

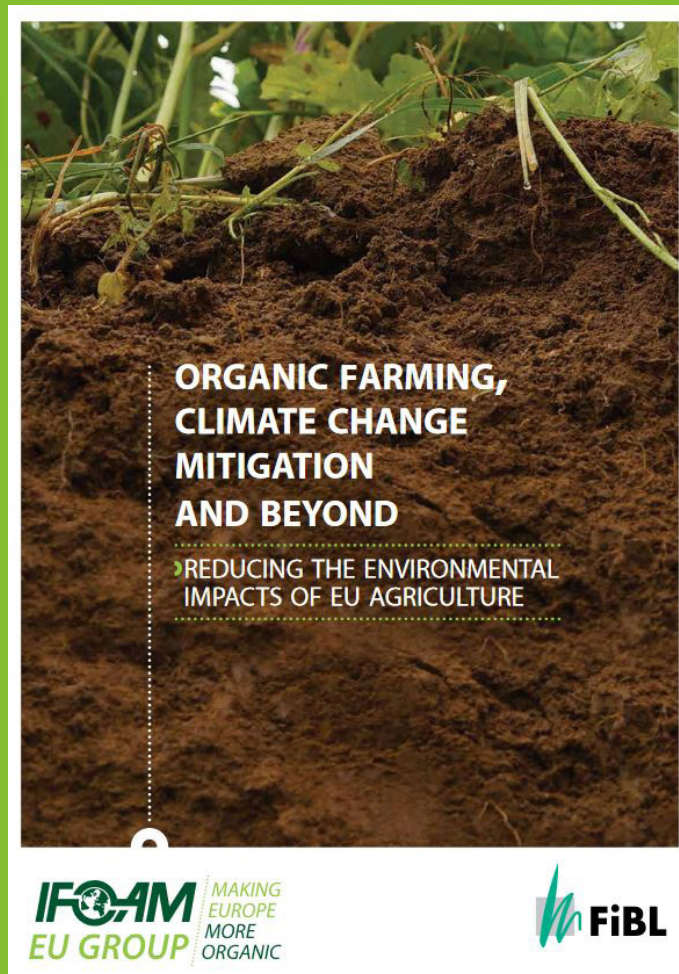
No 93
April
2017

IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

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Organic farming plays a vital part in reducing emissions from agriculture. Find out more in IFOAM EU and FiBL's new report

WELCOME NOTE

Last month the European Commission cleared the mergers between Dow and Dupont on the one hand, and ChemChina and Syngenta on the other hand. It still has to give its opinion on whether the merger between Monsanto and Bayer would infringe competition law. Bayer offered \$66 billion to buy Monsanto, while ChemChina put \$43 billion on the table to take over Syngenta.

If these mergers take place, the resulting three companies would control nearly 70 percent of both the global seedstocks and of the global pesticide market. But these companies are also making a bid to control much more than seeds and pesticides. Monsanto, for example, is already making a play to control many other facets of modern agriculture – including tools for precision planting and high-tech **weather prediction**. And of course they are heavily involved in the development of new genetic engineering techniques, such as the CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology. The main difference between so called gene editing and classical genetic engineering is that the former allows scientists to manipulate the genetic makeup of an organism – by changing or “knocking out” the function of a gene – without introducing genes from other organisms. On the ground that no foreign DNA is inserted, these companies try to convince policy-makers that such new techniques should not be regulated like GMOs, and should therefore escape

risk assessment, as well as traceability and labelling requirements. But CRISPR/Cas9 is known to trigger numerous so called off-target effects, meaning unintended changes of the genome or other parts of the cell with unknown effect on the organism.

It is therefore good news that Dr Barbara Hendricks, German federal minister for the environment, confirmed in a reply to the research organisation **TestBiotech**, that products of synthetic biology and organisms generated by genome editing should be subjected to a risk assessment within the framework of the EU GMO legislation.

In the last 30 years agriculture research has been increasingly funded by private money, allowing multinationals to control the research agenda, to buy whole research departments in American universities and to put pressure on researchers who have different views on the risks and benefits to be expected from their products. Monsanto and Bayer have pledged to combine their R&D budgets to the tune of \$16 billion over the next six years, or \$2.7 billion a year.

These mega-mergers will aggravate the **massive asymmetry** that already exists between research on genetic engineering and pesticides and other input-based approaches on the one hand, and research on systemic agroecological solutions on the other hand.

