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WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

I would like to use this opportunity to look back on a turbulent year, marked with great successes and unprecedented challenges, and look ahead.

This spring's first wave of Covid-19 caught all of us by surprise. On behalf of my team and the European organic movement, I would like to thank everyone involved in fighting the virus: doctors, nurses, specialists, those wearing masks and following official guidelines, and everyone else making sure the most vulnerable people are protected.

As Director of the European organic movement, I would also like to express our gratitude to all organic stakeholders who continued working during these challenging times. It was you who provided us with healthy, high-quality food, protected the environment and enabled further growth of the organic market.

The European organic movement's milestones

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we are continuing to work with all actors along the organic value chain to make our Vision 2030 a reality. [One of our major successes in 2020 is the inclusion of the 25% organic land target in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.](#) As part of the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork strategy aims at addressing "the challenges of sustainable food systems in a comprehensive way, recognising the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet"¹.

The first digital edition of our [European Organic Congress](#), 1-3 July, provided the perfect platform to discuss the opportunities the Farm to Fork strategy offers. 25 speakers and 1,000 participants talked about the new EU Organic Regulation, the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), and the future of our food system. [At the end, high-level speakers from the European Commission, European Parliament and the German Presidency of the EU Council agreed that our system is experiencing a biodiversity and climate crisis, and organic food and farming is part of the solution and way forward.](#)

[Another milestone for the European organic movement is the Commission's decision to postpone the application of the new EU Organic Regulation to 1 January 2022.](#) Together with our members, we advocated at all levels to make sure the implementation would be feasible for those working in organic. As basic regulations are rarely amended before their implementation, this was not an easy task. Our success shows the strength of uniting as organic movement and sector at EU level.

Looking ahead: 2020 and beyond

Most of these positive developments are happening amidst the second wave of Covid-19, significantly affecting organic operators.

Yet, as IFOAM Organics Europe, we regret that the European Parliament and Council did not show the same ambition for transforming the European food and farming sector by fully aligning the CAP with the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' objectives. [We will continue to support all initiatives by the Commission to better integrate the European Green Deal into the CAP during the CAP trilogues ongoing until spring next year.](#)

Before closing 2020, we will host the [3rd edition of IFOAM Organics Europe meets business](#). This year we are bringing the organic food industry together in two morning sessions that will take place online on 8-9 December. [Have a look at the programme](#) and [register today](#) to discuss current and trending topics, such as the new Organic Regulation, the impact of Brexit on the organic sector, and the Farm to Fork strategy.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/safety/docs/f2f_action-plan_2020_strategy-info_en.pdf (page 4)

[With the update of our presence, which better reflects who we are and what we are fighting for towards the European institutions,](#) we will keep making Europe more organic in the coming year.

I kindly invite our members to regularly check their mailbox in the coming weeks - a small surprise will come your way – and wish you and your loved ones all the best for the rest of 2020 and a good and healthy start of 2021! You will hear from us again in the February newsletter.

Organic regards,

Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM Organics Europe Director



POLITICAL HOTSPOT

The Organic Action Plan

The European Commission is set to publish the next European organic action plan (OAP) at the beginning of next year. It has launched a public consultation for stakeholders and the public to give their input, which was open from 4-27 November. Replies to this public consultation are available [on the Commission's website](#).

A comprehensive and well-designed organic action plan could greatly contribute to the development of the organic sector, so it was crucial for the organic movement to reply to this public consultation.

This is why IFOAM Organics Europe drafted [a document with the European organic movement's suggestions for the next organic action plan](#).

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we believe the new OAP should contribute to achieving the 25% organic land target by 2030 and that actions must be specific, ambitious and come with a timeline.

The European organic movement's main suggestions

Green public procurement (GPP) is one of the measures that will contribute to reaching the 25% target. In line with the push-pull approach that has been successful in countries like Denmark, it is essential to ensure that organic production and demand grow in parallel, and policy tools like GPP are of paramount importance. As GPP criteria are not mandatory, a political and needed action would be for the Commission to open a dialogue with Member States to discuss about a mandatory target for organic in GPP. There is a need for mandatory, progressive, sustainable food procurement in all EU schools, kindergartens and other public canteens with at least 20% of products from organic agriculture by 2022; this percentage would increase year after year, reaching 60% by 2030.

The Commission should further **promote the EU logo among EU citizens and consumers**. In this context, it is paramount that consumer surveys about organic are followed by action to further raise awareness on the benefits of organic production and farming. Citizens should be more aware of the fact that **organic contributes to the internalization of environmental costs**. Consumers should be given more information (in quantity and quality) about the EU organic logo and what it stands for, and about the benefits of organic farming for the environment and animal welfare.

Member States should be encouraged to develop their own **national organic action plans with concrete, time-bound actions**. As such, the Commission should encourage national organic action plans that cover demand, production and innovation/development in all member states.

The Commission should **support market development capacity in national and regional NGOs** by requiring this as part of national organic action plans, and by promoting sharing of best practice in organic market development across member states.

Related to **plant protection products (PPPs)**, it is necessary to:

Increase the budget for research and innovation for organic agricultural methods in a constant and progressive pace, following the development of the sector, with the aim of providing R&I solutions for plant protection products and alternatives to contentious products,



Ensure that appropriate, proportionate and specific procedures are in place to evaluate and authorise natural substances,
Put forward concrete actions that aim at simplifying the registration of plant protection products (PPPs) suitable for organic,
Promote further harmonisation of the handling of pesticide residue findings, by taking into account the damage that a zero-tolerance approach would do to the organic sector.

For questions about the European organic movement's input on the Organic Action Plan, please contact silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio. Please note that we prioritise our members' requests.

1 NEWS

1.1 Policy

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Start of CAP trilogues and recommendations to Member States

Only a few weeks after the votes on the CAP files in the European Parliament and the Council, the three EU institutions are already negotiating the final version of the reform. In parallel, the European Commission is preparing recommendations for Member States' CAP Strategic Plans.

