

Table of Contents

WELCOME NOTE (500-700 words)	2
POLITICAL HOTSPOT (500-700 words)	3
1 NEWS	4
1.1 Policy	4
Organic Regulations	4
GMOs	5
Climate change	6
Plant health care.....	7
Food policy	8
Food policy	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1.2 Research and innovation	9
Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics	9
Knowledge for organic	11
2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENTS	15
3 EVENTS	19
3.1 Preview of events	19
3.2 Review of events	22
IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2023	24
ORGANIC REGULATION GUIDE GOLDEN SPONSORS	25
IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE PARTNERS	25
5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS	25

WELCOME NOTE (500-700 words)

Dear readers,

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter, filled with European organic updates.

First and foremost, I want to extend my gratitude to all the participants, speakers, and our main sponsor, Aboca, for their invaluable contributions to the success of the [Organic Food Conference](#). Many thanks to our other sponsors of day 1 too – [Green Organics](#), [NaNa Bio](#), [Rapunzel](#), [Valoritalia](#), [Suolo e Salute](#) & [Interbio Nouvelle Aquitaine](#) – as well as to the [BEING Organic in EU](#) project, who made dinner on day 1 and the full programme on day 2 possible. We would also like to thank our event partner [AssoBio](#). It was a remarkable event, bringing together a diverse range of attendees from the entire food chain, from organisations and companies to students and media.

Our highlights from the Organic Food Conference

At the conference, we got inspired by Christian Felber's keynote speech on rethinking economy for the common good, engaged in stimulating discussions on crucial topics shaping the organic sector, including new challenges deriving from the need to reach the objectives of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which are driving momentum for sustainability across the entire agri-food system. To stand out, organic farming must continue to improve and to raise the bar, refusing to settle for minimum standards. Companies are more and more seeking to align their brands with sustainability, but we must remain vigilant to avoid greenwashing and ensure genuine commitment to organic principles.

To thrive in this dynamic landscape, it is crucial for the organic sector to position itself as an indispensable tool for sustainable business models. By meeting the evolving needs of conscientious consumers, we can create lasting connections and make a profound impact. True Cost Accounting, a methodology that incorporates both positive and negative costs into the pricing of products, has a great potential to effectively communicate the sustainability of a product, in full transparency. It can also help fill the price gaps between conventional and organic offerings.

Another topic was the need for acknowledgement that the organic sector operates in a polluted world, where risks of contamination persist. As such, we remain committed to researching and mitigating these risks, providing guidance and implementing proportionate control measures. Our collective efforts will not only fight fraud, but also ensure the production of wholesome organic products that prioritise the health of consumers and the environment.

Additionally, the Organic Food Conference provided the perfect platform for us to present our [latest position paper on the Management of Pesticide Residues in Organic Products](#). This significant document explains the reality of organic production in a contaminated world, where pesticides persist. It outlines a harmonised approach to managing residue cases, in line with the strict regulations set forth by the EU Organic Regulation.

Mark September 2023 for the EU Organic Day & European Organic Congress

Looking ahead, we have a busy September coming up, with the annual EU Organic Day and EU Organic Awards (established by the European Commission in the recent EU Organic Action Plan). This year we are also organising our annual congress in September!

[23 September is the annual EU Organic Day](#). On this special occasion, we will give visibility to our members' initiatives. Are you organising an event connected to EU Organic Day? Please contact us at communication@organicseurope.bio, we will give our members' events visibility! We will also provide our members with a comprehensive communication package.

And mark your calendars for the highly anticipated **EU Organic Awards ceremony on 25 September**, where we will honour and recognise the best actors in organic farming and production. This event will unite us in our shared commitment to promoting excellence in organic.



But September does not end there! Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant world of organic as the [European Organic Congress \(EOC\)](#) comes to the city of Córdoba on 26-28 September. Our annual congress brings together policymakers and the organic movement to discuss what will shape organic and other sustainable agricultural practices and cultivate a greener planet for generations to come.

I invite you to join us in raising the organic flag ever higher. Together, we can champion sustainable practices, drive positive change, and create a better future for our planet and communities.

Don't panic, the future is organic,

Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM Organics Europe's Director

POLITICAL HOTSPOT (500-700 words)

The [proposal](#) for an EU nature restoration law is facing major opposition, recently leading to the rejection of the whole proposal in the Agriculture and Fishery Committees of the European Parliament. Critics claim that nature restoration is threatening EU's food security and leads to disproportional additional burden for farmers and foresters.

What is the proposal about?

Biodiversity in the EU has decreased drastically, pollinator populations are declining, birds are disappearing, and soil health is deteriorating. More than 80% of EU habitats are in poor condition according to the European Commission. To address this, the Commission adopted a proposal for a nature restoration law in June 2022 and sent it to the EU Parliament and to the EU Council. The proposal includes legally binding targets for different ecosystems such as agriculture, forest, marine, urban and freshwater ecosystems and pollinators. For agricultural land the targets relate to butterflies and farmland birds, soils organic carbon, landscape features and peatlands.

The proclaimed clash between farming and environmental protection

Negotiations over the Nature Restoration Law have faced difficulties and hot debates for several months now. Claims about threatening EU's food security have hindered progress on the file. The partly false arguments of having to take land out of production through the implementation of landscape features and peatland rewetting were among the main points of discussion. At the beginning of May, the Conservative European People's Party (EPP) published a [resolution](#) rejecting the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation and the Nature Restoration Law. In the resolution they also stress the great potential they see instead in the use of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and respective legislative framework of Genetically Modified Organisms, now expected to be proposed on July 5. Vice President of the Commission for the European Green Deal, Frans Timmermans, visited the Environmental and Agricultural Committee in the European Parliament on May 22, and [sent a clear message to the Parliament](#) in order to progress on the elements of the European Green Deal including the Nature Restoration Law, the Sustainable Use Regulation on pesticides, and the NGTs: "There is a choice to be made," he told Committee members, "stick to your trenches and stick to the status quo," which means "no SUR and no NGT's, or reach out to each other and make progress happen, together." "The Green Deal is a package," he stressed. "We cannot reach climate neutrality or guarantee food production, farmers, livelihoods and a prosperous bioeconomy unless we restore our nature." This also implies that should the Nature Restoration Law and the Sustainable Use Regulation not progress in the parliament, this might also mean a delay in the publication of the NGT proposal, as indicated in the past few weeks, both by [Timmermans](#), but also by liberal Member of the EU Parliament (MEP) [Pascal Canfin](#), who chairs the Environmental Committee.

Alliance of conservatives, liberals and right-wing parliamentarians blocking progress on nature restoration



While the European Parliament's environment committee is leading on the file, the agriculture committee has drafted an opinion on the proposed law. On 23 May a majority of MEPs in the agriculture committee voted to reject the whole proposal. The opposing majority comprised MEPs from conservative and liberal groups, including the EPP (European People's Party), Renew Europe, members of the right-wing groups ID (Identity and Democracy) and ECR (European Conservatives and Reformists Party) and one MEP from The Left. One day later, also the fishery committee rejected the proposal by 15 to 13 votes.