Independently of how one is looking at the potential and risks of gene editing technologies one should remember that traits which that are valuable to low input farming are unlikely to be of interest to these companies and their business models. After 30 years of genetic engineering, the vast majority of GMOs on the market, such as the ones the European Commission could authorise anytime now for cultivation (Bt11, 1507 and Mon810), is still herbicide-tolerant plants and Bt plants.

On the day it was announced, the *Washington Post* called **the Bayer-Monsanto deal the “mega-deal that could reshape [the] world’s food supply.”** But the growth and trust in organic agriculture is a proof that future can be written in a different way.



Thomas Fertl
IFOAM EU Board Member Board &
Rapporteur for Farming

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

UPDATE ON THE NEW ORGANIC REGULATION PROCESS

The so-called trilogue negotiations between the three EU institutions – the Council, the Parliament and the Commission – on the new organic regulation have set a record among agriculture dossiers: it is by far the longest trilogue ever. In 2015, the Luxembourg Presidency kicked-off the trilogue negotiations, which continued throughout the Dutch and the Slovak Presidencies in 2016, and are now in the hands of the Maltese Presidency.

The revision process started in 2012, the Commission presented its legislative proposal in 2014, and Council and Parliament gave their opinions respectively in June and October 2015. In November 2015 trilogues started and went on until December 2016 when the Parliament and some Member States called for a break. Negotiations were resumed in March 2017 and so far 16 official meetings have been held.

Why is the process taking so long?

To answer the question different elements should be considered:

- The initial legislative proposal was strongly criticised and included controversial elements that have not yet been agreed after more than 3 years of discussions
- The new EU legislative procedure in the Lisbon Treaty stipulates that the three EU institutions need first to agree internally and then with one another. This means that e.g. the Presidency of the Council first has to conciliate the needs and the requests of the other 27 Member States and then has to negotiate with the other two institutions. A similar challenging role applies to the Parliament rapporteur, which makes the decision process longer.
- The organic regulation is very complex: it covers everything from crop, livestock (including aquaculture), food (including wine) and feed productions to the control system, the import regime and the labelling requirements

The combination of these three elements explains why the negotiation process takes so long. The only way to avoid this would have been to properly consider the previous legislations and to build on them, rather than revolutionising the structure and the content of the current regulations.

What would be the outcome?

Next official meetings are planned for 3 and 31 May 2017 and the Council of Ministers is planned for 12 and 13 June 2017. There is the possibility that a new text will be adopted in June but it is at this stage impossible to make predictions about the final text.

If a final text is adopted in June, another 12–18 months will be needed to produce all the implementing legislation, similar to the current Reg. EC No 889/2008. This means that a potential new regulation will not be applied before 2019 at the earliest.

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ADOPTS EU-CHILE TRADE AGREEMENT ON ORGANIC PRODUCTS

On 6 March 2017, the **EU Council adopted the equivalency agreement on trade in organic products between the EU and Chile.**

In practice, it means the EU and Chile will soon recognise the equivalence of their respective rules and control systems about organic production.

The agreement will apply to the following EU organic products exported to Chile:

- unprocessed plant products
- live animals or unprocessed animal products (including honey)
- aquaculture products and seaweeds
- processed agricultural products for use as food (including wine)
- processed agricultural products for use as feed
- vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation

On the other hand, the EU will recognise as equivalent the following products from Chile:

- unprocessed plant products
- honey
- processed agricultural products for use as food (including wine)
- vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation

There are still some administrative steps to be fulfilled, and the agreement will enter into force three months after each EU institution has notified the completion of the necessary internal procedures. Read the full text of **the agreement on trade in organic products between the EU and Chile adopted by EU Council.**

EU IMPORTS OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS FROM NORWAY AND ICELAND TO RESUME

After months of uncertainty, **the import of organic products from Norway and Iceland is again possible** as of 18 March 2017.

This long-awaited decision is particularly important as it resumes the import of Norwegian organic salmon into the EU.



Photo credits: Triin Viilvere

NEW REGULATION ON OFFICIAL CONTROLS ADOPTED BY EU PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The new Regulation on Official Controls for food and feed – Regulation (EC) No 2017/625 – was published in the EU Official Journal on 7 April 2017.

