow to display information on organic cultivars, smart practices implemented at national level, national derogation reports as well as other relevant reports. To reduce language barriers, the database will be available in 22 EU languages. The EU router data base will contribute largely to improve transparency of the organic seed market in the EU.



User guides for [national competent authorities](#) and for [seed suppliers](#) are available.

### Inspiration from the ground on using organic seed

Inspiring incentives for farmers to increase the use of organic seed from the value chain at national level are collected in the [LIVESEED booklet](#). Examples include pre-financing organic seed through the value-chain (Italy), access to a specific variety requested by the market (the Netherlands), expanding the range of cultivars adapted to organic and local conditions (Hungary), and improving seed quality (Romania). Seed suppliers can utilize these incentives to develop schemes that motivate farmers to use organic seed, based on economic, social, technical, ethical or ecological factors.



*LIVESEED is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 under grant agreement No 727230 and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract number 17.00090. The information provided reflects the views of the authors. The Research Executive Agency or the SERI are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*



### Biodiversity, soil and water

#### Why is it important to save the bees and farmers? Watch this video

As part of their ongoing campaign, the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) 'Save bees and farmers!' has released a [set of animation videos](#) in different languages. In these videos, you'll learn why it is crucial to sign and share the [petition](#) calling on the European Commission to introduce the necessary legal framework and sufficient economic incentives for the transition to a sustainable agriculture model.

The ECI wants to phase out synthetic pesticides by 2035, support farmers and save bees and nature. Organic farming, a model based on health, ecology, fairness and care for farmers, environment, animals and consumers, is one of the alternative to transform food and farming.

Leading United Nations scientists raised the alarm years ago: biodiversity loss is threatening the global food supply. Faced with climate change, insects extinction and inequality, we need, now more than ever, a renewed and sustainable agricultural system.

Do you want to prevent the global collapse of biodiversity, bring about this transition and not leave the transformation to future generations? Support the initiative by signing the petition on



[savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://savebeesandfarmers.eu). Have you signed already? Share it on social media using #SaveBeesAndFarmers, and/or share one of the ECI's posts on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

If the initiative gathers one million signatures by the end of March 2021, the EU Commission and Parliament must consider turning the campaign's demands into law<sup>2</sup>.

A cross-sector alliance of civil society organisations covering the environment, health, farming and beekeeping runs this campaign. Among others the European networks Friends of the Earth Europe, Pesticide Action Network (PAN) as well as the Munich Environmental Institute, the Aurelia foundation (Germany), Générations Futures (France) and GLOBAL 2000/Friends of the Earth Austria.



## Food policy

### An Organic Action Plan: Commission roadmap and public consultation

It is possible to boost organic production and consumption through multiple policies. The Organic Action Plan (OAP) is one of these tools, providing a framework for holistically integrating organic-related policies and initiatives in a broader context. This key tool sets objectives, targets and actions regarding organic agriculture. Stakeholders have the possibility to comment on different parts of the content and development strategy that the European Commission is envisaging:

- [The roadmap](#) was published on 4 September, outlining a general idea of the content of the new OAP (deadline to comment was on the 23 October);
- [The public consultation](#) on the OAP consists of a questionnaire and presents a possibility for all stakeholders to participate and contribute to shaping the new OAP. The consultation will be open until 27 November.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.savebeesandfarmers.eu](http://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)

The roadmap recognizes organic agriculture is a well-known and EU regulated food production system. It acknowledges that the OAP should be a tool to reaching the target of 25% of EU agricultural land farmed under organic practices by 2030. To reach this ambitious target, it is crucial to ensure the use of policy instruments in a coherent and integrated manner.

The publication of the new OAP was foreseen in 2020, but will likely be postponed to the beginning of 2021.

### **The organic movement's feedback**

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we provided [feedback to the roadmap](#) for the organic action plan and welcomed the holistic approach laid out in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Key points to improve the OAP according to IFOAM Organics Europe:

- Include quantitative, specific, and time-bound objectives with a dedicated budget;
- Facilitate actions by all Member States including national, regional and local levels;
- Mandatory targets for organic Green Public Procurement (GPP) supported by promotion policies;
- CAP that combines conversion promotion, rewards organic farmers for their contribution to public goods through maintenance, with market and sector development and structuration of supply chains;
- Enable an upscaling of inputs (especially natural substances used for plant protection, organic seeds and organic varieties developed through organic plant breeding programmes) in sufficient quality and quantity;
- Dedicate at least 25% of the budget for food and farming research and innovation to organic;
- Mid-term review of the implementation of the organic action plan and evaluation how to close existing gaps.

We will update our members with the organic movement's feedback to the public consultation.

You can provide direct feedback to the public consultation [on the EU Commission's website](#).

