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IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

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No 97
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5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

16–17 JANUARY 2018
Zwolle, The Netherlands

REGISTER NOW!



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WELCOME NOTE

Now – at least – we know for sure: there will be a new organic regulation and it will apply from January 2021. The basic text for a new organic regulation has been agreed, the detailed provisions will be discussed and produced in the next 2 years.

Indeed, regulatory uncertainty has been the main threat for farmers and producers willing to convert into organic in the last years. The organic market and land are growing at an unprecedented pace but, could these trends been more positive, without such uncertainty?

The Commission announced the revision of the EU organic regulation at the end of 2011, less than 3 years from the application of the current legislation. No one could have imagined at that time that this legislative process would have taken more than 6 years, countless meetings and documents and so many public debates.

IFOAM EU has been very active all along the process in providing political and technical input and contributed hugely to improving the initial proposal. Nevertheless, the text is still far from ideal and we will have to face many implementation problems when it will start applying.

IFOAM EU will continue to provide its expertise and knowledge when the implementation rules will be discussed and produced in 2018 and 2019 in order to try to fix the weaknesses of the adopted text.

Anyway, the past is past, now it is time to think to the future. The organic movement and its people are known to be very innovative, dynamic and creative, and we will not give up in front of (hopefully small) regulatory obstacles.

The regulation is the basis of organic but organic is not just defined by the regulation. Organic is much more than that, with farmers and processors that go far beyond what the legal organic provisions provide for and deliver plenty of public goods to the society: environmental protection, greater biodiversity, water and soil preservation but also good quality food and much more jobs!

Time and resources will be needed to adjust the newly adopted regulation.

The organic movement wants to work collaboratively with both the EU and Member States to reach eventually a legislative framework that fits to a dynamic organic development pathway.

Additionally, the Institutions should always consider the impact on the organic sector when discussing other agri-food regulations and policies. Here the organic movement highlights in particular – the need for an ambitious reform of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2020, as well greater investment in ‘organic’ research and innovation in order to stimulate the sustainable development of organic food and farming over the next decades.



Sincerely
Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM EU Director

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

CAP COMMUNICATION OFFER SOME HOPE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, BUT WHAT CAN WE READ BETWEEN THE LINES?

On 29 November, the Commission published a **Communication** on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) post-2020. It sets the direction the Commission proposes to take in the next reform process – drawing on the results of the public consultation which took place earlier this year. In the Communication, entitled the Future of Food and Farming, the Commission is at pains to highlight the contribution of the agri-food sector to the well-being and future of the Union, while acknowledging that more needs to be done to deliver higher environmental and climate ambition and respond to the demands of citizens' for more sustainable agriculture. In this pursuit, the Commission puts a strong emphasis on a new "delivery model" for the next CAP that puts more responsibility on Member States in meeting EU objectives and achieving targets set out under the new "CAP strategic plans". Plans would be prepared by Member States and approved by the Commission. The Communication also stresses the importance of investing in knowledge transfer and innovation through farm advisory services to better enhance agricultural sustainability.

Overall, the Communication offers a number of possibilities to use the next reform to set European agriculture on a more sustainable track. However, it lacks a clear and common EU approach for taking this forward and remains steadfast in maintaining the CAP's Pillar 2 system. For instance, in the case of income support under Pillar 1, the Commission rightly highlights the important role it plays in stabilising farm incomes and that farmers should be expected to do more. However, it does very little to make an explicit link between the receipt of income support and the actual range of public goods a farmer delivers. This is despite the fact that direct payments represent the bulk of EU expenditure on agriculture (100% financed) and are seen as the most controversial element of the CAP in terms of value for money. More striking is the fact is that rural development programmes (which require co-financing from Member States) will continue to house the most ambitious measures targeting public good delivery, while questions remain as to how rural development expenditure can be expected to do even more with less. Further promotion of risk management measures, for example, suggests that the small amount of funds available under Pillar 2 could be in jeopardy. The strong emphasis on synergies between different European Structural and Investment Funds and leveraging money from the European Fund for Strategic Investments should also leave no one in doubt

about a potentially stark future for investments in rural development.