Regulation (EC) No 2017/625 sets up new rules for EU official controls covering the agri-food chain in Europe and including organic production. Contrary to the initial legislative proposal and thanks to IFOAM EU's intense advocacy activities, the core of the organic control system will remain within the organic regulations. The new rules will replace **Regulation (EC) No 882/2004** and other legislations that currently govern the control and enforcement of rules along the agri-food chain.

The new rules contain, *inter alia*, the following new elements:

- Extension of the scope to also cover animal by-product rules and plant health. Plant reproductive material is not covered
- Increased transparency for official control activities carried out by competent authorities
- Introduction of the obligation for Member States to perform regular and unannounced risk based controls
- Financial penalties targeting fraudulent behaviour reflecting the economic advantage of the perpetrator, or a percentage of his/her turnover

- Establishment of EU Reference Centres for animal welfare and creation of the possibility of Centres for the authenticity and integrity of the agri-food chain
- Stronger rules on administrative assistance and cooperation between Member States in cases of cross-border non-compliance.

The new legislation will come into force on 27 April 2017. The new rules will gradually become applicable with the main application date being 14 December 2019. Read the full text of the **Regulation (EC) No 2017/625**.



Photo credits: Triin Viilvere

1.2 POLICY

› CLIMATE CHANGE

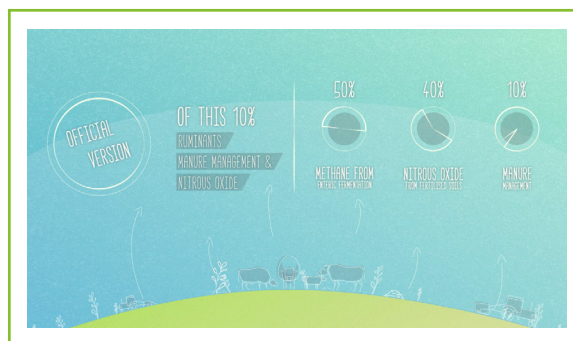
IFOAM EU published a new report in collaboration with **FiBL** on **Organic farming, climate change mitigation and beyond: reducing the environmental impacts of EU agriculture**. The report presents the co-benefits of organic agriculture when it comes to both climate mitigation and adaptation and highlights the importance for the agriculture sector to do its fair share in emissions reduction in the new EU Climate and energy package for 2030, which is now undergoing the co-decision process and is expected to be adopted before the end of the year.

On 27 April at 13:30–15:30, an **event on the potential of agriculture to reduce greenhouse gas emissions** will take place in the European Parliament. The event is organised by **BirdLife, IFOAM EU, Fern, Carbon Market Watch, Transport & Environment, CAN Europe** and **EEB** and co-hosted by three MEPs – Nicola Caputo, Jo Leinen and Peter Liese. The speakers will include researchers who will present how agriculture can contribute to emissions reduction and a panel of stakeholders to start the discussion of the issue from different angles.

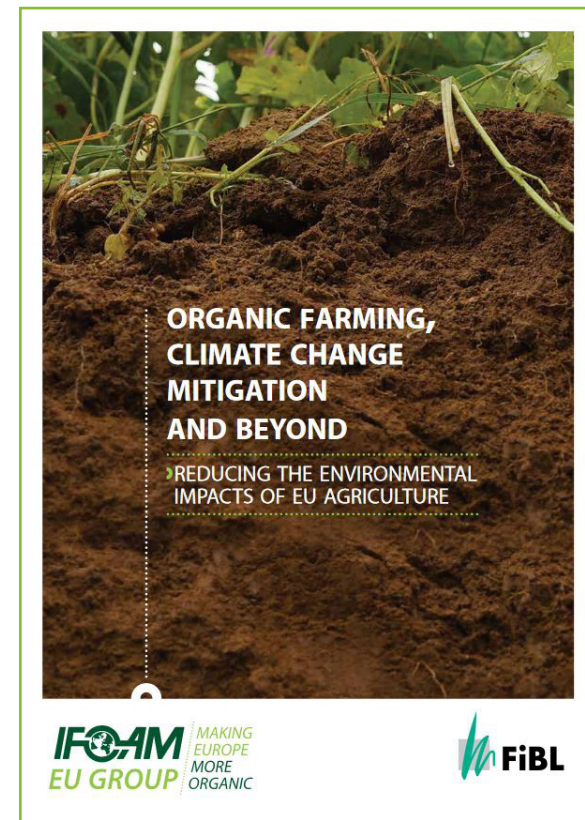
The agriculture (AGRI) committee of the European Parliament will vote on its opinion on the ESR and LULUCF proposals on 3 May, while a vote is expected in the lead environment (ENVI) committee on 30 May.