Please contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio) for questions on the Organic Action Plan. Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

## **1.2 Research and innovation**

### **Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics**

#### **TP Organics takes part in SCAR workshop on new Food Systems Partnership**

**1 October 2020, online**

On 1 October, TP Organics participated in the Food Systems Partnership workshop, organized by the [SCAR Food Systems](#) Strategic Working Group.

The development of this new European Partnership on Safe and Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate, to be launched under Horizon Europe, is still early stage. The partnership is expected to:



- Provide an overarching platform and process to underpin the needed transition to sustainable food systems to support; and
- Provide solutions to the Farm to Fork strategy by connecting R&I programmes and food system actors.

In addition to providing input during the workshop, TP Organics gave feedback on the partnership proposal, highlighting the internalisations of external costs as key for making food systems more sustainable, the relevance of mild/careful processing and the need to involve all actors in the agri-food chain.

The engagement of citizens and civil society organisations in the partnership is especially relevant to dietary shift, including reduced consumption of animal products and the reduction of food waste. TP Organics will continue to follow the process of building the partnership.

[Read the general partnership description on the Commission's website.](#)

TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. IFOAM Organics Europe is a founding member and hosts its secretariat.



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### **TP Organics participates in EIP-AGRI workshop on the ‘Mission for soil health and food’ 20-21 October 2020, online**

On 20-21 October 2020, TP Organics participated in EIP-AGRI’s workshop ‘Shaping the EU mission: Caring for soil is caring for life’, organised by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and the EIP-AGRI Service Point. Numerous break-out sessions, writing on Padlet and in Google Docs and other creative exercises made the online event interactive and engaging.

#### **Day 1: Building a better understanding of the mission and R&I needs**

Day 1 focused on building a better understanding of the mission and research and innovation (R&I) needs. Soil health is key for achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal and its strategies. Healthy soil is defined as the continued capacity of soils to support ecosystem services. With almost three quarters of European soils being ‘unhealthy’, better soil protection, the basis of food production, is urgently needed. Soil degradation in the EU is associated with more than 50 billion EUR per year. Degraded soils are caused by poor uptake of existing knowledge, lack of innovation, linearity instead of circularity and too little policy attention.

The mission actions are expected to tackle each of these issues. As a new approach, soils are considered as dynamic, living systems, part of ecosystems and landscapes, and a community approach is put forward, with living labs and lighthouses as key infrastructures for co-creation and territorial rather than sectorial innovation hubs. Research must consider how the findings can be implemented in practice.



Therefore, the first R&I priority is to get knowledge we already have taken up (through lighthouse farms). The second priority is innovation (through living labs developing innovative solutions and practices). A set of eight indicators will be integrated in a robust soil monitoring programme at EU and Member States level. Training, education, communication, and citizen engagement are to be embedded in all activities, and a supporting environment is needed.

### Living labs & lighthouse farms: Shining examples

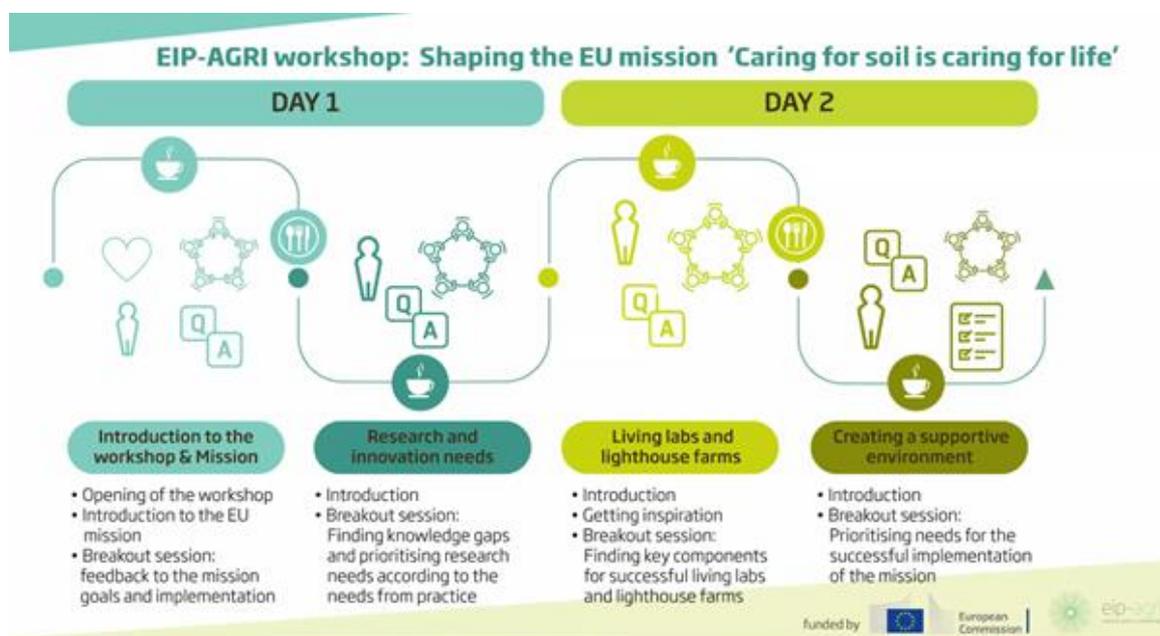
Day 2 was about living labs and lighthouse farms (inspiring examples and key components) and the creation of a supportive environment. Participatory innovation and a stakeholder approach, also engaging citizens and reaching out to the whole society, is at the centre of the mission. The workshop was enriched through the practical knowledge and experience in sustainable, locally adapted soil management of the almost 100 participants, many of them farmers themselves.