Framing the narrative around the necessity of biodiversity protection and nature restoration for food production

IFOAM Organics Europe has supported a nature restoration law with ambitious targets for agricultural ecosystems in a [press release](#) ahead of the votes in the agriculture and fishery committees. Organic farming is leading by example on how bringing back nature to the fields can go hand in hand with productive farming systems. To ensure long-term food security in Europe and beyond, policymakers have a duty to help farmers to preserve the natural capital on which we depend to produce food and should not be lured by misguided calls to weaken environmental legislation. A coalition of environmental NGOs is running the [#RestoreNature campaign](#) to fight back and stress the urgency and need to bring back nature and build resilience.

What next?

In the next steps, the Parliament's Environment Committee will vote on their report on 15 June 2023. The European Parliament's plenary vote is scheduled for July or September 2023. In the upcoming meetings of EU environment ministers next months, they are expected to further advance on a common position on the proposals.

1 NEWS

1.1 Policy

Organic Regulations

New position paper on the management of pesticide residues in organic products

We are glad to announce that IFOAM Organics Europe releases today [a new position paper](#) on the **Management of Pesticide Residues in Organic Products**.

The position paper represents a real milestone and provides for a guide that has been expected from many organic stakeholders within and outside the EU. With this position paper we aim to make it widely recognized that organic production is performed in a contaminated world with the omnipresence of pesticides having all its adverse consequences as well as we propose a harmonized approach to the management of residue cases under the relevant rules set by the EU Organic Regulation by operators and by control bodies/authorities.

The new position paper is the final outcome of IFOAM Organics Europe's Pesticide Use & Contamination project, the main objective of which was to agree on a common approach of the organic sector and movement on how to deal with pesticide residue findings still before 2025, when the Commission will issue the report on implementation of current rules and a possible legislative proposal for an improved harmonisation.

To achieve that, the project had four purposes:

- understanding the level of pesticide presence and contamination affecting the food and farming sector, with a focus on organic and the environment,
- understanding how competent authorities, control bodies & authorities and organic operators are dealing with pesticide presence and contamination,
- reaching a fair and improved legislative framework for the organic agri-food sector with harmonized procedures for operators, control bodies & authorities in case of residue findings,



- better integration of the IFOAM principles of organic farming into EU legislative frameworks (Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 on Plant Protection Products) and stronger coherency of indicators in the framework of the application of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) 2009/128/EC.

In the project context and thanks to the collaboration with FiBL, the following deliverables and scientific reports were produced:

- A scientific article on pesticide presence in the environment including surface water, ground water, air, soil, wild plants and post-harvesting activities. The article titled "[Presence of pesticides in the environment, transition into organic food, and implications for quality assurance along the European organic food chain – A review](#)" was published in the scientific journal Environmental Pollution;
- A [policy brief](#) based on the article was published on the Swiss journal Agrar Forschung Schweiz;
- A [report on contaminants on food products](#) based on a comprehensive survey broadly circulated to organic stakeholders and analysing 130 replies from 21 EU and non-EU countries;
- A [report based on a questionnaire sent to 220 Control Bodies & Authorities](#) illustrating the decisions taken by control bodies & authorities in Europe. In the questionnaire six hypothetical residue cases were presented;
- A [pilot study on spray drift](#) on 5 small vineyard organic farms in Switzerland.

The IFOAM OE Position Paper we publish now as the final outcome of the project, based on the above studies, reports and on a broad internal consultation process with our membership.

We would like to widely distribute it to EU Policy Makers, to organic stakeholders and to non-organic actors as well and use it as a tool for our on-going advocacy activities on the organic Regulation and on horizontal regulations related to plant protection products, such as the Regulation on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs (SAIO) and the future Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUR).



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

GMOs

300+ organizations unite to send strong signal to Frans Timmermans, demanding a shift to evidence-based sustainability food systems rather than unfounded hope on new GMOs.

More than 300 organizations signed a letter sent to Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal in the EU Commission, to call on him to uphold the precautionary principle, and consumers and farmers' right to information and maintain the provisions in the current regulatory framework on Genetically Modified Organisms. This is an important step to safeguard the integrity of the environmental ambitions of the EU Green Deal.

The letter was sent ahead of Timmermans' visit to the agricultural and environmental committees of the European Parliament on May 22. Among other topics, Timmermans addressed the revision of the seed legislation, the Nature Restoration Law, the Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR) for pesticide reduction, and New Genomic Techniques (NGT). The NGT proposal is slightly delayed but is now set to be published on 5 July 2023.

In the agricultural committee, Timmermans suggested that the use of NGT crops might help with pesticide reduction, linking the SUR and NGT legislative files. This myth has been rebuked several times. Firstly, a [2021 study by the European Commission](#) showed that most NGT crops that are close to commercialization relate the herbicide tolerance, which would clearly lead to more pesticide use in the future. Secondly, "pest resistant" NGT



crops are an oversimplified solution which does not [last](#): Pests and pathogens evolve rapidly to escape narrowly targeted methods, which is why attempts to genetically engineer pest and disease resistance into plants have failed or proven short-lived. Member of the EU Parliament Sarah Wiener from the Greens/EFA Group, the rapporteur on the SUR file, also rebutted this argument and stresses that NGT cultivation would increase pesticide use.

However, Timmermans also acknowledged the severe shortcomings of NGTs, including these caveats on their possible contribution to pesticide reduction. Among other things, he also mentioned that NGTs are founded on many empty promises still. Importantly, he elaborated on the importance of achieving the goals of the Farm to Fork Strategy, which also includes the 25% target of expanding agricultural land under organic farming.

So, it seems that a few points, which were highlighted by the letter sent ahead of the Parliament hearing were taken up by Timmermans. The letter was signed by 340 European and national organizations, ranging from consumer right, environmental, and organic organizations. Among them are IFOAM Organics Europe, BeeLife, European Coordination Via Campesina, the European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility, Friends of the Earth Europe, and Greenpeace. The letter called on Timmermans “to intervene and prevent the far-reaching deregulation of new genomic techniques at the expense of nature and the climate, and of farmers’ and consumers’ rights. The text further makes it clear that NGTs do not deliver on their sustainability promises and thus do not contribute to the Green Deal goals by 2030, neither for pesticide reduction nor for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Regarding organic farming, the letter elaborates that “Full GMO transparency along the whole value chain is a necessary condition for the EU to achieve the Green Deal goal to expand organic farming to 25% of all EU arable land by 2030. Exempting new GMOs from safety testing, traceability and labelling requirements on one hand, and seeking to expand organic agriculture on the other hand, are mutually exclusive policy objectives.”

Find here the [full letter](#).



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Climate change

[The multiple benefits of organic for climate and biodiversity – visualized in our new infographic](#)

The systemic approach of organic farming contributes to climate mitigation, supports the adaptation of farmers to the consequences of climate change and increases the resilience of farming systems, while protecting and enhancing biodiversity.

Common practices in organic farming, such as crop rotations and using organic fertiliser, and the fact that organic farmers refrain from using synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, lead among other benefits to:

- An average climate protection performance of 1082 kg CO₂ eq/ha/year
- Additional sequestration of 450 kg Carbon/ha/year
- 28-39% less nitrate leaching
- 30% more species and pollinators
- soil erosion is reduced by 22% and soil loss by 26%
- 40% less NO_x emissions/ha



Find this and many other benefits of organic agriculture for climate and biodiversity at one glance in our new [infographic](#).