For the past years, IFOAM EU has been at the forefront in calling for a more effective and efficient income support model based on the understanding that the more public goods farmers deliver, the more they receive – 100% financed by the EU (see the CAP section below for further information). The Communication provides some food for thought on the CAP's future direction and elements of the overall approach suggest that there is some appetite to engage in new thinking for the next reform. However, a strong emphasis on how to shift towards a whole farm system approach, such as that offered by organic farming systems, is not really considered. In particular, the Communication fails to adequately address the underlying challenge facing policymakers to ensure that the objectives of supporting fairer farm incomes and meeting societal expectations are not in conflict, but working together in a "holistic" and "integrated" way as promoted in the Commission's **Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances**. Discussions on the next EU budget and the CAP legislative proposals will therefore be critical to carefully consider this underlying challenge and concretely determine how a new delivery mechanism can create a new deal between farmers and citizens in practice.

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW ORGANIC IMPORTS IMPLEMENTING REGULATION PUBLISHED

Regulation (EU) 2017/1862 postpones again the deadline for control bodies and authorities willing to apply for the purpose on compliance for importing organic products.

The new application deadline is 31 October 2018.

IFOAM EU ORGANIC REGULATION WORKSHOP AT THE MEDITERRANEAN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE NETWORK (MOAN)

On 25 October, IFOAM EU led an “International Workshop on EU organic regulation and its application in EU countries and non-EU countries”. The workshop was part of the 9th Meeting of the MOAN – the Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network, and it gathered Ministry representatives from all over the Mediterranean region. 17 countries were represented from both the EU (France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain) and non-EU countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey). Participants were first introduced to the potential changes that could be brought about by the adoption of a new EU organic

regulation and then they discussed topics such as residue management, group certification, the EU import regime and seed databases. They also got the opportunity to compare the different interpretations of how the EU organic regulation is implemented in their respective countries. IFOAM EU is pleased to have been given the opportunity to lead this workshop and hopes to collaborate with the MOAN again in the near future.



IFOAM EU at the 9th Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network Meeting; © Mathilde Sechet

IFOAM EU INTEREST GROUP OF ORGANIC PROCESSORS MEETS IN GERMANY

On 8–9 November, the IFOAM EU Interest Group for Organic Processors met in Fulda, Germany for its quarterly meeting. The group discussed a number of issues, which included authorised ingredients and processing techniques, and the availability of organic raw materials in the EU. Preparation for IFOAM EU’s 5th Organic Processing Conference was also on the agenda.



IFOAM EU Interest Group for Organic Processors at their quarterly meeting in Fulda, Germany; © Emanuele Busacca

1.2 POLICY

► CLIMATE CHANGE

IFOAM EU published a report in collaboration with **FIBL** on **Organic farming, climate change mitigation and beyond: reducing the environmental impacts of EU agriculture**. **Asociación Valor Ecológico (ECOVALIA)** has translated the report into Spanish. More information is now available at **Ecovalia's website**.

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.

The main findings of the report are also presented in a short video that is translated into **English** and thanks to the efforts of **Ecovalia** the video is available as well in **Spanish**.

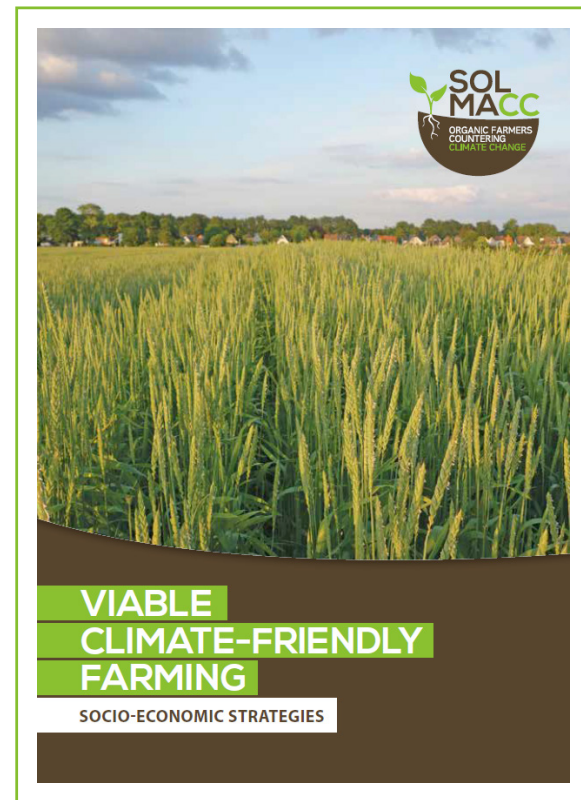


Please read the Spanish version of the report '**Organic farming, climate change mitigation and beyond: reducing the environmental impacts of EU agriculture**'