The CAP Trilogues began mid-November under the German Presidency and are foreseen to go on until next spring, under the Portuguese Presidency. One of the negotiations' main challenges will be the integration of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' targets in the Strategic Plans regulation. EU leaders began the work with a key piece of the new CAP, the green architecture. Discussions around conditionality and Eco-schemes will be at the heart of December trilogues.

As negotiations happen behind closed doors, IFOAM Organics Europe calls for more transparency in the process, allowing its members and other European citizens to follow the reform process, and its alignment with the EU Green Deal's objectives.

In parallel to these discussions, the Commission is preparing recommendations to Member States. Their aim is to provide national governments with guidance on the design of the CAP Strategic Plans and to underline areas where efforts are needed to reach the Farm to Fork strategy's ambitions.

According to IFOAM Organics Europe, all Member States should include a national target for organic land in their CAP Strategic Plans, which would represent a fair contribution to the European target, and should provide the necessary support through conversion and maintenance aids either through Rural Development measures (Pillar 2), or Eco-schemes (Pillar 1), or a combination of both.

Organic Regulations

New organic regulations published

Application of the new EU Organic Regulation

Originally, the new EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 was set to apply from 1 January 2021. However, the development of the secondary legislation is still ongoing and many Delegated Acts and Implementing Measures still have to be adopted. Many of them were planned to be published in November and December 2020, giving the organic sector no time to adapt.

In April 2020, IFOAM Organics Europe had asked for a one-year postponement of the application of the new rules, from 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2022. Thanks to the organic movement's tireless advocacy work in Brussels and at national level we managed to make the implementation of the new regulation more realistic for the sector.

Even if it was a simple change of date, this is the first time that a Basic Regulation is amended before its application. It was a mission 'almost' impossible and realised through the coordinated efforts of our members!



The Commission issued a proposal for a one-year postponement on 4 September 2020. Afterwards, the EU Parliament voted on it in plenary session, with 683 votes in favour, 3 against, 8 abstentions, and the Council of Ministers unanimously adopted the proposal as well.

Regulation (EU) 2020/1693 which postpones the application of the New EU Organic Regulation by one year was published in the EU Official Journal on 13 November 2020. You find the new text in all languages [in the EU's official journal](#).

Regulation on temporary derogations

Additionally, on 11 November another important Regulation has been published in the EU Official Journal. [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1667](#) prolongs most of the temporary derogations to some control requirements provided for in Regulations (EC) No 889/2008 and No 1235/2008 and to TRACES until 1 February 2021.

These derogations were established in July 2020 through [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/977](#) due to Covid-19 pandemic.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can contact <mailto:emanuele.bussaca@organicseurope.bio> for questions on the EU Organic Regulation. Please note that we will not answer to non-members' requests.

Rewatch the webinar on the regulatory changes of the new EU Organic Regulation relevant to the Global South

Did you miss the web meeting organized by the International Trade Centre on the new Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848? Would you like to refresh your memory? [Watch it again to learn more on the main changes and effects the implementation of the new EU Organic Regulation will have on the Global South](#).

This webinar was part of a series launched by the International Trade Centre's Alliances for Action Programme, together with regional partners, to support farmers, agroprocessors and institutions to prepare for the future and to raise awareness on new changes to come, such as the new EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848.

During this event, Michel Reynaud, IFOAM Organics Europe's Board member and sector representative for certification, presented the outline of the current and future legal requirements on organic group of operators.

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, as well as the potential impacts of the new EU requirements on the existing certified groups in the Global South.

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

[Rewatch the recorded webinar.](#)



Climate change



1 million citizens are calling on the Commission: Our forests are in danger, act now!

One million people demand EU law to stop deforestation

More than a million people have so far called for a strong, new EU law to stop EU-driven deforestation, sending a powerful signal to the European Commission and national governments. People in Europe want to be sure that the products they buy have neither contributed to the destruction of forests and other ecosystems nor led to human rights violations.

The #Together4Forests campaign is encouraging people to make submissions to the ongoing European Commission public consultation on deforestation to push for a strong EU law to keep agricultural and other products linked to deforestation off the European market. The more than one million submissions make it the largest public consultation on environmental issues, and the second most responded ever in the history of the EU (only surpassed by the consultation on summertime arrangements). But the race is not over yet!

You can respond to the public consultation until 10 December [by signing the petition on our website](#). It will automatically send our pre-fixed answers in your name to the Commission.

This powerful call from citizens follows the strong support shown by the European Parliament last month for a law to stop EU-driven deforestation.

Forests under attack

Forests and other ecosystems are under pressure worldwide: A total of 13 million hectares are deforested each year and almost all of it is happening in tropical forests (96%). The main driver of deforestation is expansion of agricultural land that is needed to meet the global demand of certain products (80%).

Europe accounts for a third of the world's deforestation

Europe and its citizens play a significant role in this. The EU imports and consumes around one third of the globally traded agricultural products associated with deforestation. This accounts for 7-10% of the global total consumption (consumption of exporting countries included) of crops and livestock products that are directly and indirectly linked to rainforest deforestation. The EU is among the major global importers of a number of these so called 'forest and ecosystem risk commodities', such as palm



oil, soy, beef, rubber, maize, cocoa and coffee. Even though the latter two have a relatively small forest footprint globally, their production is often highly concentrated in a few countries, leading to negative impacts that are very high in those areas.

As Europeans, what can we do to stop deforestation?

At the moment, there is nothing that stops these products linked to deforestation ending up on the market and on our supermarket shelves all across the EU, fuelling biodiversity loss, climate change and human rights violations. With the launch of the European Commission's public consultation on the assessment of additional legislative and non-legislative measures to address deforestation, we have a unique opportunity to get into action and mobilize citizens to take part in this.