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Council and Parliament are advancing on their positions on the Industrial Emissions Directive

The European Parliament's Committees on Environment and Agriculture have voted on their reports on the revision of the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). The IED is regulating emissions and pollutions from large, intensive livestock farms covering currently big poultry and pig installations, with the proposal of the European Commission to also include cattle in the future under the directive.

The Environment Committee who is leading on the file, has adopted their report on Tuesday 24 May. The MEPs have voted on including pig and poultry farms with more than 200 LSU (livestock units), cattle farms above 300 LSU and mixed farms above 250 LSU. This raises the threshold compared to the Commission's proposal of 150 LSU. MEPs propose to exclude extensive farms on which the livestock unit density is less than 2 LSU per hectare used for grazing or foraging. Agriculture MEPs have voted on their opinion in April, suggesting to remove cattle from the scope of the directive and keeping the threshold according to the current levels in the IED.

The Council of environment ministers reached an agreement in March. The Council's approach sets the threshold above which farms fall under the scope of the IED to 350 LSU for cattle and pigs, 280 LSU for poultry and 350 LSU for mixed farms. Exemptions apply to extensive cattle and pig farms, with a stocking density of less than 2 LSU/hectare used only for grazing or growing fodder or forage used for feeding the animals in the installation.

After the vote in the plenary of the European Parliament, foreseen for July 2023, the negotiations will start with the Council.



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Plant health care

New video on organic plant health care & updates on the SUR

We are happy to announce that we just published a new video on the organic approach to plant health care and the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR)!

[The full video is 3 minutes long](#), but we also divided it into three cuts as explained below:

- [The organic approach to plant health care and its benefits on the environment;](#)
- [Our recommendations for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation \(SUR\);](#)



- [Why we want to fix the Harmonized Risk Indicator \(HRI-1\) chosen to assess pesticides use and risk reduction.](#)

The full-length video and the 3 cuts are available on our [YouTube channel](#) and our [website](#). Please feel free to share them among your networks and on your social media channels!

Updates on the SUR

In March 2023, the Members of the European Parliament of the Environment Committee tabled **more than 2,800 amendments** to the European Commission’s proposal for the revision of the current Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. In [a document](#) published on our [Members’ extranet](#), we provided an analysis of those as well as an advocacy analysis for the coming weeks. Now, it will be the turn of the **MEPs of the Agriculture Committee to table their amendments (on their narrow scope of competencies) by 26 May**, after the presentation of the report from the AGRI rapporteur MEP Clara Aguilera (S&D, Spain) on 22 May.

Member States are still waiting for the Commission’s additional data expected in June 2023. The data will cover the impact of the SUR on food and feed affordability and availability, availability of alternatives to synthetic pesticides, pesticide reduction’s impacts on the EU’s food production, as well as the competitiveness of small and medium farms.

In April, we organised a Let’s discuss organic session on the SUR for our members. The PPT and recordings are available on our [members’ extranet](#).

Interested in becoming a member? Please reach out to membership@organicseurope.bio



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Food policy

[Launch of the FPC report on the Sustainable Food Systems Law: Policy recommendations for a meaningful transition](#)

On 25 April, the Food Policy Coalition (FPC) held its first in person-meeting in Brussels to launch its [report](#) “Sustainable Food Systems Law: Policy recommendations for a meaningful transition”.

The FPC urged the need for a new legal framework for Sustainable Food Systems that looks at the whole food system: from production to processing, distribution, and consumption. Only by taking this systemic approach we can build a resilient food system able to resist external shocks instead of amplifying them.

The report presented a list of priorities which are essential building blocks that will enable the transformation of our food systems:

- take a food systems approach;
- set a new governance framework for the EU food system;
- develop enabling food environments;
- ensure strong accountability and fairness throughout the food chain.

The legislative framework for Sustainable food systems is a crucial opportunity to finally steer our food systems in a new direction, benefiting people, animals, and the planet. These priorities should not be watered down. The



overarching objective of the SFS Law must be to enable an ambitious, just and systemic transition to environmentally-sound, fair and healthy food systems that operate within planetary boundaries.

Lukas Visek, member of the cabinet of Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans, responsible for the Farm to Fork Strategy, attended the event and agreed that the transformation needs to happen now, and it needs to be along the entire food chain, not only at the farm level. *“If we do not fix it, no one will do it... and the earlier we do it, the cheaper it will be”*.

This report will now be used as the main basis for the advocacy activities of the FPC towards the Commission, before they release the official proposal of the SFS law, expected in September 2023.

For questions on the SFS law please reach out to laura.sauques@organicseurope.bio.



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Sustainable Public Procurement: strategic lever towards a more sustainable food system

Sustainable public procurement has countless benefits that make it a strategic lever to trigger a change in the food system. Indeed, increasing the share of organic food products in public procurement makes it more sustainable and can generate a positive impact on kitchen staff training, waste reduction, health, canteen budgets, environment, work satisfaction, or school performance. For example, the city of Copenhagen was able to reach 90% of organic ingredients in school meals without any additional cost thanks to waste reduction and kitchen staff training and empowerment.

Investing in sustainable public procurement, for instance by sourcing more organic products, can:

- protect the environment
- reduce costs for public buyers
- benefit local economies
- decrease health systems costs

And much more

Check out our [new infographics](#) to learn about the many other benefits of sustainable public procurement.



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

1.2 Research and innovation

Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics

“We need concrete support for the Soil Mission” – A call by the research and innovation platform for organic and agroecology, TP Organics

Healthy soils are essential for food production but are under threat: over 60% of soils in Europe are unhealthy, thus not able to deliver vital ecosystem services, including climate change mitigation and adaptation. With the EU Mission [‘A Soil Deal for Europe’](#), the European Commission is pioneering a novel instrument and has shown



leadership in putting soil protection and the promotion of soil health on the European and even global agenda in order to reverse the dangerous trend of soil degradation through research and innovation.

With today's event '[A Soil Deal for Europe and Beyond](#)', [TP Organics](#), the European Technology Platform for Research and Innovation in Organic and Agroecology, calls for strong support for the Soil Mission. The 80 registrations show the high interest of the stakeholders in research and innovation for soil health. The event with high-level panellists from various backgrounds various (both high-level policymakers and actors on the ground) and geographical regions, including Africa, is complementing the [EU AgriResearch Conference](#) on 31 May and 1 June 2023. It is part of a series of events organised by TP Organics in Brussels to highlight the importance of the Soil Mission in the context of current environmental and climate challenges and in view of the ongoing evaluation of all EU Missions.

Starting from the soil and soil health being one of the core principles of organic agriculture, organic is a frontrunner when it comes to sustainable land management practices. Eduardo Cuoco, Head of Secretariat, Director of IFOAM Organics Europe, initiator of the event and one of the first signatories of the [Mission Soil Manifesto](#) launched by the European Regions Research and Innovation Network ERRIN, points to the solutions to make our soils healthy again: "Supporting organic food and farming directly as well as through research and innovation, advice and knowledge exchange, can make an important contribution to restore our soils. The organic sector welcomes the mission as an important instrument to promote major Green Deal objectives. Its activities on soil education, training and advice are key to equip farmers, advisors, and other actors with the necessary skills to manage land in more sustainable ways and to develop soil-friendly value chains."