SOLMACC PRESENTS: BROCHURE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR VIABLE CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FARMING

A new **brochure on Socio-economic Strategies for viable climate-friendly farming** has been published by IFOAM EU together with Bioland, FiBL, AIAB and Ekologiska Lantbrukarna as part of the SOLMACC project. It outlines recommendations on making climate-friendly farming more economically viable and how to overcome certain challenges such as shortfalls of information on climate-friendly farming techniques and the lack of political support.

The brochure is available in English, German, Italian and Swedish and can be found within **SOLMACC's toolbox**. Visit **the SOLMACC website** to learn more about farming practices that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and that are being applied on 12 demonstration farms in Germany, Italy and Sweden.

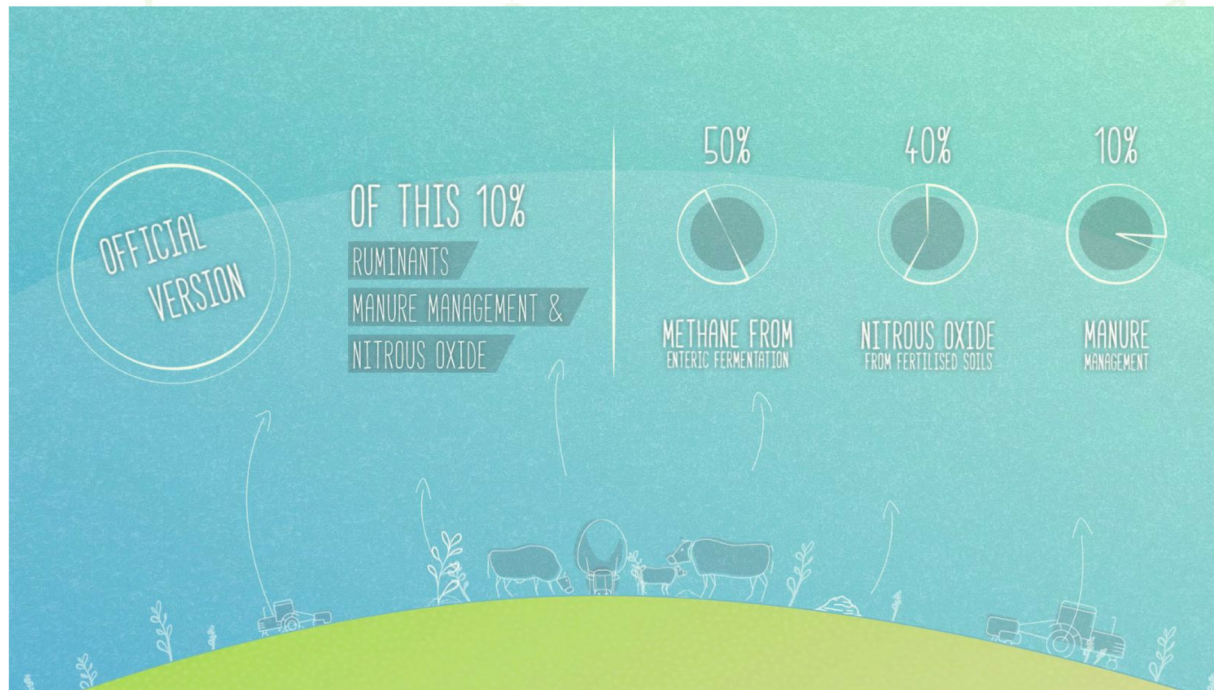


**STIFTUNG
MERCATOR
SCHWEIZ**

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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 COMMUNICATION LACKS CLEAR DIRECTION FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF EU AGRICULTURE SAYS IFOAM EU

Despite some possibilities for improvement, plans by the European Commission for the future of the CAP lack a clear and common EU approach to realise the Commission's wider intentions to shift towards more sustainable growth models under the next EU Budget, says IFOAM EU. IFOAM EU was responding to the publication of the Commission's highly anticipated **CAP Communication – the Future of Food and Farming**, which was presented to the EU Institutions on 29 November. IFOAM EU added that the Communication also fails to prioritise the growth and development of sustainable farming systems, such as organic farming, which can help to lead the way towards an ambitious implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals across the European agricultural sector.