The European Commission presented a number of actions to address the EU's role in deforestation in 2019. One of these actions is the assessment of new legislation. This consultation can send a clear signal to the Commission – we need to act to reduce the impact of products placed on the EU market on forests and other ecosystems and on those depending on them.

This is a unique occasion to stop products that are linked to deforestation, forest degradation and ecosystem conversion or degradation from entering the EU market, as well as to stop the human rights violations linked to it. This way, we will protect the world's last remaining forests and savannahs, peatlands and other unique places that are being destroyed for our consumption.

Visit www.togetherforforests.eu or email info@together4forests.com for more information. Are you active on social media? Post about this using #Together4Forests on [Twitter](#), Facebook & [Instagram](#).

Now that we have your attention

As someone with a heart from the environment, please consider signing the European Citizen Initiative to [Save the bees and farmers](#) too. It wants everyone in Europe to come together to call for a bee-friendly agriculture to the benefit of farmers, health and the environment.

This European Citizens Initiative, calls on the European Commission to support an agricultural model that allows farmers and biodiversity to thrive in harmony.

Join 'Save the bees and farmers' on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and sign it on www.savebeesandfarmers.eu.



Biodiversity, soil and water



Sign the petition to call on Europe to save the bees and farmers!

More than 400.000 participants have already signed the European Citizens' Initiative to '[Save bees and farmers](#)' and you can add your signature. Spread the word by sharing the initiative widely within your networks. Every signature counts!

Join 'Save the bees and farmers' on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and sign it on www.savebeesandfarmers.eu.

What is it about?

The ECI '[Save bees and farmers](#)' wants to phase out synthetic pesticides by 2035, support farmers, and save bees and nature. If the initiative gathers one million signatures, the EU Commission and Parliament must consider turning the campaign's demands into law.

Where can I find more information?

If you are supportive of this cause, you can check [their website](#) and browse the [initiative's communication materials](#). Information about the initiative is available in [more than 20 languages and](#) they have also released a [set of animation videos](#) to learn why it is crucial to sign and share the [petition](#).

How can I help?

To help you spread the word, we prepared tweets with one of the images you can find at the bottom of this section.

- General: #OrganicFarming is one of the solutions suggested by the new #ECI #SaveBeesAndFarmers. Sign the petition <https://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu/>, demand an agricultural model based on health, ecology, fairness & care for farmers, #environment, animals & consumers. #OrganicIsPartOfTheSolution
- French: #SauvonsLesAbeilles #SauvonsLesAgriculteurs! Nous provenons de toute l'UE pour demander une agriculture respectueuse des abeilles, pour le bénéfice des agriculteurs, de la



santé et de l'environnement! Signez

aujourd'hui <https://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu/fra/> #SaveBeesAndFarmers

- German: #BienenUndBauernRetten! Aus ganz Europa kommen wir für eine bienenfreundliche Landwirtschaft und eine gesunde Umwelt zusammen. Werde Teil der Bewegung, unterzeichne die Europäische Bürgerinitiative <https://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu/deu/#SaveBeesAndFarmers>
- Italian: Salviamo Api e Agricoltori! Da tutta l'UE ci siamo uniti per chiedere un'agricoltura favorevole alle api, a vantaggio di agricoltori, salute e ambiente! Firma ora <https://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu/ita/> #SaveBeesAndFarmers
- Spanish: ¡Salvemos a las abejas y a los agricultores! Pedimos, desde muchos rincones de la UE, una agricultura que sea respetuosa con las abejas, en beneficio de los/las agricultores/as, la salud y el medio ambiente. ¡Únete ahora! <https://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu/spa/> #SaveBeesAndFarmers

Where do I find more information?

For additional background information about the initiative, have a look at [our website](#). IFOAM Organics Europe members can visit the [member extranet](#) or contact verena.mitschke@organicseurope.bio for more details and images for the tweets.

Join 'Save the bees and farmers' on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) and sign it on www.savebeesandfarmers.eu.

1.2 Research and innovation Knowledge for organic

Curious about SmartAgriHubs' Innovation Portal? Participate in shaping the webinar!

Since September 2019, SmartAgriHubs launched and developed its Innovation Portal with a goal to expand and better connect the network of key AgriTech stakeholders across Europe.

How to register? How to navigate the portal? How to use its many features and what are its added-values? How to connect and discuss with its members?

To answer those questions, SmartAgriHubs will organise a webinar for you, IFOAM Organics Europe's members, sharing all the "ins" and "outs" of the portal and allowing you to make suggestions.

To help shape the webinar according to your needs, we put together a short survey you can fill in on the [Member extranet](#). Please fill in this survey before **16 December 2020**.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who does not have access to our member extranet yet? Contact communication@organicseurope.bio. Interested in becoming a member? Contact membership@organicseurope.bio.

SmartAgriHubs is a €20 million EUR 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 Digitization of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success.



IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to connect the dots between SmartAgriHubs and the organic sector, disseminate project outputs and communicate key messages during the project run.



SmartAgriHubs 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.

Interested to learn how public procurement can be a driver for a more regional, sustainable and healthy food system?

[FoodShift's Regional Lunch for All Lab](#) is based in Avignon, France, and aims at shifting public procurement towards a sustainable food transition.

As of 2015, Avignon's City Hall decided to take back the organization of school canteens – previously managed by a private company – to foster the quality of meals and reduce the impact on the environment. From September 2020 to mid-October, 38.1% of the products were certified organic (SIQO) and 20% were local.

To achieve this, Avignon City Hall built a strong network of stakeholders engaged in local and organic farming such as a research center (INRAE), a platform selling local food products (AGRILOCAL), organic farmers (or farmers in conversion), local farmers, local bakeries, and relevant public stakeholders.

In addition, the City Hall tries to reduce their impact on carbon farming by proposing more plant-based meals every day. These include one vegetarian meal, one with fish and two with meat. The City Hall also reduces their food waste by serving meals more adapted with children's taste.