The main findings of the report '**Organic farming, climate change migration and beyond: reducing the environmental impacts of EU agriculture**' are also presented in a short **video**.

WATCH OUR VIDEO



We need to transform food and farming to combat climate change. Watch IFOAM EU's video to learn why



Organic farming plays a vital part in reducing emissions from agriculture. Find out more in IFOAM EU and FiBL's new report



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

Transforming agriculture to combat climate change

WATCH OUR VIDEO



Learn about organic farming's contributions to the fight against climate change on ifoam-eu.org

› CAP

CAP PUBLIC CONSULTATION: JOIN IFOAM EU IN CALLING FOR A NEW POLICY THAT SUPPORTS HEALTHY FARMS, PEOPLE AND PLANET

Join IFOAM EU in **calling for the next CAP reform to support healthy farms, people and planet**. The next CAP should be based on the principle of public money for public benefit. You can **make your voice heard** by filling out the European Commission's public consultation on the CAP post-2020, which closes on 2 May 2017.

The influence of public consultations should not be underestimated, and food and farming voices from the organic movement and like-minded groups are essential to set out a progressive pathway for the future of agriculture policy in the EU.

Consequently, **we strongly urge you to make your voice heard in the consultation process**. Concretely IFOAM EU wants to see the CAP post-2020 to move to a new model of farm payments which promotes sustainable farming systems based on agroecological outcomes. This includes:

- A public goods payment framework that incentivises and rewards farmers delivering a range of environmental and socio-economic services at farm level (100% EU financed);
- Complementary supporting measures covering issues related to farm advice and extension

services, supply chain development, infrastructural investments, innovation, organic farming payments, and promotional activities etc. (nationally co-financed);

- A single pillar structure with one budget, fully orientated to promoting agroecological outcomes – public goods payments representing 80% of the overall EU spending and supporting measures accounting for the remaining 20% by 2034.

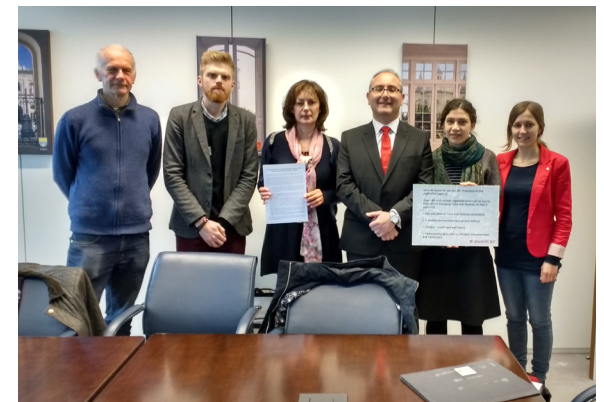
For more information about **IFOAM EU's Vision for public goods under the CAP post-2020** and how to take part in the consultation, please contact **stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org**.

IFOAM EU AND 150 CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS CALL FOR REFORM OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

IFOAM EU together with over 150 civil society organisations from across Europe from 25 EU countries have called on EU leaders to carry out a radical reform of the CAP and related policies. In a common statement titled '**Good Food, Good Farming – Now**' the signatories state that the current food and farming system is no longer functioning, since it props up the agroindustrial status quo, and call for a fundamental reform of Europe's broken agricultural policy. Such a reform is urgently needed to enable a transition towards a food and farming system which supports fair and diverse food and farming economies, is underpinned by viable alternatives such as organic and agroecological farming, which respects the environment and animal

welfare, supports citizens' health, and is publicly accountable.

Before the AGRI Council in March IFOAM EU, together with **Friends of the Earth Europe, Slow Food, Compassion in World Farming** and **Oxfam-Solidarité** presented the statement to the current President of the AGRI Council Roderick Galdes, Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights. Many IFOAM EU member organisations have already come together with other civil society organisations to the call which remain ongoing.