Organic farmer and Mission Board member Alfred Grand presented the concepts of living labs and lighthouses, Grand Farm is a lighthouse for research and demonstration in Austria, combining an organic arable field, agroforestry and market gardening.

In terms of support, the mission proposes that a new Soil Thematic Strategy and Directive should be developed, and new CAP payment schemes should effectively reward practices that improve and restore soil health, while also targeting training, education and engagement.

To reach the 25% organic farmland target of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, lighthouse farms demonstrating the benefits that come from organic practices are key. To create a global vision and responsibility for soil health, the mission can draw on the principles of organic agriculture.

Relevant material and the presentations will be made available [on the event's webpage](#).



Outline of the workshop, credits: EIP-AGRI Service Point

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## Knowledge for organic

### Organic breeders, share your pictures – Use #BreedingABrightFuture on Twitter

#BreedingABrightFuture is LIVESEED's social media campaign, aiming at raising awareness about the beauty and benefits of organic plant breeding to the wider public.

#### Show the world the beauty of your work

Using the hashtag **#BreedingABrightFuture** on Twitter, we call upon organic breeders to share their views and messages on how the sector contributes, amongst others, to sustainability and biodiversity, climate change adaptation, healthier and more diverse diets through increased nutrient content, and generates collaborations among different actors of the food system and the value chain. The campaign will be active for about 5 months, leading up to the [LIVESEED-EUCARPIA conference](#) on 08-10 March 2021.

#### Take part in LIVESEED's photo contest until 20 November

As part of the campaign, until 20 November 2020 photos and key messages representing the beauty and the societal, economic and environmental benefits of organic breeding can enter the contest on Twitter using the hashtag **#BreedingABrightFutureContest**. The winner will receive a "secret" prize that will be handed out during the [LIVESEED Final Conference for Stakeholders and Policymakers](#), taking place online on 24 November 2020.

Conditions:

- The photos must be your own work.
- Image resolution: On Twitter, the ideal image size and aspect ratio are 1200px X 675px and 16:9, respectively. The maximum file size is 5MB for photos.
- To be eligible for the contest, photos must be published until 20 November 2020 (It doesn't matter when you took the photo).
- Videos and other types of moving image; non-photographic works such as drawings; or computer-generated works are not eligible.
- The winner will be contacted via personal message on Twitter and will be asked to attend the LIVESEED Final Conference for Stakeholders and Policymakers (online) on 24 November 2020.
- A jury will select the winning Tweet.

The [LIVESEED](#) project will increase transparency and will provide recommendations on organic seeds. The project partners analyse national seed databases and factors influencing organic seed production and use. They also explore national policies, smart practices, build EU infrastructure and analyse issues on propagation. The partners also want to advance testing protocols to improve the availability of organic seeds, ensuring they are adapted to the realities of organic farmers.





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## **Stimulating digital innovations – The SmartAgriHubs' RESTART and EXPAND calls are still open!**

As Europe continues facing the Covid-19 crisis, it must further stimulate the development of digital innovations which can tackle the challenges currently faced by the agri-food sector. The SmartAgriHubs project investigated the possibilities for funding research that helps our sector. Open calls were launched in May 2020 as an immediate RESPOND to the crisis. Now, SmartAgriHubs is following-up with the RESTART and EXPAND open calls, addressing the agri-food economy on the medium term.

SmartAgriHubs will assign up to 5,000,000 EUR funding to the RESTART and EXPAND open calls, addressing Digital Innovation Hubs supporting diverse stakeholders in the agri-food economy and specifically SMEs as drivers for digital innovation.

### **Why participate?**

Digital innovations implemented throughout the organic value chain have a huge potential to contribute to the current and future societal challenges.

Are you a Digital Innovation Hub, or any other form of public-private partnership for innovation? Are you involved in one or more innovation experiments addressing the consequences of Covid-19? And are you looking for potential funds to support your project? [The open call is your opportunity.](#)

SmartAgriHubs' open call is also a unique chance to connect with a wider community and exchange on latest knowledge and expertise.