This lab is part of [FoodSHIFT2030](#) (FoodSystem Hubs Innovating towards Fast Transition by 2030), a consortium of 30 partners (7 municipalities, 8 SMEs, 8 NGOs, 7 research institutes) from 12 European countries. Within the project, IFOAM Organics Europe provides advice on creating a food strategy, boosts the project visibility through dissemination to present the outcomes, and will organize the closing conference.

FoodSHIFT 2030 is a 7.5 million EUR Innovation Action project funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme, which addresses the call on innovative and citizen-driven food system approaches in cities, in view of shifting towards a low carbon circular future.



FoodSHIFT 2030 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 862716.



A guide to thematic networks – EURAKNOS publication

The EU Horizon 2020 project [EURAKNOS](#) has published an '[Explorer's Guide to Thematic Networks](#)', a handy, illustrated booklet on how to design and implement Thematic Networks to maximise user engagement and impact.

Thematic Networks (TNs) are multi-actor projects working on a specific theme, promoted by EIP-AGRI and funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme. Examples include the Organic Knowledge Networks [OK-Net Arable](#) and [OK-Net EcoFeed](#), both coordinated by IFOAM Organics Europe.

EURAKNOS has brought previous and existing TNs together to share and learn from each other. The new guide represents key insights from the TN community of practice, bringing together the knowledge and experience of practitioners as well as good practices from projects. These include the OK-Net EcoFeed Innovation Groups and Science Bazaars as well as the [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) online platform that was set up in the framework of the OK-Net Arable project and is developed further by OK-Net EcoFeed.

Are you?

- **Part of or managing a TN (or multi-actor project)?**
- **Starting or planning to write a project proposal?**
- **Working for the EU as a Project Officer?**
- **Evaluating TN or multi-actor projects?**
- **Interested in the multi-actor approach and looking for inspiration to design a project or improve end user engagement?**

Have a look at the explorer's guide, explore and get inspired!

[The Explorer's Guide is available in English](#) and translated versions are coming soon.

IFOAM Organics Europe is a partner in the EURAKNOS project that aims to develop an EU-wide open-source agricultural knowledge innovation database making all the information from across TNs attractively accessible to farmers, foresters and the rural community. IFOAM Organics Europe contributed to the development of this guide, which is a key outcome of the EURAKNOS project.

Improving worm control in organic sheep farming by using faecal egg counts

RELACS project partners [Soil Association](#) and [Scotland Rural University College](#) developed practical guidelines for farmers and farm advisors on using faecal egg counts to improve worm control in organic sheep farming.

The latest project practice abstract describes how faecal egg counts can be a powerful tool determining the levels of worm infections on farm and thus significantly improving parasite control strategies.

[Read the full practice abstract on the project website](#) and follow @RELACSeu on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay informed about the latest project developments.



Practice abstracts contain practical guidelines for different actors of the food and farming system to solve a given problem. Publishing partners are the [Research Institute of Organic Agriculture \(FiBL\)](#) and [IFOAM Organics Europe](#).

RELACS seeks to promote the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of external inputs in organic farming systems.



RELACS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773431. The information contained in this communication only reflects the author's view.

Promoting gender equality in the workplace with IoF2020 & SmartAgriHubs' Gender Equality Toolbox

Would you like to promote gender equality in the agricultural sector? Do you work in events and communications? Check out the Internet of Food and Farm 2020 (IoF2020) and SmartAgriHubs' (SAH) [Gender Equality Toolbox](#), to help your organisation be as inclusive as possible!

Implementing more gender equality and gender-neutral language can be complex. In this [online space](#) created by IoF2020 and SaH's Gender Equality Taskforce, you will find analysis, useful information, innovative resources, initiatives and solutions, good practices as well as metrics to measure from the agritech sector.

Let's engage in this positive challenge and improve the way we work and the way we communicate.

The [Internet of Food & Farm 2020](#) project is a large-scale pilot under Horizon 2020 investigating and fostering large-scale implementation of the Internet of Things in European food and farming. IFOAM Organics Europe is a project partner and represents the European organic movement.

[SmartAgriHubs](#) is a €20 million EUR 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 Digitization of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success. IFOAM Organics Europe connects the dots between SmartAgriHubs and the organic sector, disseminates project outputs and communicates key messages.



IoF2020 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731884. 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.



SmartAgriHubs 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.

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 beauty of your work

By using [#BreedingABrightFuture](#) on Twitter, we call on organic breeders to share their views and messages on how the sector contributes to sustainability and biodiversity, climate change adaptation, healthier and more diverse diets. The campaign will be active for five months, leading up to the [LIVESEED-EUCARPIA conference 8-10 March 2021](#).

The LIVESEED project will increase transparency and 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.

Visit the project's website for more information on <https://www.liveseed.eu/>



LIVESEED has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727230 and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation under contract number 17.00090. 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.

Conference “Improving sustainability and welfare in organic poultry and pig production” - Register now! 26 January 2021, online

The online event will take place on 26 January 2021 and bring together four research projects: [OK-Net EcoFeed](#), [PPILOW](#), [Freebirds](#) and [POWER](#). Discussions are expected to deepen and consolidate the importance of organics within the feed sustainability and animal welfare concept. [Register now](#) and stay tuned for updates by visiting the [OK-Net EcoFeed project website](#).

Follow the project on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



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.



ORGANIC FARM KNOWLEDGE

- Exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists ✓
- Tools and resources about organic farming ✓
- Virtual meeting place for cross-border learning ✓
- The toolbox** available in multiple languages! ✓

www.organic-farmknowledge.org



Organic Farm Knowledge is a product of OK-Net Arable and OK-Net EcoFeed. These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No. 652654 and No. 773911 respectively.