In a **press release**, IFOAM EU stressed that spending money largely on income support with a limited impact can no longer be justified and that EU leaders must ensure in the upcoming EU budget discussions that future CAP payments are grounded on farmers delivering a wide range of public goods based on a whole farm system approach. It added that any forthcoming legislative proposals on the CAP post-2020 need to make concrete efforts to fully align farm income

support with public goods delivery – based on reward and incentive.

The group's reaction echoed earlier calls by IFOAM EU in an **open letter** to the Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Phil Hogan, where the group called for a more explicit link to be made between income support and public good delivery. In addition, IFOAM EU used the letter to signpost its ideas for how sustainability assessment tools could help to enhance the overall effectiveness and acceptability of public goods delivery as part of the next CAP reform. Further information about these ideas can be found in a concept paper, developed by researchers at the Organic Research Institute of Organic Agriculture – FiBL, entitled **“Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020”**. IFOAM EU will continue to actively monitor and engage in the debate on the next CAP reform. Further information about IFOAM EU's position on the next CAP can be found in the group's Vision paper entitled **A CAP for healthy farms, healthy people and healthy planet**. For more details about the reform process or the latest developments, please contact **stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org**

› GMOs

ECJ PUBLIC HEARING ON NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES CASE HELD, FINAL VERDICT EXPECTED MID-2018

On 3 October, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) organised a public hearing on the legal status of new genetic engineering techniques (NGETs) under the EU GMOs legislation. The ECJ case stems from a French court case, **initiated by environmental NGOs and Farmers Union**, which has accelerated the debate and led to the highest administrative court in France, the Conseil d'Etat, asking the ECJ for clarification on the legal status of NGETs notably directed mutagenesis. Similarly to **IFOAM EU's position**, French NGOs used the hearing to reiterate that all new techniques should be considered as GMOs and should be regulated as such. While France is asking for a clear legal interpretation, EU officials from European Council and the European Commission and Member State representatives from Greece, Sweden and UK share the view that all kinds of mutagenesis should not be included in the scope of the GMOs regulation. The Conclusion of the Advocate General will be made on the 18 January. The final decision should be published by mid-2018, although such conclusions are usually followed by the judges.

» FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

EU'S SUSTAINABLE PESTICIDE USE DIRECTIVE, NOT REACHING ITS OBJECTIVES, SAYS COMMISSION REPORT

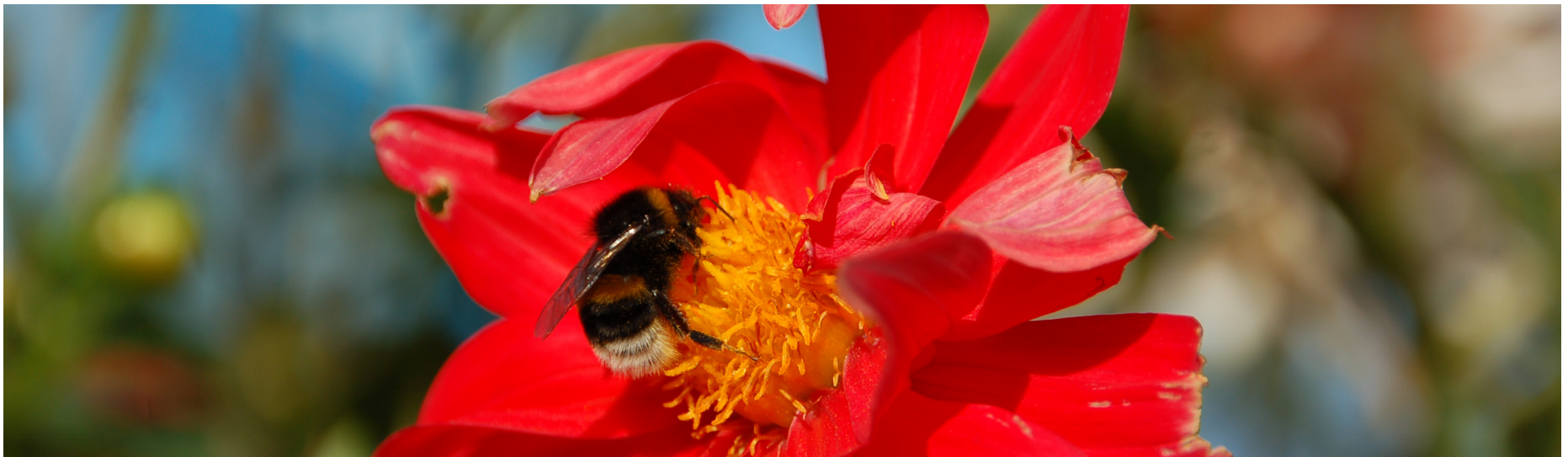
The EU's Sustainable Pesticide Use Directive (SPUD) is having a limited impact on reducing dangers of pesticides for human health and environment according to a recent **report** by the European Commission, published in October 2017. The report which provides an assessment of Member State's National Action Plans and progress on the implementation of SPUD also found that Member States are not adequately promoting the use of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives as well as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) criteria. The