Eduardo Cuoco adds: "The actors on the ground – the farming community, food industries and other stakeholders – need to be fully involved, and increased and sustained efforts are needed for the mission to be successful. In view of the foreseen review of Missions, we count on the Commission to recognise the mission's importance and achievements so far and to provide the necessary funding to expand its activities beyond 2023. Now the implementation of the Plans starts in the MS; it is therefore key that the Commission keeps soil health high on the political agenda and reinforces the Soil Mission, developing solutions that can be deployed – with the support of the CAP – by farmers and foresters. The mission's holistic approach should be taken forward by the Soil Health Law as well."

Kerstin Rosenow, Head of Unit, Research and Innovation at DG AGRI, European Commission, Head of the Soil Mission secretariat and one of the panellists, highlights key recent achievements: "The Soil Mission has already succeeded in mobilising and capturing the attention of stakeholders to team up, act on soils and leverage additional resources: 22 Member States and Norway have reported 190 initiatives with direct link to the Mission. In the area of agriculture, the CAP Strategic Plans recognise well the linkages with the Soil Mission and the CAP plans foresee to fund about 1,000 EIP-AGRI Operational Groups expected to target soils. The European Investment Bank is developing a pipeline for soil investments in connection with InvestEU. EU programmes LIFE, CBE, EIT, EIC, PRIMA, and EJP Soil support the Soil Mission and advanced discussions with Novo Nordisk and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the Soil Mission mirror the calls and actions. As an EU flagship, the mission contributes to global initiatives such as [AIM for Climate](#), the [Global Coalition for Soil Health](#), and international R&I cooperation."

The second event in the Soil Mission event series is being organised by TP Organics in the framework of this year's [Organic Innovation Days](#) on 25 October, TP Organics' annual public flagship event and the only EU event on organic research and innovation, and the third event will take place on World Soil Day, 5 December 2023. All three events receive support from [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), as part of their dedicated activities on soil health.



This communication is co-financed by the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.



Farmers at the heart of innovation applying and sharing knowledge in living farm labs.

“[Organic living labs and lighthouse farms in Europe](#)” is a study by [TP Organics](#), the European technology platform for organic food and farming. Launched at the Organic Innovation Days 2022 and subcontracted to the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture ÖMKI, it conducts an analysis of seven living labs and five lighthouse farms in the organic sector across Europe. These initiatives have implemented not only technological, but also social, economic, organisational and governance innovations. By applying different approaches and methodologies, they have been able to find local organic solutions and improve knowledge and innovation sharing.

The main result of the study is a set of actions to ensure organic living labs and lighthouse farms reach their full potential, mainly focused on:

- Improving knowledge sharing with events between peers, learning courses and trainings;
- Raising awareness about the concept of living labs and lighthouse farms in the organic sector and investing in social media;
- Setting up networks that connect all the actors in the organic sector.

The study also points out how the needs of organic farmers and other actors are currently not sufficiently met through existing Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems ([AKIS](#)). A new European organic advisory network is proposed to solve the problem of disconnection and underrepresentation of organics in national AKIS.

This study is highly relevant for the [EU Organic Action Plan](#), recognising the importance of research and innovation for organic, knowledge exchange on organic farming, and building organic agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS).

Download the full study [here](#).



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Knowledge for organic

Driving the transition towards healthy soils in Europe: IFOAM Organics Europe supports Soil Living Labs

It is estimated that **more than 60% of EU soils are unhealthy**. The [EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”](#) aims to accelerate the transition to healthy soils by 2030. The creation of **100 Living Labs and Lighthouses** under the Soil Mission will accelerate the forming and uptake of solutions by land managers and improve citizen awareness. IFOAM Organics Europe is proud to be part of the EU-funded Framework Partnership **“SOILL - Support Structure for SOIL Living Labs”** that will support this network of Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses.

SOILL is led by the [European Network of Living Labs \(ENOLL\)](#) and counts on 47 partners. The project is currently under Grant Agreement Preparation and is expected to start in January 2024.

Living labs are collaborative initiatives to co-create knowledge and innovations while lighthouses are places for demonstration of exemplary achievements. The Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses will be multi-actor: they will involve a diversity of actors to ensure co-creation across sectors and disciplines and to speed up the uptake of new ideas, approaches, and solutions.

Building on the experience of EU-funded projects such as [PREPSOIL](#) and [NATIOONS](#), **SOILL will support, coordinate, expand, and promote the 100 Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses** with dedicated capacity building, knowledge exchange, promotion, and regular monitoring.

If you would like more information on SOILL, please feel free to get in touch with us at bram.moeskops@organicseurope.bio.

National CAP Strategic Plans: On the road to achieving the 25% organic target

The Horizon Europe project [OrganicTargets4EU](#) supports the achievement of the targets set by the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategy, namely at least 25% organic farmland and a significant increase of organic aquaculture by 2030.

Within the project, Nic Lampkin from the Thünen Institute recently finalised the first analysis of the CAP Strategic Plans for all EU Member States until 2022. Even though reaching the 25% target by 2030 remains a challenge, results are promising as for the first time all Member States will provide financial support for organic conversion and maintenance.

The analysis shows that, compared to figures from 2018, Member States are aiming to almost double the area supported by 2027, and they set targets for organic land, either in their CAP Strategic Plans, or in their national organic action plans (OAPs). With the current plans, the EU could reach 15% of organic farmland by 2027, while further efforts would be needed to reach the 25% target by 2030. Nevertheless, the commitment of the EU Commission to deliver on its objective and of the Member States to implement national OAPs is acknowledged. In the coming months, OrganicTargets4EU will further investigate how the OAPs have adapted to the current challenges, and it will also include an analysis of plans for organic aquaculture. The full report will be available in July 2023.

Read the full article on the [OrganicTargets4EU website](#).



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or REA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

BIOFRUITNET project: Making stronger networks in organic fruit growing

Knowledge sharing is key for bringing together innovative ideas and identify new solutions in organic farming. The Horizon 2020 [BIOFRUITNET project](#), that aimed to collect, evaluate, and select locally known strategies and best practices, and make them easily accessible to organic fruit growers across Europe, ended in April 2023.

Three years of gathering information in 18 countries

Over the past three years, BIOFRUITNET sampled and analysed information from farmers from over 18 European countries. This allowed to pinpoint the most concerning obstacles to the organic pome, stone and citrus fruit growing systems in northern, central and southern Europe. Farmers' experience and their best practices preferences were the starting point to foster knowledge flow and support European organic fruit growers. From here, the BIOFRUITNET consortium applied a multi actor approach, where project partners and external experts assessed the efficiency of the collected measures, identified knowledge gaps, and proposed recommendations for further research.



Using European data to deepen local knowledge on organic fruit growing - More than 150 materials produced for farmers and advisers

BIOFRUITNET had knowledge flow and spreading of the best strategies and practice to end users at its core. To serve this purpose, the project produced visually attractive materials fostering the implementation of best practices and strategies in organic pome, stone and citrus growing systems. These include:

- 100 practice abstracts,
- 27 videos,
- 5 podcasts, and
- 3-learning courses.