2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENT

Active months for the organic representatives in the Commission's Civil Dialogue Groups

IFOAM Organics Europe advises and discusses policy options with the Commission and other stakeholders at meetings of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)'s Civil Dialogue Groups (CDG).

Last month, twelve CDGs took place. Covid-19's impact is omnipresent in our lives and reflects in the CDGs. The influence of the coronavirus on price and market developments were a regular topic in the latest CDG's. Another hot topic are the ongoing negotiations of the CAP and the incorporation of the Farm to Fork strategy (F2F).

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can read about the key points of the recent CDG meetings on the [member extranet](#).

If you want to get more details on any topic, please check out our new [civil dialogue groups extranet space](#) and get access to debriefs, minutes and other documents of the CDG meetings.

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.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who does not have access to our member extranet yet? Contact communication@organicseurope.bio.

Are you interested in accessing this information? Contact membership@organicseurope.bio for details.

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

IMPROVE INSPIRE DELIVER

FAIR PLAY FAIR PAY

HAVE AN INITIATIVE THAT TRANSFORMS FOOD AND FARMING? VISIT EUORGANIC2030.BIO TO SEE INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN!

IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

This project is co-financed by the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EAGRE). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The EAGRE is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.



Lead by example! Check out inspiring initiatives from the organic sector and submit your own

Are you contributing to the transformation of European food and farming systems? Showcase your initiative at EUorganic2030.bio!

To achieve the European organic movement's ambitious and [shared Vision for organic in 2030](#), IFOAM Organics Europe is gathering existing initiatives and projects that are [transforming food and farming](#).

The organic movement has always been a frontrunner and source of innovation. Together we can make organic and truly sustainable farming widely available and recognised.

Do you have an initiative:

- **That can be an inspiration to other food and farming actors and policy-makers;**
- **Is not older than 5 years;**
- **Is helping bring organic on every table, improve organics further, and make the value chains more transparent and fair?**
-

[Submit it now on EUorganic2030.bio!](https://euorganic2030.bio)

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They make it happen! Get inspired by Biopartner and help improve, inspire and deliver organic across Europe

Transforming European food and farming systems by 2030, the [shared vision of the organic movement](#), means improving how we grow and process food as well as promoting sustainable diets and the consumption of healthy food.

For more than ten years, Bio Partner has been the leading organic wholesaler in Switzerland. They have a network of producers, retailers, clubs and associations, supplying a broad range of organic products to specialized organic shops, retail, gastronomy and to the Swiss food processing industry.

Guided by three strategic pillars, “Corporate sustainability”, “Corporate Social Responsibility” and “Ecological use of resources”, Bio Partner aims to strengthen independent organic trade, offer more diversified and better quality organic products and improve the position of organic producers and retailers in Switzerland.

Read more about this initiative on euorganic2030.bio. Did you think it is inspiring? Share it on Twitter and Facebook from the website. Find out what is 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 on euorganic2030.bio





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Welcoming our new colleagues

We are happy to welcome our new colleague, **Mathilde Calmels**. On 9 November, she joined the Policy Unit as Policy Coordinator in charge of pesticides, natural inputs and fertilisers.

Mathilde is a French national who holds a Master's degree in agronomy from AgroParisTech and a Master's degree in European public affairs from University Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne. She has been working in Brussels for two years, monitoring EU agricultural policies for French farmers' organisations. As agricultural policies are her favourite subject, she is very excited to continue her European adventure by joining IFOAM Organics Europe, where she will work on the organics' approach to plant health care within the Policy team. Mathilde comes from the South of France, and although she misses rugby and tapenade, she is committed not to leave Brussels until the agroecological transition has taken place!

3 EVENTS

3.1 Preview of events

“Innovating European organic fruit production” – BIOFRUITNET’s 1st seminar

3 December 2020, online

BIOFRUITNET launches a series of online seminars promoting innovative solutions in organic fruit growing. The first seminar takes place on 3 December 2020.

Experts will cover the management of sooty mold in organic apple growing, emerging pests in citrus and organic solutions and approaches regulating black cherry aphid (*Myzus cerasi*) in organic table cherry production.

Check out the [full agenda](#) and [register to stay on top of the latest innovative solutions](#) applied to organic pome, citrus and stone fruits.

The demand for European organic fruit is steadily increasing, placing organic farmers in a competitive, expanding market. The three-year project BIOFRUITNET aims to strengthen the competitiveness of European organic pome, stone and citrus production through strong knowledge networks.

Within BIOFRUITNET, IFOAM Organics Europe leads the knowledge transfer and dissemination through easy-to-read end user materials, such as practice abstracts and videos. IFOAM Organics Europe is also responsible for developing a communication kit to maximize the impact of BIOFRUITNET at events, fairs and congress.

For more information about the project’s activities, visit BIOFRUITNET [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



BIOFRUITNET has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 862850. 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.

Organic processors meet on 7 December 2020

7 December 2020, online

IFOAM Organics Europe’s Interest Group of Organic Processors and Traders (IGOP) will have its annual meeting on 7 December.

Participants will include associations of processors and traders, as well as processing and trading companies. Among the topics on the agenda are a discussion about what elements make processing organic and an exchange of views regarding the substantiation of green claims.

The annual IGOP meeting is only accessible for IGOP members and IFOAM Organics Europe’s Board and Council members.



IFOAM Organics Europe's members can access [a list of its current members](#) and [the terms of reference](#) on the member extranet.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who is:

- **Active in processing and/or trade interested to become part of the IGOP? Contact silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio;**
- **Having issues accessing the member extranet? Contact communication@organicseurope.bio.**

Are you interested in becoming part of the IGOP? You have to be a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to do so. Contact membership@organicseurope.bio for details. If you are interested in the topics and do not want to become an IFOAM Organics Europe member, consider attending [IFOAM Organics Europe meets business](#) on 8-9 December.

