



Organic Youth Proclamation on the Future of European Agriculture

13.02.2025

We, the undersigned organizations, collectively call for greater representation of youth perspectives in agricultural policymaking and declare our commitment to contributing to the empowerment of the voice and needs of young organic farmers and operators.

We believe that a resilient and competitive European farm and food system can only be achieved through the active involvement of all stakeholders, including youth in the organic sector, and by implementing ambitious policy measures in EU environmental and agricultural legislation to support a future-oriented, sustainable agriculture, with the organic sector serving as a best practice example of how to combine environmental ambition and economic success.

European agriculture is facing an aging population, with only 6.5% of farmers under 35 in 2020¹. Moreover, the number of farms in the EU decreased by about 37 % in the relatively short period between 2005 and 2020². Young farmers and entrepreneurs face numerous obstacles, including challenges related to land access, insufficient financial and technical resources, and broader issues such as fair compensation and decent working conditions.

Young people involved in organic food and farming face additional hurdles, such as navigating complex and incoherent regulations, which can hinder their ability to start or expand operations and establish sustainable practices. At the same time, organic youth are key drivers of the transition to sustainable production systems with their willingness to make long-term investments and adopting practices with widely proven benefits for the environment and rural livelihoods. At EU level, as of 2020, there are more young farm managers under organic farming with 21% compared to conventional farms with only 12%.³ The organic sector is a growing market and hence, attractive economic model, with the share of EU agricultural land under organic farming increasing by 5.7% annually since 2012.⁴ Thus, addressing generational renewal and attracting and supporting organic youth go hand in hand. It is essential to enable young entrants in the sector through policy support and ensure representation of their perspectives in policymaking.

¹ [EU Agricultural Outlook 2023-35 report](#)

² [Farms and farmland in the European Union - statistics - Statistics Explained](#)

³ [EU Agricultural Economic briefs](#)

⁴ [Organic farming in the EU: a decade of growth - European Commission](#)



We warmly welcome Commissioner Hansen's intentions to recognize young farmers, entrepreneurs, and generational renewal key tenants in the upcoming Vision for Agriculture and Food. The Youth Policy Dialogue, taking place on December 11, 2024, where the Organics Europe Youth Network was represented, was an important opportunity for the empowerment of youth voices. Furthermore, we fully support the recommendations of the Strategic Dialogue, especially on the topic of generational renewal, and we are keen to see their concrete implementation in the upcoming Vision as well. These are important first steps towards a coherent, long-term, and meaningful institutionalisation for the empowerment of youth voices in EU policymaking.

Generational renewal is also a core priority not only at policy level, but also in terms of resilience and governance within the European organic movement, founded on strong principles (health, care, ecology, and fairness), and systemic visions of our food systems successfully carried forward for many decades by pioneers and passionate people. To build on those values, the new generation is vital.

To streamline this work, the Organics Europe Youth Network, brings together organizations across Europe that represent organic youth or significantly work on topics that relate to young organic farmers and operators. Together, we are dedicated to have fruitful exchanges and formulate relevant advocacy demands, as well as support the governance structure of national organic youth representation.

We call for policymakers to actively and meaningfully involve organic youth in the policymaking process to work towards our common goals to strive for a strong and sustainable European agriculture, and as the Organics Europe Youth Network, we are ready to contribute and make our voices heard.

Signatories (arranged alphabetically):

1. Bio Suisse
2. Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture
3. Danish / Kalo Organic Agricultural College
4. Ekologiska Lantbrukarna
5. Emergent Generation
6. FIBL Europe
7. FNAB
8. Junges Bioland



9. NaNaBio B.V.
10. National Confederation of Young Farmers of Portugal
11. Naturland Next Farmers
12. Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture
13. Mani Tese
14. Organic Cotton Accelerator
15. Pro Luomu
16. Soil Association