All materials are available on the [project website](#) up to 3 years from the end of the project. Furthermore, all the materials will be kept up to date and will be available in the long term on the Organic Farm Knowledge platform.

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

For the past 10 years, the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) has been stimulating the exchange of knowledge among organic farmers, farm advisers and scientists, providing and promoting 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, breeding, and now also organic fruit growing.

Messages from the project

BIOFRUITNET stresses the importance of local or regional strategies. There is the need to deepen the knowledge on pests and diseases that are emerging in specific areas, and identify varieties that are resilient to biotic and abiotic stress in given local conditions. This is because needs in organic fruit growing differ across Europe, with obstacles that may be unique to certain regions, or have different relevance among various areas.

To further strengthen organic fruit growing systems, BIOFRUITNET recommends to:

- Support functional biodiversity as a powerful resource for pests and disease management. Local and regional research should focus on understanding the interrelations between measures enhancing biodiversity, antagonists of the key pests, and the effect of the climate and the surrounding environment.
- Support research on use of beneficials and alternative physical methods (e.g. vibration-based pest disruption)
- Allocate funding to breeding of varieties with good market quality, and shelf life that are tolerant to the main diseases and adapted to organic farming.
- Support demonstration projects showing integration of methods/practices (e.g. living mulches, microbial products, mass trapping, etc.).

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

Within BIOFRUITNET, IFOAM Organics Europe has been leading knowledge transfer and dissemination through easy-to-read end user materials. IFOAM Organics Europe was also responsible for developing a communication kit to maximize the impact of BIOFRUITNET at events, fairs, and congresses.



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.

Sustainable school meals as catalysts for food system change

On 22-23 March, during the conference titled '[Small Farm to Fork Procurement](#)' and held at the ICLEI Brussels office, IFOAM Organics Europe co-organised an afternoon session dedicated to the sustainability of school meals for the [SchoolFood4Change](#) project. Together with policy-makers, food procurers, food system experts and civil



society organisations, best practices and minimum mandatory criteria for public food procurement, as well as the upcoming Sustainable Food Systems Law and its regulatory framework, were discussed.

The conference started with the handover of the Sustainable Food Procurement [Manifesto](#) to MEP Karin Karlsbro, carried out by the endorsing local governments Torres Vedras (PT) and Rybnik (PL) on behalf of the [BuyBetterFood](#) campaign. Afterwards, the cities of Malmö and Umeå and the Swedish National Agency for Public Procurement showed their best practices for sustainability in school meals, focusing on organic products, fossil-free transport, reduced waste, animal welfare standards etc.

The day ended with two interesting panel discussions, where, amongst others, the upcoming Sustainable Food Systems Law, the EU Child Guarantee and the EU School Scheme were discussed with policy officers from DG AGRI and DG Employment, local governments and NGOs. It was concluded that we need more policy integration, fundings, targets that challenge reality, more research (e.g. on the benefits of free school meals or food environments), clear minimum standards and high-level political commitment, to work towards healthy and sustainable school meals for all children in the EU.



Funded by
the European Union

The SchoolFood4Change project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036763.

ECO-READY: Developing a European Observatory for short and long-term food and agriculture resilience strategies

The ECO-READY project aspires to identify climate-change drivers affecting food security and biodiversity across Europe. The comprehensive understanding of the EU food system vulnerabilities will enable the development of resilient scenarios, which will be further tested by a network of 10 Living Labs for a two-year period. An open call will be launched for the Living Labs selection, to ensure a fair representation of all European agro-climatic zones and the full spectrum of stakeholders. In parallel, through the use of a survey, project partners will engage policy-makers, civil society, practitioners, and consumers to identify local interests and challenges around food security, biodiversity and climate change. Then, based on the outcomes, they will deploy a set of awareness raising actions, aiming to trigger behavioural changes towards more sustainable consumption.

Project results will enable the elaboration of both short and long-term evidence-based policy recommendations and contingency plans for assuring sustainability in times of crisis. The produced knowledge will be made available frequently and consistently through an e-platform and a mobile application, the ECO-READY Observatory.

ECO-READY is an interdisciplinary project gathering 18 European partners which was launched in December 2022 for a four-year duration. The role of IFOAM Organics Europe is to engage organic stakeholders in the project, and ensure the developed and tested scenarios will provide best practice knowledge for a climate-resilient development of the organic sector.



This project has received funding from the European Union's HORIZON-CL6-2022 research and Innovation programme under grant agreement N°101084201.

Biodiversity is key to produce watermelons without pesticides – an example from an organic farm in IPMWORKS

The Horizon 2020 project IPMWORKS published a press release about the organic farmer Esther Molina



Rue Marie-Thérèse 11– 1000 Brussels – Belgium – Phone: +32 2 280 12 23 – Email: info@organicseurope.bio

of its Spanish greenhouse hub. She cultivates organic watermelons on her farm in Los Grillos without using pesticides thanks to conservation biological control.

Conservation biological control is a pest management strategy that supports natural enemies of pests present in the agroecosystem and promotes their effectiveness as predators, parasitoids or pathogens. These natural enemies then regulate the spreading of pests on the farm. Therefore, Esther planted all kinds of reservoir plants between bands and aisles (like marigold, immortelle and lobularia). This wide diversity of plants provides shelter and food to natural enemies of pests. "All I do is taking care of biodiversity." Esther says. With this approach, Esther can produce high-quality organic watermelons without using insecticides.

You can find the full press release [here](#).

[IPMWORKS](#) builds a European farm network to demonstrate integrated pest management (IPM) strategies and to promote the adoption of such strategies via knowledge exchange. IPMWORKS coordinates existing networks promoting IPM and launched new hubs of farms in regions or sectors where IPM pioneers were not yet engaged in a relevant network. IFOAM Organic Europe's role in the project is to coordinate the network of organic farms that are involved in the project.

You can follow IPMWORKS on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).



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.

2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENTS

Saying goodbye to our colleagues

Amélie Steu



IFOAM Organics Europe says goodbye to our colleague Amélie. After one year as a volunteer in the project and partnership unit, Amélie became a valuable member of the policy team. Amélie contributed significantly to position the organic movement and advocate on the challenging files of the Common Agricultural Policy, pesticides, and animal welfare. She worked closely with our members, coordinating an internal expert group of farmers, and her thorough work and dedication was always well appreciated by our membership. We wish her all the best for her next steps, and we are excited that she continues spreading the organic spirit!

Elena Fazio



Today, we say goodbye to Elena, our ESC volunteer who has been a vital part of our communications and events team since September. With her innovative spirit and her fantastic drawings, Elena's passion and creativity were evident in everything she did.

We are grateful for her hard work and contributions, and we will miss her contagious smile and positive attitude in the office. We wish Elena all the best



on her future journey, knowing that she will continue to make a positive impact wherever she goes.

Welcoming our new colleagues

Claire Morelle



We welcome Claire Morelle, who joined IFOAM Organics Europe as Research and Innovation Coordinator this April. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Bioscience engineering at UCLouvain University in Belgium, she proceeded with a Msc. in Organic Agriculture at Wageningen University and Research. She obtained her first professional experience in a regional beekeeping development association in South-West France, working on research projects related to honeybee health. In her free time, she likes spending time in nature, gardening, beekeeping, hiking, climbing or just being there. She applied at IFOAM Organics Europe because she wants to contribute to the development of the European organic sector through multi-disciplinary and multi-actor research projects.