### **Who can participate?**

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) as defined on the [SmartAgriHubs](#) website<sup>1</sup>, based in one of the EU Member States or a H2020 Associated country<sup>2</sup>.

### **How to participate to the RESTART and EXPAND open calls?**

- [RESTART the economy around food systems](#)

This open call will focus on **hackathon type of activities** that will RESTART the economy around the agri-food related sectors and affected food systems. The objective is to generate ideas for potential Innovation Experiments that can be realised by related teams and that go beyond initial conceptual implementations.

Proposals could realise hackathons, challenges and datathons that have a direct as well as an indirect impact to mitigate effects of the corona/Covid-19 or similar (future) pandemics.

[Check the RESTART open call fiche for more information.](#)



- EXPAND the network

The major amount of funding will be assigned to **the implementation of programmes by DIHs to support the realisation of Innovation Experiments**. This shall specifically contribute to the expansion of the network of DIHs and Competence Centres (CCs) as well as making available new knowledge and results from digital innovation activities.

The EXPAND open call is specifically targeting at DIHs as the main proposers facilitating the realisation of innovation experiments.

Key characteristics to submit an eligible proposal for the EXPAND the Network open call:

- **The funding that is provided by SmartAgriHubs is exclusively available for developing, maturing, and providing Digital Innovation Hub innovation services**
- **For being eligible to receive this funding, DIHs need to support one or more Innovation Experiments (IEs) with their services.**
- **The overall proposal budget shall assign a maximum of 20% for DIH service provision and a minimum of 80% for realising the supported Innovation Experiment(s)**
- **The maximum of 20% for DIH service provision can be requested as funding from SmartAgriHubs, where the 80% should be mobilised by additional public or private sources.**
- **One DIH could ask for a maximum of 100,000 EUR funding in total from SmartAgriHubs in one or also several proposals.**

[Check the EXPAND open call fiche for more information](#)

Are you eligible? Register to the **SmartAgriHubs' Innovation Portal**. It will give you access to all information needed and direct communication to the community if any questions on the application arise. After that, **start applying!**

#### **Proposal submission and timeline**

Proposals are called under a continuous submission scheme. They can be submitted for evaluation until closure of the open call and will be evaluated in batches at regular points in time. Currently the following dates are planned for evaluating delivered batches of proposals:

- **The First batch evaluation was closed on 3 September 2020 (17:00 CEST)**
- **Second batch evaluation of proposals that were submitted: before 5 November 2020, 17:00 (CEST)**
- **Dates for batch evaluations in 2021 will be published after closing the second batch evaluation.**

#### **Any questions about the open call?**

Read the [call documents](#) on the dedicated page of the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Portal.

Check the FAQ and leave your question on [the SmartAgriHubs Open Call forum](#). A Q&A webinar on the open call was held on 8 July. You find the recording on SmartAgriHubs [YouTube](#) channel.

**SmartAgriHubs is a €20 M EU project under the Horizon 2020 instrument and brings together a consortium of over 164 partners in the European agri-food sector. The project aims to realise the digitisation of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success.**



## Notes

(1) Digital Innovation Hubs as defined on the Smart Agri Hubs website are public-private partnerships for innovation, providing a mix of different services to their clients. These include technology services such as R&D, provision of lab facilities, testing and validation are mainly the domain of the competence centres. Innovation ecosystem support services include community building lobbying, brokerage, knowledge sharing and advocacy.

(2) See the full list of eligibility criteria in the Programme document on the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Portal.



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 818182. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## The Organic Farm Knowledge platform: a unique resource for the organic sector

The [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) platform stimulates the exchange of knowledge among organic farmers, farm advisers and scientists. It provides and promote a wide range of tools and resources with the aim to enhance productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe. The platform covers a variety of themes spanning from crop production to animal husbandry, seeds and breeding.

New tools such as practice abstracts, videos and online courses are regularly created and disseminated via the Organic Farm Knowledge newsletter and social media. Check out the latest tools on the platform provided by the OK-Net EcoFeed project: "[Guide for assessing the protein quality in soya feed products](#)" and the video "[Feeding organic laying hens with insects](#)" and do not hesitate to leave your comments.

To further facilitate the practical knowledge exchange among organics interested parties, the Organic Farm Knowledge platform together with OK-Net EcoFeed are currently compiling a list of specialized organic advisory or related services. [The list of Advisory Services on Organic Farm Knowledge](#) is regularly updated. Additions should be sent to [Dr. Helga Willer](#).

[Subscribe](#) to the newsletter to receive periodic updates via email, and do not forget to follow the Organic Farm knowledge platform on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the news and events.



*OK-Net EcoFeed has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773911. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## IFOAM Organics Europe participates in project on integrated pest management strategies

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we will take part in the IPMWorks project, which started on 1 October. The objective of this Horizon 2020 project, led by INRAE, is to promote the adoption of Integrated Pest



Management (IPM) strategies. As IFOAM Organics, we are responsible for coordinating the network of participating organic farms.

