

Welcome note

Dear reader,

In this special edition of our newsletter (available in 15 different languages), I want to share my outlook on what policies have in store for organic in 2025.

As IFOAM Organics Europe we represent and are the voice of organic to the European institutions. Every day, our members and Brussels office work on EU policies to ensure they make the work of organic producers, processors, traders, certifiers, as well as organic market expansion possible.

2024 was a year marked by European and many national elections, political turmoil, farmers protests, setbacks for much-needed pesticides reduction and conflicts over the future of European agriculture. It is in the wake of this that we have been working tirelessly conveying to policymakers that:

- Organic farmers demonstrate, day in and day out, that nature protection and a decent income for farmers and food operators go hand in hand, and
- Organic agriculture is a central policy tool to transform agriculture and better protect our biodiversity, soils and water resources.

To this end, our President Jan Plagge played an active and constructive role in Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's [Strategic Dialogue on the future of agriculture](#). On 4 September 2024, after seven months of intense negotiations, 29 stakeholders representing the food chain and civil society delivered a coherent [package of recommendations](#) to bring our food system in line with planetary boundaries, with an explicit recognition of organic as the only legally defined sustainability standard.

These recommendations will be the basis for a European vision on the future of agriculture and food, that will serve as a roadmap for the next five years of EU policymaking. The Commission committed to present this vision in the first 100 days of its mandate, so, without further ado, let's dive into our **outlook for 2025, what's in it for organic**.

Don't panic, the future is organic!

Eduardo Cuoco – Director of IFOAM Organics Europe

Ensuring farming delivers: support organic through the CAP and the EU Vision

In Autumn the Commission is set to present a new reform of its flagship policy, the CAP, that currently represents 365 billion euros over five years.

The next CAP should reward farmers who protect nature and explicitly recognise organic producers' role into making agriculture more sustainable. by increasing its support for organic production. Our position paper [A Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) fit for the future](#) explain how a three-stage approach can achieve this.

Before the new CAP, in mid-February, the Commission will unveil its Vision for Agriculture and Food. This 12-15 page document is set to provide the direction for the EU agri-food sector in the years to come. IFOAM Organics Europe has published its "[vision for the Vision](#)", with a short explanatory video [here](#).

We will elaborate about this at our [signature BIOFACH session](#) Policy Day 2025 on 11 February.

There's more for our members:

Join our member-only [Let's discuss organic session](#) on 5 June - The future of the CAP policy beyond 2027

Contact us if you want to translate our materials on this topic

Want to have a voice? Consider applying to our [Interest Group of Organic Farmers](#) on which unites and amplifies organic farmers' voices at the EU level

Strengthening the market: public procurement, promoting organic, and the Common Market Organisation

EU policies offer opportunities to increase the demand for organic products and to raise consumers awareness. This is why IFOAM Organics Europe has been advocating, together with civil society in the [Food Policy Coalition](#), for a target for organic products in a revision of the **Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Directive**, and for continued financial support for organic campaigns in the **EU Promotion Policy** scheme (which will amount to €23.4 million for organic and sustainable products in the 2025 budget). We are also working on the revision of the **Common Market Organisation (CMO) Regulation** to ensure that organic producers are eligible to market regulation mechanisms in case of crisis on the organic market.

There's more for our members:

Are you at BIOFACH? Join our [sessions](#) to discuss.

Join our member-only [Let's discuss organic session](#) on 17 April - Political Developments of the NGT Proposal

Contact us if you want to translate our materials on this topic

Want to have a voice? Consider applying to our interest groups of organic certification and integrity, retailers, and/or processing and trade - respectively [IGOC/IGOR/IGOP/ SFS Task Force](#)

Making informed choices: from sustainability benchmarking to NGTs

Moving to more sustainable food systems requires consumers and producers can make informed, unbiased choices. How to measure the "sustainability" of food products (and communicate this to consumers) is currently a political priority and remains a strategic topic for the organic sector. We will work on the design of a future "benchmarking" system to ensure that future **sustainability indicators** will fully consider all the benefits of the organic production system, on biodiversity, soils, water, and through the reduction of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers.

In the next months, we will continue leading to push for EU legislation on **new GMOs (so-called Novel Genomic Techniques or NGTs)** that ensures, as much as possible, traceability, the integrity of the organic production process, and the protection of all breeders, farmers and food processors from the threat of patents on seeds (which will skyrocket due to NGTs).

Learn more about and follow the project on [liveseeding website](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#).