Registration to IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2020 closes soon. Secure your spot!
8-9 December, online

IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2020 is around the corner! This year we are bringing the organic food industry together in an online event, to discuss the new EU Organic Regulation, Brexit's impact on the organic sector, the Farm to Fork Strategy, and much more.

If you are still on the fence about attending, remember to decide soon as [registration closes on 30 November 2020](#).

Here are a few good reasons to join:

- Two-morning-sessions with a varied array of topics relevant to organic businesses - the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, food & labelling rules, and international trade & control and certification.
- Interaction with experts and other companies active in organic through thematic roundtables and Q&As; and
- Network and exchange with various players within the supply chain and make new contacts through thematic coffee breaks and a fully-interactive virtual platform.

Have we sparked your curiosity? Check out the [full programme](#) and [reserve your \(virtual\) seat](#) at IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2020.

Stay tuned for regular updates on [IFOAM Organics Europe's website](#) and #IFOAMOEMeetsBusiness2020 & @OrganicsEurope on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

We are looking forward to seeing you at IFOAM organics Europe Meets Business 2020!

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Organic farmers discuss CAP, animal welfare, the organic action plan & more

10 December 2020, online

Following its last meeting in October 2020, the Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF) will gather online again to follow-up on ongoing issues like the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and animal welfare.

We will also dedicate time to the upcoming European organic action plan, as well as to the preparation of the Delegated Act on Organic Heterogenous Material, an element of the new Organic Regulation.

The next IGOF call will take place online on Thursday 10 December from 10:00-13:00.

As last time, IFOAM Organics Europe members can download the presentations and [re-watch recordings of the last meeting](#), the meeting through the extranet. We will also post a more detailed agenda soon in [the meeting documents](#).

The IGOF meeting is only accessible to IGOF members and IFOAM Organics Europe's Board and Council members.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can access [a list of its current members](#) and [the terms of reference](#) on the member extranet.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who is:

- An organic farmer interested to become part of the IGOF? Contact lena.brisset@organicseurope.bio;
- Having issues accessing the member extranet? Contact communication@organicseurope.bio.

Are you interested in becoming part of the IGOF? You have to be a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to do so. Contact membership@organicseurope.bio for details

BIOFACH and VIVANESS, the trade fair duo for organic goes completely digital in 2021!

17-19 February 2021, online

This article is based on BIOFACH's [press release](#).

In 2021, [BIOFACH](#) and [VIVANESS](#) will take place as digital format. The world's leading trade fair for organic food and the international trade fair for natural and organic personal care will be held as a [BIOFACH / VIVANESS eSpecial](#).

This decision is a response to the altered circumstances of pandemic and its effects on the global organic food and natural and organic cosmetics community. At the same time, this move will allow planning for the globally connected sector. The dates for the BIOFACH / VIVANESS 2021 eSpecial remain 17-19 February.



Petra Wolf, member of the NürnbergMesse management board, said: *“The numerous conversations and in-depth dialogue we have had in recent weeks and months have made one thing clear to us. Within the organic food and natural and organic cosmetics sector the desire for interaction, networking and knowledge transfer with experts, and to discover trends and innovations, remains huge and unabated, especially in these exceptional times. Even in this era of coronavirus, the entire sector is absolutely determined to come together to discuss the latest issues, even if only in the digital sphere. However, in the light of the pandemic and based on our ongoing dialogue with the community and a comprehensive survey of exhibitors and visitors, we trust that our decision to host a digital event will now enable all players from the sector to plan ahead in good time. I very much regret that the physical trade fair cannot take place and stress that this decision was an extremely difficult one for all of us. However, before we all meet again on site in Nuremberg in 2022, the BIOFACH / VIVANESS eSpecial will offer an ideal platform for professional dialogue in 2021.”*

Exhibitors presentations – networking – congress

Organic is more than a label or certification: organic stands for quality and conviction – for the responsible use of nature’s resources. This event is the perfect opportunity to meet organic producers from the organic market and be inspired by the sector’s latest trends.

The BIOFACH / VIVANESS eSpecial offers a comprehensive range of innovative possibilities. In addition to company and product presentations, these include exchange and dialogue formats such as roundtables and other formats for networking with industry experts. Sophisticated matchmaking functions that help interested parties to find the right exhibitors and vice versa are another integral part of the eSpecial format.

BIOFACH and VIVANESS 2021 also offers the organic food and natural and organic cosmetics community extensive access to knowledge transfer at the BIOFACH and VIVANESS Congress. The main congress theme in 2021 remains: **Shaping Transformation. Stronger. Together.**

[Visit BIOFACH/VIVANESS’s website for information on the 2021 eSpecial.](#)

3.2 Review of events

How organic breeding adds value to the food chain

15 October 2020, online

On 15 October 2020, FiBL and BÖLW in cooperation with the LIVESEED project organised “How organic breeding adds value to the food chain”. It called the attention of European processors, wholesalers and retailers on the importance of organic breeding for the future growth of the organic sector. [Watch the event again.](#)

In the morning, Monika Messmer (FiBL) provided an overview of the importance of the organic breeding in the context of organic agriculture. Following, Herbert Völkle, the Director of GZPK, presented their work and a specific project on organic sunflowers. Dr. Wytze Nauta of the Cooperative Bio-KI u.a, continued on organic livestock breeding and its main challenges.

Sigmund Walbaum from NATUARATA International talked about retailers’ perspective on organic breeding and the fair breeding project in which the members of NATURATA are involved for more than 14 years. Freya Schäfer from FiBL Germany continued with a presentation of the current situation



related to the financing strategies of organic breeding. At the end Mitja Seyffert from BÖLW showed the general concept of pool funding strategy.

A workshop with two parallel sessions on value-chain collaborations to boost organic breeding followed the seminar. The first identified and discussed benefits and barriers for value-chain actors to engage in cross-sector cooperation. In the second session, participants worked on consumer-targeted communication arguments and using them in organic food marketing strategies, connected to LIVESEED's organic plant breeding campaign #BreedingABrightFuture.