The aim is to share experiences in organic pest management with conventional farmers, as well as to learn from integrated pest management (IPM) experts how organic farmers can reduce use of certain plant protection products (e.g. copper, paraffin oil, sulphur).

At the basis of the project lies an EU-wide network of farmers, who will improve IPM methods through peer-to-peer learning and demonstrate to other farmers that holistic IPM “works”. IPMWorks will coordinate existing farm networks promoting IPM and launch new hubs of farms in regions where IPM is not that well developed yet.

The kick-off meeting of IPMWorks took place on 22-23 October. IFOAM Organic Europe’s Research & Innovation Manager Bram Moeskops took part and presented the strategic approach of organic farming towards plant protection products.



*IPMWorks has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000339. This communication only reflects the author’s view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

### 1.3 Covid-19 developments

#### European Parliament pushes for fast recovery aid

On 13 October, the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament voted for a fast, targeted and sustainable recovery package for EU farmers, food producers and rural areas. The European recovery instrument that gives the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) an additional 8 billion EUR (current prices) was initially proposed by the European Commission to be made available only after the entry into force of the new CAP, in 2023.

However, the European Parliament wants to incorporate this fund into the transitional measures that have already been agreed upon beforehand, therefore starting to release the money already in the next two years. For the year 2021, MEP’s agreed to release around 30%, the remaining 70% shall be made available in 2022.

Complementing the overall goals of the Green Deal to increase resilience and sustainability, the Agricultural Committee proposes, among others, to ringfence at least 37% of the aid for environment and climate-related actions, another 55% for the support of young farmers’ business start-ups and on-farm investments.

The complete text of the proposal by the European Parliament will now be negotiated with the Council.

## 2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENT

### **From vision to strategy: Develop your organisational strategy with our toolkit**

Last month, we shared with you why it is useful to develop your organisation's vision, and how you can do so. Now, it is time to help you work out a strategy making this vision a reality.

We have gained a lot of information based on our own experience in facilitating strategic conversations within the organic movement when we were elaborating our own [vision](#). To make your life easier, we have developed a large set of methodologies, resources, techniques and tips you can use as an inspiration guiding your own strategy process.

All the tools, practices and templates are available for our members in the [toolkit](#). They are customizable to your needs and context, so you can align your strategy with the [organic movement's Vision 2030](#), considering your own local / regional / organisational specificities.

Do you want to dig deeper? More information and resources are available on the [Member Extranet](#).

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who does not have access to the extranet yet? Please contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio). Are you interested in becoming an IFOAM Organics Europe member? [Have a look at the benefits](#) and contact [IFOAMEU\\_membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:IFOAMEU_membership@organicseurope.bio).

### **Do you have an initiative that is transforming food & farming? Share it with us to get visibility & inspire others!**

To make the EU Green Deal a reality, we will need to transform food and farming. The organic movement has always been a frontrunner and source of innovation. Across Europe a number of organic and other initiatives are already [transforming food and farming, on the path to our shared Vision 2030](#).

Together we can make organic and truly sustainable farming widely available and recognised. If you have an initiative that can be an inspiration to other food and farming actors as well as to policy-makers, let us and the world know and submit it to [EUorganic2030.bio](#).

If your initiative is deemed to meet the goals of our vision, we will promote it on our social media – showcasing strategic actions to show that fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems are possible!

Need inspiration? Have an initiative? [Visit euorganic2030.bio](#)



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HAVE AN INITIATIVE THAT TRANSFORMS FOOD AND FARMING? VISIT [EUORGANIC2030.BIO](http://EUORGANIC2030.BIO) TO SEE INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN!



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## They make it happen! Get inspired by Demeter Academy and their partners' initiative to bring organic on every table in Germany

Taking over an organic farm or setting up your own new enterprise in the organic sector can be challenging.

In Germany, Demeter Academy and its partners offer young farmers and entrepreneurs a support programme to build organic farm business and carry on the good work!

Whether it be knowledge, a biodynamic network, free space or legal and socio-economic support, the different modules proposed aim to offer guidance and space for mutual support in developing your own business plan, learning how to lead yourself and your enterprise and knowing what you need as a juridical and social secure base for your farm or business.

The success of organic farming food and farming depends on their economic viability. By ensuring it to organic start-ups, this initiative helps bring organic on every table.

Read more about this initiative on [euorganic2030.bio](http://euorganic2030.bio), and share it on [Twitter](https://twitter.com). Find out what's transforming food and farming in Europe on social media using #EUorganic2030.

Learn more about this and other initiatives that are transforming food and farming in Europe and get inspired on [euorganic2030.bio](http://euorganic2030.bio).