IFOAM EU, Friends of the Earth Europe, Slow Food, Compassion in World Farming and Oxfam-Solidarité presented the statement to the current President of the AGRI Council Roderick Galdes, Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

ORGANIC IN EUROPE

EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE MAP



PRODUCTION & RETAIL DATA BY COUNTRY

ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe

Produced by



Data compiled by



Supported by

Wessanen



Co-financed by



Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development



IFOAM EU AND ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs CALL FOR PESTICIDE BAN ON ECOLOGICAL FOCUS AREAS

Under the current CAP, IFOAM EU together with environmental NGOs have **called on MEPs to support the Commission proposal to ban the use of pesticides on ecological focus areas** (EFAs). This proposal is part of amendments to the current delegated acts proposed by the Commission to the European Parliament and AGRI Council. The standard procedure for the adoption of delegated acts give both the European Parliament and the AGRI Council a 2-month right of rejection which could be extended by a further two months at the request of the co-legislators. Dedicating 5% of arable land to EFAs is one of three obligatory agricultural practices set out under Pillar 1 Greening.

IFOAM EU already maintains that sustainability is not at the core of the CAP's architecture. This makes the policy ill-equipped to confront the multitude of demands that society makes of farmers and fails to create a more positive environment for diversified markets and balanced rural development. A ban on the use of pesticides on EFAs would therefore be the bare minimum in restoring some credibility to the word "Ecological" in "Ecological Focus Areas". The Parliament is expected to make a final decision before the summer.

› GMOs

EUROPEAN COMMISSION MUST FOLLOW THE MAJORITY OF MEMBER STATES AGAINST GMO CULTIVATION

After the 27 March vote, during which a majority of Member States voted against the authorisations of two new genetically modified maize (Bt11 and 1507) and the renewal of another one (MON810), the European Commission must now decide on the future of these proposals. The organic farming movement together with Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace, Safe Food Advocacy Europe, Slow Food and Testbiotech sent a **joint letter** and a **technical annex** to the Commission President Juncker to call on the European Commission to withdraw these proposals for political, legal and scientific reasons.

Meanwhile, the European Parliament **voted in a plenary sitting an objection** to the use of 21 genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for food and feed in the EU. The vote relates to Syngenta's GM maize Bt11 × 59122 × MIR604 × 1507 × GA21 and 20 GM maize varieties combining two, three or four of its events. These GMOs produce their own insecticides and tolerate being sprayed with the herbicides glufosinate and/or glyphosate. Member States, via the **comitology procedure**, will have soon to decide about the authorisation for these new GMOs.

› FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION SAYS YES TO AGRIBUSINESS MEGA-MERGERS

Despite a strong mobilization, the European Commission gave the green light to two agribusiness mega-mergers, between **Dow and DuPont**, and for **the acquisition of Syngenta by ChemChina**. **IFOAM EU and 200 concerned organizations**, have called on the European Commission to reject such mergers in food chains and to shift the support and subsidies towards incentivizing small-scale and sustainable agroecological farming. The European Commission ignored these concerns and cleared the merger, with however some conditions. The Commission had indeed some concerns about competition due to these mergers, but companies apparently offered enough commitments to finally obtain the consent of European authorities.

For IFOAM EU, these mergers will increase problems caused by industrial farming, while the growing interest in organic products shows that the European consumers are looking for a more sustainable food system.

The European Commission will soon have to also consider the Bayer-Monsanto merger, which was delayed for few weeks. These three mega-companies would be controlling around 70% of the global

market in agrochemicals and commercial seeds. Such big market concentration would harm farmers' and consumers' freedom of choice and would have huge consequences on the environment and food security. Consolidated, the giant companies would gain even more strength to impose their industrial agribusiness models, promote patents on seed and push for the use of harmful chemicals.

For more information about this topic, please read **the welcome note of this newsletter**.



Friends of the Earth Europe staged a 'marriage made in hell' outside the European Commission headquarters in Brussels to symbolise the threat to food and farming posed by the planned merger of the agriculture and chemical companies Bayer and Monsanto.

Photo credit: Friends of the Earth Europe, Lode Saidane

MAKE EUROPE RECOGNIZE SOIL AS A COMMON GOOD

Sign and share People4Soil's European citizen's initiative

The aim of the **People4Soil** initiative is to have soil recognised as a common good by putting pressure on the European institutions to adopt specific legislation on soil protection. At the moment, soil is not subject to a coherent set of rules in the Union: the proposal for a Soil Framework Directive was withdrawn in May 2014 after it ran into a blocking minority in the Council for eight years. Existing EU policies in other areas are not sufficient to ensure an adequate level of protection for all soils in Europe. Europe should recognize soil as a common good that is essential for our lives and must take on the sustainable management of soil.