Presentations are available on [OrganicEPrints](#) and the event recording on [YouTube](#).



LIVSEED has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727230 and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation under contract number 17.00090. 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 true price of food & its role in transforming the food system: FFA 2020 review

26 October 2020, online

On 26 October 2020, our Director Eduardo Cuoco attended the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) event 'Rewarding sustainability in the food system'. He was an expert speaker on 'Sustainable business models: paying for the transition'. Other panelists were Bas Rüter, Global Head Sustainability, Rabobank, and Ben O'Brien, Director Europe, Beef + Lamb New Zealand.

The event's starting point was the concept that the future of our food systems relies on two interdependent demands:

- **The adaptation and reinvention of food chain business models, and**
- **The provision of farming methods which actively combat climate change and support biodiversity.**

Keynote speech by Janez Potočnik

In a vivid keynote speech, Janez Potočnik, FFA Chair, and RISE Foundation Chairperson, addressed inequality and the role of affordability when it comes to more sustainability in the food system. He called for a systemic approach, stressing how crucial natural capital is for life on Earth and stating we need to reconcile our short and long term interests, making space for changing habits and becoming more conscious and active citizens.

"All public money should follow public interests, aligned with the needs of the transition following the EU Green Deal vision. [...] The current crisis provides us with a moment of fragility enlightenment in which we can make real change... and we must make it." he stated.

After his address, EU Policy Journalist Jennifer Baker opened and moderated the session.

'Sustainable business models: paying for the transition' - A discussion with likeminded panelists

The discussion built on a few issues: how will the transition to sustainable food systems be paid for, what new farming models are available for farmers to deliver profitable and climate neutral businesses, and are they scalable enough to achieve real change?



Our Director started his speech listing the current system's side-effects on the environment, society, economy and wellbeing. He made clear how a simple adjustment of this system would not be sufficient to provide the needed long-term solutions in a coherent and comprehensive way. We need systemic change to switch from a vicious to virtuous cycle.

To finance such a change, he stressed the key role of a holistic approach: working on policies that help farmers develop new sustainable business models, and making the organic market grow so it can provide all farmers with fair and stable prices.

When asked about prices at the counter, he introduced the concept of true cost accounting, explaining how prices of conventional food do not match the real costs of such products and how consumers pay much more than what they see on price tags through their taxes (on health, climate change mitigation and environmental protection, and in terms of agricultural subsidies). If policies would reward sustainability practices, the gap we currently see between price and cost may reduce. As a next step, we need nutrition-smart food policies that start with public investments to improve availability and reduce prices for healthier items, so that everyone can afford them.

Bas Rüter also stressed the importance of introducing true prices, internalizing externalities, and called for wide coalitions of stakeholders to make this a reality. "A level playing field and true pricing are preconditions for consumers behavior shifting in the right direction" he stated.

Did you miss it?

The full online event was recorded and is available on [the Forum for the Future of Agriculture's website](#).

RELACS project on track despite Covid-19: First digital annual meeting

10-12 November, online

The [RELACS project's](#) third annual meeting took place digitally 10-12 November. It demonstrated that research in all work packages is advancing despite Covid-19.

Thanks to the motivation and dedication of all project partners, RELACS already published more than [five scientific publications](#) and [a policy briefing on the organic approach to inputs](#). The development of [practice abstracts](#) and project videos is ongoing, and results will be published in the coming months. On top of that, RELACS partners participated in a number of events, such as the BIOFACH session on "How much natural inputs does the organic sector need?", organised by IFOAM Organics Europe.

This year's excursion took place in the form of a 'farminar', an online visit of the newly built structures of the [Research Institute of Organic Agriculture \(FiBL\)](#). Thomas MacAlavey, Hans-Jakob Schärer and Thomas Alföldi showed the project partners around the recently finished stable, which provides more space for cows than required by the EU Organic Regulation and considerably improves animal health and welfare. During the visit of the new greenhouse, participants learned about the intelligent airing system ensuring a decent indoor temperature all year around.

This year's annual meeting was organised and hosted by FiBL, the project lead. IFOAM Organics Europe is responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue.



To learn more, visit the [RELACS website](#) and follow the latest project's developments on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

RELACS seeks to promote the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of external inputs in organic farming systems.



RELACS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773431. The information contained in this communication only reflects the author's view.

Shifting urban food consumption & production: FoodSHIFT2030 webinar

18 November 2020, online

FoodSHIFT2030 presented a webinar on how citizen-driven innovation can shift the way in which we produce and consume food.

Among the initiatives, the Berlin Food Policy Council, created by citizens in 2015, shows how it is possible to challenge the model of food governance of the city. The Council brings all different food system stakeholders together to brainstorm about what is needed to improve Berlin's food systems. They organise workshops, awareness-raising events, develop policy recommendations and were successful to put food on the agenda of Berlin's policymakers. They also work alongside the Berlin Food Life Center Lab to promote a decentralization concept for food distribution and education.

The community 'Compostiera di Comunita', based in Lecce, Italy, illustrates the benefits of promoting dialogue between citizens and public and private sectors to enhance circular economy. Through this network, the community developed a sustainable management system for food waste through the compost community and earthworm cultivation, which is afterwards transformed into a natural fertilizer used for plants. They work alongside the Bari Back to Land Lab to renew the short food chain model.

Finally, the EAT Foundation presented its 'Shifting Urban Diets' project, which has a lot of similarities with the work of the Copenhagen Kitchen of Tomorrow Lab. This project is structured around three main activities: using scientific data to design food projects reducing greenhouse gas emissions, involving citizens to define what needs to be improved regarding neighborhood food environments, and reinforcing the capacity building in public and private kitchens.

Learn more about these initiatives by [watching the webinar](#).