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## Representing the organic movement's interests in the Commission's Civil Dialogue Groups

The Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) are a tool to assist the European Commission and advise on policy. IFOAM Organics Europe is always represented in all CDGs meetings of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI).

On 19 October, IFOAM Organics Europe board member Marian Blom got re-elected as chair of the CDG on Organic Farming. The Chair is elected for one year and is engaged with shaping content and



organisation of a CDG. We are proud of having her bringing organic onto the agenda in regular dialogues between stakeholders and the Commission. IFOAM Organics Europe president Jan Plagge has been chairing the CAP CDG for the last two years, and will continue to do so until the next elections in December.

### **Recent CDGs relevant to the organic movement**

All recent CDG meetings touch on the topic of the CAP negotiations, European Green Deal, the new organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 as well as the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies in the respective areas.

At the end of September, the CDG on Fruits and Vegetables took place as a subsection of Horticulture, Olives and Spirits. It covered topics such as plant health, with specific reverence to traces and plant protection in orchard.

In the beginning of October, the CDG on Environment and Climate Change assessed the impacts of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) on different areas, such as; water, habitats and biodiversity as well as a strategy on how to facilitate the uptake of bioprotection as alternative to pesticides.

Mid-October, a few CDG meetings took place on:

- The CAP, right before the European Parliament's votes. Topics covered were Farmers for Future with an opening speech by Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski and information about the ongoing negotiations and the legislative acts;
- Organic Farming, under the supervision of re-elected chair Marian Blom. Among the discussed topics: the state of play of the postponement of the application of the new organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 along with a discussion on its secondary acts. Additionally, stakeholders and the EU Commission exchanged about the EU Organic Action Plan (AOP, open for feedback under a public consultation. [More details please available on the Commission's website.](#)
- Milk, it covered topics like the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the dairy market as well as the state of play in the dairy market.

Topics like deforestation, the current market situation and influences of the CAP post 2020 on the beef and veal market were discussed by the section on animal products at the end of October.

### **Upcoming CDGs relevant to the organic movement**

Upcoming CDG's will be on other sections of Animal Products, Arable Crops, Environment and Climate Changes, Quality and Promotion as well as International Aspects of Agriculture. For a detailed overview, please check our [calendar](#) on the IFOAM Organics Europe member extranet.

### **CDGs in times of the coronavirus and Covid-19**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all meetings have switched to an online format. Within the last weeks several CDGs have taken place. We will keep you posted on our [member extranet space on the CDG's](#).

### **Services for IFOAM Organics Europe members**

The range of expertise needed for our work on the CDGs could not be provided by IFOAM Organics Europe's staff alone. We rely on our members to represent the organic movement at these meetings.



Following a short and easy application process, interested members are assigned a two-years mandate by our board. This spring, our members received a call to represent the EU organic movement in the CDGs for the next period. [A list of new members](#) is available on the member extranet.

To facilitate our interaction with our members in CDGs and share information with all of our members alike, we have created [a new space on the extranet](#). It gives you easy access to agendas, presentations, and minutes of these meetings, shows upcoming CDGs and provides you with useful links.

Should you have any questions regarding Civil Dialogue Groups and/or would like to share relevant information or highlight topics to cover in the upcoming CDGs, please write to: [civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio](mailto:civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio).

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who does not have access to our member extranet yet? Contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio).

## 3 EVENTS

### 3.1 Preview of events

#### **Organic Innovation Days – register now!**

24-25 November, online

You can now register for the Organic Innovation Days 2020, the only EU event on research & innovation for organic, which will take place online from 24-25 November.

The annual Organic Innovation Days provide a unique opportunity to meet members of TP Organics and network with EU policymakers. This year's edition will be brought to you by TP Organics and EU Horizon 2020 project [LIVESEED](#).

On Day 1, the LIVESEED final conference for stakeholders and policymakers will take place. Make sure to check in if you are active in organic seed use and plant breeding, as the project's innovations and results will be shared.

Day 2 will be divided into two parallel sessions:

- Session I will be dedicated to **opportunities for organic in Horizon Europe**. After a key-note speech by Emile Frison, member of IPES-Food and the Soil Health and Food Mission Board, there will be an introduction to Horizon Europe by the European Commission. The policy debate with representatives from the European Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and DG Research & Innovation will focus on the Missions as new instruments in Horizon Europe;
- Session II will be the **LIVESEED European workshop**, which will look at the implementation of the organic seed regulation and national progress in the context of LIVESEED.

In the afternoon, the Stakeholder Forum (for TP Organics members only) will take place.

Check out the [programme](#) and [register by 17 November](#). The event will take place online from 24-25 November via the online event platform [SpotMe](#).

TP Organics is one of the 40 European Technology Platforms (ETPs), recognised by the European Commission. IFOAM Organics Europe hosts its Secretariat.