Following recognition as a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), People4Soil is now working to collect 1 million signatures. When 1 million citizens have done so People4Soil will exercise the civil right to recommend EU legislation via the European Citizen's Initiative.

Act now!

People4Soil is a free and open network of European NGOs, research institutes, farmers' associations and environmental groups that is concerned about the increasing degradation of soils both in the EU and at global level.



Get informed on why soil matters



2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

NEW COLLEAGUES



Magdalena Wawrzonkowska

In the middle of March, Magdalena joined IFOAM EU as Communications Manager. Prior to working at IFOAM EU, she worked as Head of Communications at Orgalime, the European Engineering Industries Association. As food has always been her passion, next to her regular employment, Magdalena was involved in various food-related European and local initiatives. In 2015, Magdalena and a small group of food enthusiasts founded Slow Food Metropolitan Brussels – a local Slow Food chapter. She is also an active member of the European Association of Communication Directors (EACD).

The post of Communications Manager at IFOAM EU perfectly combines Magdalena's passion for food and her professional experience in the communications field. She enjoys working with like-minded people, drawing inspiration from their actions and ideas and taking part in the discussion about the future of organic farming in Europe.



Alexandra Fuss

Alexandra provides support to IFOAM EU's Research and Innovation Unit as project assistant. Graduated one year ago with a Master in Organic Agriculture from the University of Hohenheim, she believes IFOAM EU is the right place to share her knowledge and spread enthusiasm about organics in Brussels. The topic of her master thesis on organic plant breeding will be the focus of her work as part of the LIVESEED project. Having previous experience working as coordinator in a local food network in Eindhoven (NL) she is motivated to support the LIVESEED project partners throughout the whole project phase.

Alexandra was born in Germany, studied for her bachelor's degree at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands, but lived as well for some time in Budapest, Brussels and Kpalimé (Togo) and saw various agricultural systems.

ECOCERT FRANCE HOSTS IFOAM EU STAFF MEMBER

At the beginning of March, Mathilde Séchet from the regulation unit of IFOAM EU spent four days at the Ecocert offices near Toulouse, France, to get more familiar with the work of a certification body. She got the chance to learn about quality, certification and analyses.

IFOAM EU sends its sincere thanks to the Director General of Ecocert France, Thierry Stoedzel, who personally welcomed Mathilde, and to all other staff members who took the time to introduce their work to her.

3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

AGENDA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE FOODS SUMMIT UNVEILED

1–2 June 2017, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Are you working in the sustainable food industry? Make sure to mark 1–2 June in your planner! Food manufacturers, ingredient & raw material companies, retailers & distributors, packaging companies, industry organisations & associations, investors & financiers and other stakeholders will convene in Amsterdam at ninth **Sustainable Foods Summit**.

Sustainable ingredients, social & customer impacts, sustainability update, and marketing best-practices will be featured in the European edition of the Sustainable Foods Summit. Like previous editions, the summit will bring together key organisations involved in sustainability and eco-labels in the food industry.

[Get the detailed summit programme.](#)

**SUSTAINABLE
FOODS SUMMIT**
Amsterdam, 1–2 June 2017

SPACE FOR INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE: AGRISPIN FINAL CONFERENCE

3 July 2017, Crete, Greece

During the past two and a half years, 15 partners from 12 EU countries have learned from and with one another in the **AgriSpin project** about methods for innovation and support services that work on the ground. The AgriSpin partners will come together for the final time on 3 July in Crete, Greece, to share their insights and recommendations. The aim of the **final conference** is to inspire the participants so that they improve their own innovation support practices.

[Register here](#) to take part to the event.

The topics to be discussed at the conference include the role of advisors and innovation support services, tools and methods to stimulate innovation processes, and best fit practices collected through 13 cross-visits. One of such best practices is **Bio-district** (Campania, Italy) – an innovative partnership between organic farmers, local governments, catering and hospitality industries that promotes short supply chains, preserves local traditions and resources, and supports rural development.

AgriSpin End Conference

Space for Innovation in Agriculture
on the 3rd of July 2017 in Crete



What makes an innovation process
move forward? And what stops it?