assessment points out that while the Directive has great potential to reduce the negative impact of pesticides, Member States are not implementing the legislation in a robust way to deliver clear improvements.

There are also significant differences amongst the national action plans, that Member States are required to put in place, with most of the plans having no measurable targets. Furthermore, while the report identifies support for organic farming as one way in which Member States have attempted to meet the objectives of the Directive, no information is provided as to how this is actually done in practice including possible target setting.

With Member States currently reviewing their national action plans, the report calls on Member States to

improve the quality of their plans in order to better support a long-term strategy for pesticide risk and impact reduction. As part of this long-term strategy, Member States should better monitor their progress and adjust their strategies as appropriate, the report concludes. Following the adoption of revised plans, the Commission will conduct a more comprehensive report on the Directive's implementation. The Commission is expected to include relevant parts of the Directive under the CAP cross-compliance once the Directive has been implemented in all Member States. However, given the limited progress to date, it is expected that any such developments will not happen during this cycle of the CAP. IFOAM EU will continue to call for an ambitious implementation of the Directive, including the inclusion of relevant elements under cross compliance.



© Triin Viilvere

MAJORITY OF EU STAKEHOLDERS CALL FOR EU LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

A majority of stakeholders across Europe have called on the Commission take action in tackling unfair trading practices through EU legislative according to the preliminary **results** of European Commission's public consultation on improving the food supply chain. The public consultation was set up around three issues facing the entire agri-food sector including unfair trading practices as well as market transparency and the possibilities for greater producer cooperation. As part of its contribution, IFOAM EU has called on EU policymakers to make concrete efforts to address Unfair Trading Practices in the food supply chain. It highlighted the importance of more public investment going towards the development of more comprehensive production and market information systems. IFOAM EU also pointed out that improving fairness in the supply is not enough and that EU policy needs to directly address the underlying structural imbalances between different actors in the supply chain as well as the ongoing concentration of power amongst a small number of major players. It added business models and supply chains should be designed where more value is added to the primary product such as community supported agriculture or on-farm processing.

Based on the results of the public consultation and an impact assessment the Commission is expected to table a legislative or non-legislative proposal in April 2018.

MEMBER STATES VOTE IN FAVOUR OF PERMITTING GLYPHOSATE USE IN THE EU FOR 5 MORE YEARS

After much debate, a majority of Member States decided on 27 November to re-authorise glyphosate for more 5 years, ahead of its expiration on the 15 December. During the previous vote, on 9 November, no qualified majority was reached after the European Commission proposed an authorisation for 5 years instead of 10. But during the second round of voting, 4 countries including Bulgaria, Germany, Romania and Poland decided to support the authorisation of the substance instead of abstaining. A unilateral decision by the German Agriculture Ministry, which was highly criticized in its country, also played a significant role in facilitating a qualified majority. On the other hand, governments in Belgium and France have indicated their intention to work on national measures to phase out the substance on their territory in the coming years.