*LIVESEED is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 under grant agreement No 727230 and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract number 17.00090. The information provided reflects the views of the authors. The Research Executive Agency or the SERI are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*



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## **IFOAM Organics Europe meets business – Agenda available!**

8-9 December, online

Save the date for the next "IFOAM Organics Europe meets business" taking place online on 8-9 December 2020.

"Bringing the organic food Industry together" is the goal of IFOAM Organics Europe meets business. This event creates a platform for exchange between different players within the supply chain, including IFOAM Organics Europe's members and companies interested in organic. It will take place online and consists of two morning sessions from 10:00 to 13:00 on 8-9 December 2020.

This year the event will look into topics such as the organic regulation, Brexit, and the Farm to Fork strategy. [Read the agenda on our website.](#)

Registration details will be available on our [website](#) soon!

## **BIOFACH**

into organic



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## **Save the date for 'Improving sustainability and welfare in organic poultry and pig production', an online conference**

25-26 January 2021, online

It is with great excitement that [OK-Net EcoFeed](#) announces its final project conference bringing together four research projects: OK-Net EcoFeed, [PPILOW](#), [Freebirds](#) and [POWER](#). Mark 25-26 January 2021 in your calendar and join the projects for 'Improving sustainability and welfare in organic poultry and pig production' from the comfort of you (home) office.

Production systems with monogastric animals rely mainly on high quality feeds from external sources that compete with food for human consumption. Also in organic farming, monogastric systems tend to be highly specialised and decoupled from other areas of farming. The challenge is to design systems which overcome the contradiction between animal welfare and "naturalness" on one hand and feed and resource efficiency on the other.

Within such context, 'Improving sustainability and welfare in organic poultry and pig production' is a perfect opportunity to share the unique knowledge acquired during our projects and foster the transition towards more sustainable organic production systems. Themes include: ration-planning tools, sustainable and regional feeding for pigs and poultry, welfare self-assessment tools and the further development of the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#).



This online event will also host a policy debate targeting a wide range of audience including policymakers, farmers and animal welfare associations, processors, feed companies and retailers. Discussions are expected to deepen and consolidate the importance of organics within the feed sustainability and animal welfare concept. Stay up to date by visiting the OK-Net [EcoFeed project website](#) where news and further details will be published soon.

Follow the OK-Net Ecofeed project on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#).

The OK-Net EcoFeed project helps organic pig and poultry farmers to achieve the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed. The three-year project will extend the OK-Net knowledge platform. IFOAM Organics Europe coordinates the project consisting of 11 partners and 8 third linked parties from 12 countries. Dissemination towards all actors in the EIP-AGRI network is an integral part of the OK-Net EcoFeed activities.



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### 3.2 Review of events

#### **Members can re-watch farmers' workshop on CAP, animal welfare label & access to land**

2 October 2020, online

With crucial CAP negotiations ahead, starting discussions on an EU animal welfare label, and IFOAM Organics Europe's ongoing work within the Horizon 2020 project on Access to Land, it was time for another workshop of the Interest Group on Organic Farming to exchange information and views, and form a common position of the organic production sector.

The [recording of the workshop on CAP, animal welfare label & access to land](#) is available on the member extranet.

#### **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**

Kurt Sannen, Chair of IFOAM Organics Europe's Interest Group for Organic Farmers (IGOF), moderated the first session focused on CAP which started with a [presentation](#) by IFOAM Organics Europe's Policy Officer, Léna Brisset. She reminded participants of the CAP's governance, gave an overview of the Multiannual Financial Framework and Next Generation EU, as well as of positions of the European Parliament and European Council.

#### **Animal welfare label**

Second point on the agenda was the animal welfare label. As the German Presidency is pushing for such a label, Sebastian Mittermaier of NATURLAND, gave a short [introduction](#) and showcased the German animal welfare label for pigs. As this is an important topic for the organic movement, IFOAM Organics Europe's will follow the developments closely and keep its members informed.

#### **Access to Land**

The last session started with three short presentations by members on initiatives they are involved in: Land Trust, De Landgenoten, and Parcel. It was followed by an [introduction](#) on the Erasmus+ project



[Innovative Land Strategies](#), which IFOAM Organics Europe is involved in. One deliverable of this project is a joint policy report, analysing EU policies and giving recommendations. This workshop focused on the indirect effects of CAP on access to land.



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### **The 6<sup>th</sup> ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia” – IFOAM Organics Europe contributes with overview & opportunities of Farm to Fork Strategy**

13 October 2020, online

On 12-16 October 2020, over 1,600 participants from 46 countries joined the [6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliances Beyond Asia”](#) which took place virtually together with the inaugural Summit of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD).