Draw inspiration from the AgriSpin
results by attending the End
Conference.



The AgriSpin project has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N. 652642.



11th EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS

5-7 SEPTEMBER 2017
TALLINN, ESTONIA

Transforming food & farming

- › Organic on every table
- › A holistic answer for food & agriculture
- › Fair & transparent food chains



More information soon on organic-congress-ifoameu.org

Organised by:



Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Supported by:



REGISTRATION FOR THE 11TH EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS IS OPEN – ENJOY THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT OF 20% OFF

5–7 September 2017, Tallinn, Estonia

Join us at the 11th European Organic Congress “Transforming food & farming – Making it Happen” from 5–7 September 2017 in Tallinn, Estonia.

This year’s Congress will look at how stakeholders and policymakers are working together to reach **our Organic Vision for Europe in 2030**. We will launch a roadmap showing the way forward to making the transformation of food & farming a reality.

Come and join us to:

- Discover different initiatives that are already being pioneered throughout Europe to transform food and farming
- Debate how public policies can help to stimulate such initiatives – from the Common Agricultural Policy to the development of food policies at national and regional levels.

Register now and benefit from an early bird discount of 20% off.

More information and programme on **the congress website**.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

January 2018, Zwolle, The Netherlands

The 5th Organic Processing Conference will take place at the beginning of 2018, in close connection with Bio-Beurs, the Dutch Organic Trade Fair.

SAVE THE DATE

5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

January 2018

Zwolle, The Netherlands





Organic Potato starch is produced in accordance with the European Union's rules on organic farming and by the two well-known potato experts, Finnmyl Oy and Aloja Stärkelse S/A.

The full cycle from seed potatoes, starch potato cultivation and organic potato starch processing in Finland and Latvia is managed by well-experienced professionals.

Potato starch is a natural food ingredient traditionally used in Europe. Our customers are entitled to full application support service.

Organic Potato Starch BENEFITS

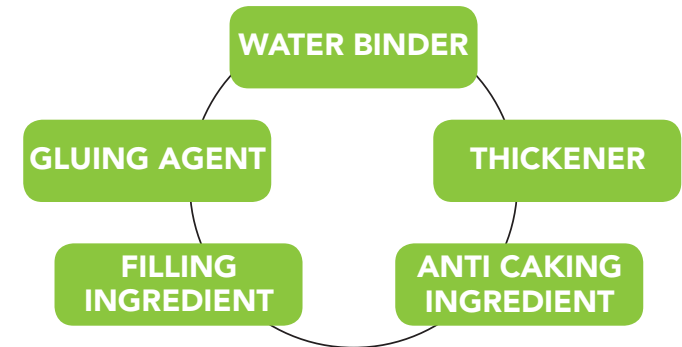
- A safe product with a clean taste
- A fully allergen-free product
- Provides high-viscous transparent gel
- Enables cost savings
- Is an EU-origin product

Organic Potato Starch APPLICATIONS

- For desserts, puddings, soups, gravies and meat products
- For baked and pasta products, and for coatings
- For dry blends, instant meals and confectionery



Organic Potato Starch FUNCTIONS



Both native and cold-swelling (pre-gel) starch are available. Native starch is mechanically extracted from organic potatoes. Cold-swelling starch is produced by precooking native starch, drying it on steam-heated drums, as well as grinding and sieving.

3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS DISCUSS CLIMATE CHALLENGES IN EUROPE

29 March 2017, Brussels, Belgium

European volunteers at IFOAM EU organised a meet-up between young professionals, including interns and trainees from NGOs working on climate change in Brussels. The main objective of the meeting was to connect with other young people that are beginning their careers within fields related to climate change, as well as to learn about each other's work and to exchange views on pressing issues.

Tonći Ukas from the policy unit, Tereza Maarova from the projects unit, Kata Gócs from the research and innovation unit and Triin Viilvere from the communications unit presented their individual projects. IFOAM EU policy manager Eric Gall also gave a presentation on agriculture's impact on climate change and the relevance of organic farming for adaptation and mitigation. The ideas stirred engaging lively discussion between young professionals from NGOs such as **CAN Europe, WWF Europe, Food and Water Europe, Birdlife Europe, Carbon Market Watch** and **European Council of Young Farmers**.