Mar Segarra Valenzuela



Mar Segarra Valenzuela, 25 years old and coming from Spain, joined the Research & Innovation Unit as ESC volunteer at the beginning of April. Her background is in engineering: she has an Industrial Engineer degree from Polytechnical University of Valencia and completed a Master program on Energy Engineering in the Polytechnical University of Milan, with a focus on renewable energies for sustainable development. Before joining IFOAM Organics Europe, she worked for a company specialised in fast chargers for electric vehicles (Atlante). She decided to apply for the volunteering position at IFOAM Organics Europe because of her interest in organic agriculture and forestry. She believes energy engineers and agriculture experts should work together to reduce the impact of both sectors on land use, climate change and society.

Erica Conversano



Erica, 26 years old from Italy, joined IFOAM Organics Europe as an ESC volunteer at the beginning of April. After being involved in the Finance and Administration team for the first two months, learning from the processes of workflows optimisation, she will join the Communications unit. Erica has a background in gastronomic sciences from the University of Slow Food and is passionate about environmental issues, particularly related to food systems. She was happy to participate to the ESC project at IFOAM Organics Europe to learn more about organic food and farming. She has lived abroad in Spain and Denmark and now curious about discovering a new country: can't wait to socializing in Brussels through sports and cooking!

Ohemaa Agbolosoo Mensah





Ohemaa A Mensah is a young Ghanaian lady who has dedicated her academic pursuits to the fields of agriculture, sustainable food systems, and food quality. With a strong passion for these subjects, she has delved into the multifaceted aspects of agriculture and its impact on our environment, society, and health. Through her studies, Ohemaa has gained a comprehensive understanding of sustainable food systems, recognising the importance of balancing agricultural production with environmental preservation. Through her work at IFOAM, Ohemaa aspires to acquire adequate knowledge in EU policy making as well as the necessary skills needed in advocacy. Her goal is to actively contribute to the development of sustainable food systems, ultimately ensuring that safe, affordable, and nutritious food is accessible to all.

Call for sponsors: Help support our new project on Sustainability Labelling for food

Join us as a sponsor of the IFOAM Organics Europe project on new Sustainability labelling and help us protect the organic sector from greenwashing.

With the project **“Safeguarding organic from greenwashing labelling”**, we strive to protect the organic sector from greenwashing attempts of non-organic industry & aim to ensure that the new EU Sustainability labelling framework (expected for September 2023) relies on a methodology that does not allow the display of labels, claims and information misleading for consumers and damaging for the organic label. With your support we can take this ambitious project one step closer to reality.

IFOAM Organics Europe recently managed to reduce the importance of the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology in the [Substantiating Green Claim Directive](#) which was published on the 22nd of March. But without further efforts, this success can be vane and still bring to damaging the reputation of organic food and label, with consequent loss of customers, attracted towards cheaper food products claimed as “more sustainable”.

Our project:

- Court cases to protect the terms organic, ecologic, biological and their derivatives and diminutives such as ECO, BIO, and related translations, whether used alone or in combination, from their use on non-organic products (regarding the EU Organic Regulation) agricultural and food products whose production is not in compliance with the EU Organic Regulation.
- Advocate towards the EU institutions to defend the interests of organic operators to make sure that the next Sustainability Labels are based on methodologies that showcase the benefits of organic to consumers and do not represent unfair competition for the organic logo and organic products.

Our vision:

- **Methodologies aiming at evaluating the environmental impact of agri-food products must be designed through a holistic approach, to inform consumers about the vision behind the production of a given food product. The PEF methodology is unfit for a label that aims to assess the sustainability impact of food products.** It is based on a life-cycle assessment (LCA) that does not represent the complexity of current agri-food systems and leads to the underperformance of organic products compared to conventional. **Example:** eggs from conventional caged hens score as high as organic free-range eggs.
- **Current or future labels cannot contain the words ECO or BIO and derivatives because they are protected by the EU Organic Regulation to be used only on products certified organic** (Regulation 2018/848, Article 30). **Example:** The label ECOSCORE, which rates the environmental impact of products on a five-step colour scale based on the PEF methodology, is currently used by some big European retailers and appears mostly in France and Belgium. **Such labels undermine the European organic logo and its credibility towards European citizens and can mislead consumers’ choices.**



Benefits for our sponsors:

- You will enjoy a visibility package and be exposed in our channels (Newsletter: +3.700 recipients; Social media: +28.000 followers in total; website; mass mailings).
- You will get exclusive first-hand information about the court-cases developments.
- You will have a direct role in shaping the upcoming EU sustainability labelling framework and access to exclusive insights from the heart of the EU!
- You will enjoy a visibility package and be exposed in our channels.

We need € 90.000 to start the project and € 120.000 to reach our objectives.

Are you thrilled by the challenge? Get in contact with francesca.lilliu@organicseurope.bio to have more information.



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Organic Knowledge served fresh: Join Let's Discuss Organic! webinar series

Are you a member of IFOAM Organics Europe? Do you want to stay up-to-date with the latest trends and best practices in the organic sector? Look no further than Let's Discuss Organic!, an exclusive series of webinars for members only.

Each month, Let's Discuss Organic! hosts live online sessions featuring expert speakers and interactive discussions on specific topics related to organic farming. As a member, you'll have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge, exchange ideas, and network with like-minded individuals.

But that's not all - the recordings of each session are also available for members to access anytime in the members' extranet!

Recently, Let's Discuss Organic! held a webinar on Promotion Policies 2023, exploring how the organic sector can take advantage of promotional policies to increase awareness and demand for organic products. Members also had the chance to learn about carbon farming, an innovative approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing soil health and productivity. And in April, the series featured a session on the SUR. May's session was about enhancing Organic Production Compliance. The next session will be about the upcoming EU proposal on "New Genomic Techniques" and its importance for organics.

Let's Discuss Organic! is more than just a webinar series - it's a community of passionate individuals dedicated to promoting organic farming and a sustainable food system. As a member, you'll gain access to exclusive content, expert insights that can help you grow your knowledge in the organic sector. And with the [recordings of each session available in the members' extranet](#), you can re-watch the webinars and review the content at your convenience.

Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this dynamic community. Check the member's extranet to be updated on date of the next Let's Discuss Organic! and explore the latest developments in organic farming!



Rue Marie-Thérèse 11– 1000 Brussels – Belgium – Phone: +32 2 280 12 23 – Email: info@organicseurope.bio



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

3 EVENTS

3.1 Preview of events

Organic Food and Eco Living Iberia 2023: record number of registered visitors

The fourth edition of Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia, the meeting point for professionals of the organic sector at an international level, is coming up. The event will take place on 7-8 June at IFEMA MADRID, and is expected to attract a large number of visitors and exhibitors. Just one week left to the show!

Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia, an international show.

The previous edition of Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia was the most international in its history, with more than 25 countries participating. A success that will be repeated this coming June: world-class pavilions, such as Belgium, France, Italy, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Austria, Korea, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay, have already been confirmed.

In addition, the organisation is actively working on its Hosted Buyers program, which will have 300 high-level international buyers invited. Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia 2023 will have a record number of registered visitors from countries from North America, Asia and the Middle East. All European countries will be represented with large buyers from France, Portugal, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Italy, Sweden, and Denmark.