On 13 October, IFOAM Organics Europe Director, Eduardo Cuoco, participated in the session themed: Framework for Food Systems Transformation. In addition to a keynote speech by Marina Bortoletti from the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) on “Collaborative Frameworks for Food Systems Transformations” and presentations from all over the world, Eduardo presented an overview of the Farm to Fork Strategy. Amongst the topics addressed were the opportunities the 25% organic land target in the Farm to Fork strategy presents, the role of Biodistricts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Farm to Fork’s objectives and IFOAM Organics Europe’s active role in offering organic farming as a political solution to societal problems. Eduardo ended his presentation on a positive note, reminding the participants “Don’t panic, the future is organic!”

On 14 October, Molly Mathews, IFOAM Organics Europe Events and Membership Assistant, took part in the session organised by the [Young Organics Global Network](#) on the topic of Local Governance. Representatives from around the world addressed the state of affairs regarding youth and organic farming in their countries. Molly specifically presented the situation for young farmers in Europe and IFOAM Organics Europe’s plans to organise a European Organic Youth Conference in 2021, with the objective of involving more youth in the IFOAM Organics Europe network.

Interested in catching up on the topics discussed at the summit? Recordings of all the sessions are available on the [IFOAM Asia Facebook page](#).

### **The Commission’s first Farm to Fork conference – Review & highlights**

15-16 October 2020, online

The European Commission’s first [Farm to Fork conference](#) took place on 15-16 October 2020 and focused on how to build sustainable food systems together. This is to be the first of similar annual conferences.



Speakers included Vice-President of the European Commission Timmermans, the Commissioners on Health and Food Safety, Kyriakides, on Agriculture, Wojciechowski, German Agriculture Minister, Klöckner, representative of the European Council, the European Consumers organisation (BEUC), Members of the European Parliament Hazekamp and Dorfmann, Copa-Cogeca, WWF, Arla and the Danish government, to name but a few.

The organic movement was represented by Enrico Amico from the cooperative Amico Bio in Italy, Bram Moeskops, IFOAM Organics Europe's Research and Innovation Manager, Salvatore Basile, President of the International Network of Eco Regions and Jostein Hertwig, head of BERAS International Foundation.

The Commission Vice-Presidents Timmermans and Commissioners Kyriakides and Wojciechowski all shared their concern for the current food system not being sustainable and underlined that change is needed urgently. Frans Timmermans insisted that "if we continue with the erosion of top soil, erratic weather and the killing of pollinators there are going to be huge problems. Farming has to change globally. We have to show that you can feed the world without depleting natural resources, without harming the environment".

Ms Kyriakides underlined that business as usual is not an option anymore, and Mr Wojciechowski highlighted the importance of strengthening the relations between farmers and the local food market. Mr Wojciechowski has the difficult task of convincing farmers and Member States to play their role in the implementation of the Farm to Fork strategy but is hopeful in having constructive conversations in this respect.

Mr Amico intervened in the session "economic opportunities for farmers" where he stated that economy should always be in line with environmental and social aspects and that the agricultural model needs to change. It is not organic that is too expensive; conventional is too cheap. He added that low prices mean we are moving costs somewhere else.

Mr Moeskops intervened on a session discussing research and innovation, clarifying that, to implement the knowledge produced by 'on the ground' Horizon 2020 multi-actor projects, such as LIVESEED or RELACS, strong knowledge networks are needed. Their success is key to fostering exchange between all actors - also online as Covid-19 has shown.

As was to be expected, some participants were more convinced than others regarding the urgency of the actions needed to transform the current food system, as well as the ways in which to get there. For its part, IFOAM Organics Europe is eager to engage with the EU institutions and other stakeholders to transform the current food system towards a more sustainable one and to reach the 25% organic land target by 2030!

The recorded videos of the event will be available [on the events' webpage](#).

## 4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2020

The contributions of sponsors allow IFOAM Organics Europe to focus on its most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a means to co-finance IFOAM Organics Europe events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

24-25 November 2020

[Organic Innovation Days 2020](#), [LIVSEED Final Conference for Stakeholders & Policy-makers](#), and [LIVSEED European Workshop on Organic Seed Production & Use](#)  
Online

8-9 December 2020

[IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2020](#)  
Online

25-26 January 2021

[Improving sustainability and welfare in organic poultry and pig production](#) - Joint conference OK-NET  
EcoFeed, PPILOW, POWER, FreeBirds  
Online

17-20 February 2021

[BIOFACH](#)  
Nuremberg, Germany

8-10 March 2021

[EUCARPIA-LIVSEED Conference -Breeding and seed sector innovations for organic food systems](#)  
Cēsis, Latvia

23 March 2021

[ReMIX final conference](#)  
Brussels, Belgium

April 2021

[IoF2020 final event](#)  
To be determined



April 2021

[XF-Actors final event](#)

To be determined

6-10 September 2021

[Organic https://owc.ifoam.bio/2020/enWorld Congress 2021](https://owc.ifoam.bio/2020/enWorldCongress2021)

Rennes, France



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