Tereza Maarova presenting her work at IFOAM EU



Eric Gall, policy manager at IFOAM EU, discusses achieving Europe's climate targets by 2020, 2030 and in the long-term

NATURAL & ORGANIC PRODUCTS EUROPE

2–3 April 2017, London, UK

Over 700 exhibitors, 70 speakers, and 10,571 attendees from 92 countries – that's the top line figures from this year's Natural & Organic Products Europe trade show, which took place 2–3 April.

Thanks to a 15% increase in stand space for 2017, the event boasted over 700 exhibiting companies from around the world. 70 speakers took to the stage in the show's three dedicated theatres. Live cooking demos led by big names in the culinary world also took place during the fair.

The show saw the successful launch of **Natural Products Global**, a new international news portal by Diversified Communications UK, the event's organiser and publisher of Natural Products News. Plus, the announcement of the winners of this year's **Natural & Organic Awards Europe**. The 'best new product' awards were voted for by visitors to the show and then judged by a panel of leading industry experts.



The European Volunteer Service is funded by the Erasmus + programme of the European Union. The sole responsibility for the content lies with the author and the communication reflects only the author's view. The National Agency and European Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Event director Carol Dunning says “Consumers are showing increasing awareness of the benefits of following a natural and healthy lifestyle, and this sector is constantly innovating and evolving to meet that demand. These are very exciting times for natural and organic and I cannot wait until next year’s show already!”



This year's Natural & Organic Products Europe trade show attracted more than 10 000 attendees

SME ORGANICS: STAKEHOLDERS AND POLICY-MAKERS LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT IN ITALY

19–21 April 2017, Lombardy, Italy

IFOAM EU, other project partners and regional stakeholders travelled for a second time to Italy for the fourth interregional Field Visit of the **SME ORGANICS project**. The meeting took place in the North Italian region of Lombardy hosted by the Lombardy Chamber of Commerce.

On day 1 project partners had the opportunity to exchange on the findings of their regional diagnosis of the status of the organic sector in their regions, which will inform the forthcoming the development of their regional organic actions action plans. This was followed by discussions and exchange amongst the partners of initiatives addressing SME competitiveness and public procurement in the Lombardy region, facilitated by Stephen Meredith from IFOAM EU.

The field trip organised on day 2 gave partners and regional stakeholders the opportunity to see practical initiatives of organic development in Lombardy, including visits to organic wine production and several small organic producers.

On day 3, partners and regional partners exchanged further on their regional diagnosis and next steps for the elaboration of their action plans in workshops and plenary sessions facilitated by Nic Lampkin from the Organic Research Centre.



SME Organics field trip to organic wine production in Lombardy, Italy



4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2017

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



SUPPORT THE 'KEEPING GMOS OUT OF FOOD' PROJECT

The '**Keeping GMOs out of food**' project is a three-year project (2014–2017) aimed at protecting the food chain against GMO contamination. The project aims to develop practical materials for the organic and GM-free sector and lead advocacy work through:

- Analysis of the current legal framework
- Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the cultivation and & of GMOs in the EU
- Lobby meetings and a high level conference
- Practical strategies developed with a Roundtable
- Discussion in focussed sector, national and European workshops
- Publication of practical guidelines to avoid GMO contamination in the food chain

IFOAM EU previously released **Preventing GMO contamination – An overview of national “coexistence” measures in the EU** in the frame of the 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project.

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5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- › 1–2 June 2017 **Sustainable Foods Summit**
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- › 26–28 June 2017 **IFOAM EU farmers and processors groups to meet**
Athens, Greece
- › 3 July 2017 **Agrispin project end conference: Space for Innovation in Agriculture**
Crete, Greece
- › 5–7 September 2017 **11th European Organic Congress**
Tallinn, Estonia
- › 22–24 October 2017 **Natexpo**
Paris, France
- › 9–11 November 2017 **19th Organic World Congress**
New Dehli, India
- › 15–16 November 2017 **Nordic Organic Food Fair 2017**
Malmö, Sweden
- › 15–17 November 2017 **Organic Innovation Days & Horizon 2020 Brokerage Event**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 17–18 January 2018 **Bio-Beurs**
Zwolle, the Netherlands
- › 14–17 February 2018 **BIOFACH 2018**
Nuremberg, Germany



19TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS
जैविक कृषि विश्व कुंभ

9 - 11 November 2017 | New Delhi, India

Registration open!

Register now for the 19th Organic World Congress in New Dehli, India

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