There's more for our members:



Are you at BIOFACH? Join our [sessions](#) to discuss.
 Join our member-only [Let's discuss organic session](#) on 18 March - New innovations in organic agriculture:
 Inspiring examples to celebrate and share
 Explore our [arguments database on GMOs](#)
 Contact us if you want to translate our materials on this topic
 Want to have a voice? Consider applying to our interest groups of organic certification and integrity,
 retailers, and/or processing and trade - respectively [IGOC/IGOR/IGOP/GMOs & NGET Task Force](#)



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 new narrative for organic

Following interviews with dozens of our organic practitioners, [A new narrative for organics](#) “*organic after Farm to Fork*” reflects on how we, as organic sector, can remain relevant when we share organic’s benefits with younger generations and policymakers in an increasingly polarised world. This work includes [two infographics](#), [videos](#) and [resources](#) that you can use to ensure the need to transform our food and agriculture system remains high on the political agenda.



The yearly [European Organic Awards](#), jointly organised in the European spirit by the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, IFOAM Organics Europe and COPA-COGECA, aim to recognise and honour European actors who play a significant role in enhancing, developing, and innovating the organic value chain.

Applications will open on 11 February, so make sure to visit [European Commission’s website](#) on that day!

There’s more for our members:

Are you at BIOFACH? Join our [sessions](#) to discuss.
 Join our member-only [Let's discuss organic session](#) on 17 February - Food Security and the Narrative of Pesticides
 Contact us if you want to translate our materials on this topic
 Want to have a voice? Consider applying to our [Comms Hub](#), our Communications expert group

Research & innovation for making Europe more organic

For farmers to be able to enhance the sustainability of their farming practices, research and innovation (R&I) policies should be supportive of organic practices and provide **access to R&I opportunities**, and effective knowledge-sharing platforms.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we have established the European Technology Platform for Research & Innovation into Organics and Agroecology [TP Organics](#), of which we host the secretariat. We are one of TP Organics’ 150 members alongside farmers’ and consumers’ organisations, companies, research institutes, and civil society organisations. TP Organics identifies the research needs in organic and agroecological practices and ensures they reach policymakers in Europe and beyond.





Thanks to TP Organics' work, there are specific EU-funded project calls dedicated to encourage farmer-led innovation. As IFOAM Organics Europe, we are part of [14 ongoing Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 research projects](#), alongside many of our members. These projects **fund research into various critical areas**, including organic plant breeding, new genomic techniques (NGTs), green public procurement, yield gap reduction, and climate change mitigation.



In April 2024, we launched the [OrganicAdviceNetwork project](#), aimed at establishing the first European-wide **network of organic advisors and advisory services**. This project has a crucial strategic role for the organic sector. It promotes knowledge exchange and builds a robust network of trained advisors who can effectively support and guide organic farmers. By doing so, we aim to accelerate the transition to organic farming across Europe.



Finally, IFOAM Organics Europe is part of the management board of the [Organic Farm Knowledge Platform](#). For practitioners seeking practical resources, the Organic Farm Knowledge platform is the one-stop **online hub collecting practical information about organic farming**. It offers a wide range of free tools, including fact sheets, calculation tools, and instructional videos. These resources are tailored to help farmers and advisers implement innovative organic.

Join [TP Organics' Science Day at BIOFACH](#) on 13 February 2025 (Room Oslo, NCC Ost) and [Organic Innovation Days](#) on 3-5 November (TBC) in Brussels. The 2025 edition of the Organic Innovation Days, TP Organics' annual flagship event, will:

- Introduce the organic sector's priorities for the next EU R&I framework programme (FP10),
- Host the final conferences of OrganicTargets4EU and SchoolFood4Change, and
- Be the stage of OrganicAdviceNetwork's award ceremony.

Let's stay in touch

Of course, these activities are just a highlight of what we do to represent the organic movement. Join one of our events or reach out to us to learn more.

If you are **active in organic**, you can see that we do much of the work for you! You can consider supporting us and [become a member](#) or [support our work](#).

If you are a **policy maker** and would like to learn more about the work we do, visit the topic you would like to know more about on our website and contact the person listed there.

Discover our wide range of organic events in [our yearly calendar](#). Members enjoy early access to information and exclusive member-only events. To explore these, consult the [latest news on the landing page](#).

Do you want to know even more?

- [Join one of our events](#)
- [Subscribe to our newsletter](#), we send it six times per year
- Follow up on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) @OrganicsEurope

They make it possible

These companies' contributions allow us to focus on our most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding co-finances our events, projects and publications and is a highly valued. Thank you!





IFOAM Organics Europe is the European umbrella organisation for organic food and farming. With almost 200 members in 34 European countries, our work spans the entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors organisations, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders, and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies.



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.