FoodSHIFT2030 is a Horizon 2020 project promoting food systems innovations in nine cities across Europe. More information about the 9nice FoodSHIFT Labs is available [on the FoodSHIFT2030 website](#). Follow the project on social media using @FoodSHIFT2030 on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe contributes to the conceptual framework for further development of governance strategies and food policy strategies. We will also disseminate project outputs within the organic network and at our main events.



FoodSHIFT 2030 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 862716.



First online edition of Organic Innovation Days was a success!

24-25 November, online

On 24-25 November 2020, TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming, held its annual Organic Innovation Days. This year's event partnered with the Horizon 2020 project LIVESEED.

Recordings of all sessions and presentations will be available soon on the [TP Organics](#) and [LIVESEED](#) websites.

Day 1: LIVESEED final conference for stakeholder and policy makers

On 24 November, the [LIVESEED](#) final conference brought together more than 150 stakeholders and policymakers.

Monika Messmer, Scientific Coordinator of LIVESEED, highlighted the project's outcomes, innovations and results impacting European and national policymaking.

During four workshops, attendees shared ideas, asked questions about the outcomes and progress made since the start of the project. The audience also identified success factors to increase the production and use of organic seeds. The workshops were structured along the following topics:

- **Organic varieties in the organic regulations**
- **New models of cultivar testing for organic farming**
- **Innovative breeding approaches for organic farming**
- **Strengthening organic seed markets and business models**

Day 1 ended with the reaction of Patrizia Pitton (Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, DG AGRI) and Thomas Weber (Directorate General for Health and Food Safety) to LIVESEED's policy recommendations and a panel debate with these representatives from the European Commission. Monika Messmer concluded that organic plant breeding requires more financing. Actors in the value chain should take responsibility and invest in organic breeding. While private foundations can provide support, public funding is needed as well. Public institutions should engage in organic breeding.

Day 2: LIVESEED European workshop

On Day 2, almost 100 participants attended the LIVESEED European workshop, where they learned about the project's progress at national level and key success factors in implementing national policy recommendations.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for the audience to get inspired by smart practices from all over Europe on seed expert groups, organic field trials and national seed databases. Another highlight was the launch of the European Router Database that will connect the national seed databases and make it easier for seed producers to place offers on multiple national databases.

The workshop ended with a panel discussion on the need to establish national roadmaps for key crops to increase availability and use of organic seed. Representatives of the European Commission, several national authorities, seed companies and researchers joined the discussion.

Opportunities for organics in Horizon Europe

In parallel, TP Organics sessions at the Organic Innovation Days 2020, likewise attended by almost 100 participants, focused on EU Research & Innovation (R&I) policy, namely Horizon Europe, which is



supposed to start next year, and how the new research programme can support the transformation towards sustainable food and farming systems by leveraging the potential of organic and agroecology.

Emile Frison, member of IPES-Food and the Mission Board for Soil health and food, gave an inspiring keynote speech about innovation for diversified agroecological systems. He pointed out that agroecology is not just a single tool but a different toolbox altogether, combining a set of practices and co-created innovations compatible with [the 10 elements outlined by the Food and Agriculture Organisation \(FAO\)](#) and adapted to the local conditions.

Susana Gaona Sáez, Research Programme Officer at the European Commission's DG AGRI, showed that organic and agroecology play a key role in many different European R&I policies, including the Farm to Fork strategy with its goal of having at least 25% of EU agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. She also said organic farming contributes to other Farm to Fork objectives, including reducing the dependency on pesticides, nutrient losses, the use of fertilisers and antimicrobial sales. Horizon Europe will be a key enabler of the European Green Deal, but instruments beyond R&I are needed to support the uptake of organic in a more holistic approach.

Caring for soil is caring for life

The policy debate brought together Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver, Director for Quality, Research & Innovation at DG AGRI; Dr. Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer, Scientific Officer, DG Research & Innovation; organic farmer and Mission Board member Alfred Grand; and Mute Schimpf, Food Campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe.

The speakers agreed that soil, the basis of food production, is the most important resource we have. Urgent action is needed to preserve and restore it through sustainable land and soil management. The Mission for Soil health and food aims to make 75% of all soils in the EU healthy by 2030. It will develop and support the uptake of solutions such as the enhanced use of agroecological principles and organic agricultural practices that have shown evidence of notable effects on soil health.

Living labs, spaces for co-innovation through participatory, transdisciplinary and systemic research, and lighthouse farms, places for the demonstration of solutions, training and communication, such as Alfred Grand's farm, will bring together all stakeholders, including researchers, practitioners, citizens and public authorities, to showcase good examples from agroecology and the organic sector. Demonstration is key to convince other farmers to take up soil-friendly management practices.

All speakers agreed that we can and will achieve the Farm to Fork target of 25% organic farmland by putting all our instruments and efforts in it. It would equally indicate the mission's success.

Conclusion and announcement

We hope you enjoyed the first-ever online edition of the Organic Innovation Days and the sessions you took part in! If you signed up for the event, you have access to the SpotMe platform for the next 3 months and are encouraged to take the unique opportunity to browse the resources section or share your views with like-minded people via our LIVESEED and TPO discussion boards.

To help us improve your experience, we kindly ask you to fill in this [evaluation form](#) about the programme and format of the event.



If you did not get the chance to attend the event, we are pleased to inform you that recordings and presentations of all sessions will be made available on the [TP Organics](#) and [LIVESEED](#) websites, so stay tuned!

Save the date: The next edition of the Organic Innovation Days will be held together with the [RELACS project's](#) final conference. Join us next year from 30 November-1 December 2021!

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

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.



DEVELOPING ORGANIC - GOLDEN SPONSORS



5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3 December 2020

[BIOFRUITNET seminar "Innovating European organic fruit production"](#)

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

17-19 February 2021

[BIOFACH](#)

Online

8-10 March 2021

[EUCARPIA-LIVESEED 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 World Congress 2021](#)

Rennes, France



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