Spain will reflect its position as the world leader in organic production. At Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia, visitors will find regional pavilions: Castilla La Mancha, the Valencian Community, Murcia, Madrid, La Rioja, Navarra, Extremadura, and Andalusia are among the regional pavilions that have already been confirmed.

Stand reservations for the 2023 edition are still open. You can check the updated floor plan [here](#).

The largest showcase of the organic sector

Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia 2023 will become the largest showcase of the organic sector in the Iberian Peninsula. Throughout two days, brands, companies and producers will present the latest developments in organic food and beverages, sustainability and natural health and well-being to high-level international buyers.

All kinds of products from fresh, wine, beers and spirits, Free From and vegan, to dairy, preserves, frozen, oils, fish, legumes, cereals, snacks, chocolates, coffees, herbs and teas, bakery, nuts, vegetable drinks, juices, ingredients, grains and seeds will be showcased at Organic Food Iberia. A wide variety of cosmetic, cleaning and lifestyle products, as well as supplements will be presented too.

Registration is open

Organic Food & Eco Living Iberia returns to the IFEMA MADRID on 7-8 June 2023. [Registration to attend is now open.](#)

Queries from the media and request for press passes: Fernando Ferreiro Lozano, Marketing Manager: +34 919034683 | FFerreirolozano@divcom.co.uk

To register your interest in reserving a booth for the 2023 edition, please visit www.organicfoodiberia.com/reserve-your-space.

Queries about exhibitors and sponsors: Alex Suau, Fair Director: +34 919018162 | ASuau@divcom.co.uk For more information visit www.organicfoodiberia.com

Single Open Call for Living Lab Networks as part of Eco-Ready project, 1 June 2023, Brussels, Belgium



Rue Marie-Thérèse 11– 1000 Brussels – Belgium – Phone: +32 2 280 12 23 – Email: info@organicseurope.bio

The ECO-READY project aims at identifying climate-change drivers affecting food security and biodiversity across Europe. Different resilient scenarios will be developed and tested by a network of 10 Living Labs for a two-year period. An open call for the Living Labs selection will be launched on 1 June 2023, in Brussels. The agenda of the event and the link to the subscription form can be found [here](#).



This project has received funding from the European Union's HORIZON-CL6-2022 research and Innovation programme under grant agreement N°101084201.

Save the date: Organic Innovation Days 2023 on citizen-driven transformation of European food systems

Save the date for this year's edition of TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days, which will take place in Brussels on 25-26 October. Under the theme "Citizen-driven transformation of European food systems", we will explore the role of citizens in making our food systems more sustainable, as well as the potential of organic to contribute to long-term food security.

The first day of the event will take place on 25 October, from 10:00 to 14:00, at BluePoint Brussels. It will be dedicated to the EU Mission on soil health, "[A Soil Deal for Europe](#)", with a series of presentations and a high-level, interactive panel debate about how the mission, and the sustainable land management practices it supports, in particular organic and agroecological farming, can contribute to food security. The event will include a discussion with the audience and a networking lunch. Take this unique opportunity to meet and exchange with members of TP Organics, organic stakeholders, and policymakers!

In the afternoon of Day 1, the TP Organics Stakeholder Forum will be held as a space for more in-depth conversation among the members of TP Organics, including about the latest innovations, policy developments at European level, challenges faced by the organic sector, and potential ways forward.

The second day will take place at Herman Teirlinck Gebouw, Brussels. For this day, TP Organics partners with the European research project [FoodSHIFT 2030](#), the final conference of which will be held on this day. From 10:00 to 16:00, there will be a series of panel debates under the title: "The path to sustainable food systems". The first two debates will focus on the FoodSHIFT 2030 project, with a review of their results through the lenses of the EU Farm to Fork strategy and [FOOD 2030](#), and how FoodSHIFT 2030 has supported food system transformation. The subsequent debates will explore citizen empowerment for food system transformation through participatory methods, what we really mean by less meat, and how future city regions can activate and implement food system transformation.

Stay tuned for the programme and registration through the [TP Organics website](#)!



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

2023 European Organic Congress taking place in Spain, 26-27 September 2023, Cordoba, Spain

Are you ready to embark on an unforgettable journey towards a greener future? The **European Organic Congress (EOC) 2023** will take place at the Congress Palace of **Cordoba, Spain**, on **26-28 September**. We are organising this event in the context of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Join us for a remarkable gathering where IFOAM Organics Europe and **ECOVALIA** unite their efforts to facilitate discussions on pressing organic topics, exchange knowledge, and inspire participants with exemplary cases from various fields of organic.



This congress will bring together leaders of European organic farmers, traders, retailers, certifiers, associations, companies, policymakers, researchers, and other key stakeholders in the organic sector. Together, we will explore strategies to increase organic consumption, discuss generational changes in organic, delve into the new CAP 2023-2027, and address emerging trends such as organic regulation, innovation in organic certification, new genomic techniques (NGTs), and more.

While we put the finishing touches on our program, let us transport you to the enchanting streets of Cordoba. Picture yourself immersed in a tapestry of history and vibrant culture, indulging in mouth-watering organic cuisine that will delight your taste buds. Cordoba is ready to welcome you with open arms!

Are you curious to know more? Don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity to be part of the **European Organic Congress 2023 in Cordoba**.

Stay tuned for updates on our website and follow us **@OrganicsEurope** on **Twitter**, **LinkedIn**, **Facebook** and **Instagram** for a sneak peek into the organic excitement. Join us for an unforgettable organic experience!



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Natexpo: Only five months to the opening day! 22-24 October, Paris

The international exhibition for organic products Natexpo is stepping up preparations to welcome organic professionals in October 2023.

To date, more than 1,400 exhibitors and brands have already signed up to attend this next session. Also worth noting is a significant increase in the non-French contingent. In this very particular year for the sector, expectations are running high!

In 2023, Natexpo will once again be the point of convergence for organic trends. This is evidenced by around 100 exhibitors who have already registered in one of the show's seven villages to bring visitors a concentrate of innovation. These villages will offer a wide range of products encompassing food, cosmetics, dietary supplements, ingredients, eco-products, eco-services and retail equipment. Among these sparkling finds feature a number of foreign companies from all over Europe (Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

In 2023, the exhibition's international reach is consolidating and intensifying!

With a 160% increase compared with the 2015 figure, Natexpo is once again registering a substantial increase in its number of international exhibitors, who now account for more than a quarter of the show. From a content perspective, the "International mornings" held on the Agora in the middle of the exhibition will focus on foreign organic markets, their relations with France and international market trends. Another new development the debut participations at Natexpo of a German pavilion with 14 exhibitors, and of the Spanish organic production trade association Ecovalia, also in a pavilion.

As an exclusive hub for connections between French exhibitors and the international organic market, the "BtoB meetings" organised in partnership with Business France will give French exhibitors the opportunity to make business appointments with targeted foreign buyers. This year, two cosmetics purchasers will be attending the show for the first time to meet French brands.

If you wish to visit Natexpo 2023, ask for your [free visitor badge](#) and if you wish to exhibit, [request your registration kit](#).





The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

3.2 Review of events

Exploring the future of organic agriculture: Highlights from day 1 of the Organic Food Conference, 22-23 May 2023, Sansepolcro, Italy

The Organic Food Conference took place on 22-23 May at Aboca's premises in Sansepolcro, Tuscany (IT), and its first day was nothing short of exciting! A broad variety of participants, from organisations and companies to university students, media, etc.. came together to share their passion for organic food and sustainability. The conference kicked off with a warm welcome and inspiring words from our Director Eduardo Cuoco, our President Jan Plagge and Aboca's Agricultural Public Affairs & Impact and Sustainability Manager Jacopo Orlando.

Undoubtedly, one of the most remarkable moments of the day was the keynote speech by Christian Felber, writer, university lecturer, and initiator of Economy for the Common Good and of the Austrian Cooperative for the Common Good. "Economy for the Common Good - A model fit for the future" was the title of his intervention, and his impactful words left a profound impression on the entire audience, especially when he emphasized that the current global ecological crisis necessitates the establishment of a sustainable, socially responsible, and human-centric economic model. A model in which money is just the mean to achieve its primary goal and purpose of the Common Good, a good life for everyone on a healthy planet. At the heart of this concept lies the idea that values-driven businesses are mindful of and committed to human dignity, solidarity and social justice, environmental sustainability, and transparency and co-determination. To learn more about the Economy for Common Good movement and how it works in practice, visit [their website](#) and watch [Christian Felber's TedX on YouTube](#).

After Felber's speech, we had an interesting discussion on organic food in a changing world, moderated by our director Eduardo Cuoco, with ISMEA's President Angelo Frascarelli, our President Jan Plagge, and AssoBio's President Roberto Zanoni. The panel was lively and engaging, with participants focusing on future challenges and sharing insights, experiences and needs of the organic sector from their respective countries.

To cap off an already enriching day, we had the opportunity to visit Aboca's beautiful museum, which showcased the story of herbs and health through the ages, as well as the company's history and their commitment to sustainability. It was truly inspiring to see firsthand how Aboca has built a successful business while staying true to their values.

Day 1 ended with a delicious organic dinner, opened by a toast by our Vice-President Marian Blom and FederBio's Managing Director Rossella Bartolozzi, who also briefly introduced the project BEING Organic in EU, sponsor of the dinner itself and of day 2 of the Organic Food Conference.

THANK YOU!

Organiser:



Event host:



Main sponsors:



Silver sponsors:



Bronze sponsor:



Media partner:



Event partner:



This event is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). The sole responsibility for this event lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.



The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This page only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. The CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

A recap of the Organic Food Conference by BEING Organic in EU, 22-23 May 2023, Sansepolcro, Italy

IFOAM Organics Europe was happy to continue promoting the [BEING ORGANIC in EU](#) project objectives through the organisation of the **Organic Food Conference**, that took place on 22-23 May in the beautiful premises of our member and main sponsor Aboca, in Sansepolcro, Italy.

At the end of day 1, after an opening toast by our Vice-President Marian Blom and by Probios' Rossella Bartolozzi, representing FederBio's presidency, who gave a brief introduction to the BEING Organic in EU project, participants had the pleasure to enjoy delicious organic food and wine at the [Osteria il Giardino di Piero](#).

Day 2 of the Organic Food Conference offered an intense and interesting programme. We kicked off the day with a passionate speech by Cav. Valentino Mercati, founder of Aboca, on how businesses should work towards sustaining – not sabotaging - life. We then dove into a panel discussion on the sustainability challenges brought about by the EU Farm to Fork strategy. While we aim at achieving more sustainable food systems via targets such as the 25% organic land and the 50% reduction of pesticides use and risks by 2030, we are facing concrete challenges such as the geopolitical context, the lack of policy coherence, and the concerns about the impact of the transition on livelihoods. The whole agri-food system is trying to ride the sustainability train, and the risk of greenwashing is tangible. The transition won't be easy, but it can be an opportunity to transfer good organic practices to the rest of agriculture. Organic, as a pioneer, will have to show leadership and strive to improve while raising the bar for organic production, and not settle for minimum standards.

The second session, "Organic for All Ages – Navigating the Current Market with Multi-Generational communication", dealt with how to best get messages about organic and its benefits across, especially when addressing consumers of different ages, which can require using different media. With more and more brands claiming to be sustainable, the consumer is left in a green jungle and can easily get confused. But today's consumers are not only buyers anymore, they wear a lot of different hats, and they also create communication around their values. Through "showing heart and values", meeting people where they are, and the use of transparency tools - such as e.g. True Cost Accounting - organic can build sustainable connections with consumers, as well as project itself as key tool for business models, meet the needs of a user that is increasingly sensitive to these topics, and contribute to closing the price gap between organic and conventional products.



Lastly, the third and last session focused on the new organic regulation and on how to produce organic food in a polluted world. With the global pesticide market almost doubling in the last 20 years, and leading to a rise in pesticide poisoning (source: [Pesticide Atlas](#)), contamination is omnipresent in the environment. How to deal with pesticide residues in organic products is therefore a relevant topic for most organic stakeholders, especially since the burden of contamination costs is currently carried by the organic sector, and not by polluters. This was the topic of our "[Pesticide use & contamination project](#)", which resulted in a [Position Paper on the management of pesticide residues in organic products](#), presented by panellists Bernhard Speiser (FiBL) and Michel Reynaud (EcoCert) during this session. Bottomline is that, to combat fraud and remain able to produce healthy food products, good knowledge of risks, guidance for organic producers, and proportionate control measures are needed.

The Organic Food Conference was a successful event, with a varied attendance, from organisations and companies to university students, media and a delegate of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Pietro Gasparri. It was once again a great opportunity to discuss hot topics of the organic sector with high-level speakers, as well as to network among organic stakeholders while enjoying the Tuscan sun & food!

The BEING ORGANIC in EU project is a promotion campaign proposed by FederBio in cooperation with Naturland co-financed by the European Union under EU Regulation No. 1144/2014, which aims to increase and strengthen the consideration of European organic farming in the Italian and German markets by raising awareness and recognition of EU organic farming practices and the EU organic logo.



4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2023

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.





Aboca



RAPUNZEL
Organic pioneer since 1974

For a healthy and fair world

Organics with love.

ORGANIC REGULATION GUIDE GOLDEN SPONSORS



IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE PARTNERS

organic food IBERIA **eco living IBERIA**

Be the change

7-8 June 2023
Recinto Ferial de IFEMA MADRID

REGISTER FREE TODAY

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7-8 June 2023
[Organic Food Iberia](#)
Madrid, Spain

15-16 June 2023



Rue Marie-Thérèse 11– 1000 Brussels – Belgium – Phone: +32 2 280 12 23 – Email: info@organicseurope.bio

[Sustainable Foods Summit Europe](#)

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

23 September 2023

[EU Organic Day](#)

Europe

25 September 2023

[EU Organic Awards Ceremony](#)

Brussels, Belgium

26-28 September 2023

[European Organic Congress 2023](#)

Cordoba, Spain

25-26 October 2023

[Organic Innovation Days 2023](#)

Brussels, Belgium

13-16 February 2024

[BIOFACH 2024](#)

Nuremberg, Germany



This newsletter is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This publication only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.