The reauthorisation took place in a context of growing opposition and concerns on the safety of glyphosate from EU citizens. A European Citizens' initiative **Stop Glyphosate** reached more than 1 million signatures all over Europe in few months to demand the ban of the substance and the revision of the authorisation process.

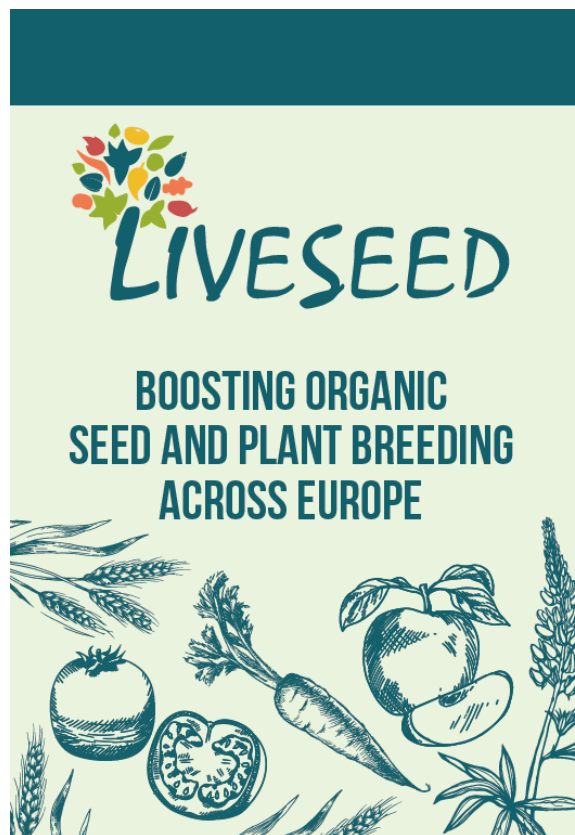


1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS



VISIT LIVESEED'S NEW WEBSITE TO LEARN ABOUT EFFORTS TO BOOST ORGANIC SEED AND PLANT BREEDING ACROSS EUROPE

Learn more about the how the organic movement is boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe as part of the LIVESEED project by visiting the project's recently launched website www.liveseed.eu. Here you will find information on organic seed and plant breeding activities taking place in different Member States and regions as part of the project. Boosting organic seed and plant breeding will help to reach the full potential of organic farming. We are proud to announce that we already have a large number of stakeholders in our platform who will help to make LIVESEED a success. As relevant actor you will receive regular first-hand updates on the developments of the project and research findings. Do you want to become a stakeholder as well? Contact [alexandra.fuss\[at\]ifoam-eu.org](mailto:alexandra.fuss@ifoam-eu.org) to get more information. If you want a quick overview on the project see our project [leaflet](#).



LIVSEED is a Horizon 2020-funded project that runs from 2017 to 2021. The objective of LIVSEED is to improve transparency and competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector and encourage greater use of organic seed.

NEW HORIZON 2020 WORK PROGRAMME PUBLISHED

On 27 October, the European Commission officially published the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2018–2020. Of particular relevance to the organic sector is funding under “Societal Challenge 2” (Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture) which contains 1 call with a budget of EUR 10 million that is specifically dedicated to “Improving animal welfare in organic and low-input farming”. Another 9 calls, with a total budget of EUR 140 million, explicitly mention that proposed projects should benefit the organic sector.

TP Organics has assessed the Work Programme and a list of all the calls where the organic sector is mentioned is available [here](#). Furthermore, the EIP-AGRI Service point has made a [brochure](#) summarising all the calls that are related to agriculture and forestry, including 31 multi-actor projects with a total budget of EUR 500 million.

» EIP-AGRI UPDATE

EIP-AGRI ORGANISES WORKSHOP ON ORGANIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROJECTS

An **EIP-AGRI** workshop called “Organic is Operational” took place in Hamburg in June 2017. It brought together 33 Operational Groups, 5 Horizon 2020 projects as well as other innovation projects, all working in organic farming. The final report is now available **online**. A **booklet** with descriptions of all the projects that took part is available **here** and presentations are available here.



EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP ORGANIC IS OPERATIONAL

FINDINGS OF THE FOCUS GROUP ON NUTRIENT RECYCLING PUBLISHED

An EIP-AGRI Focus Group on Nutrient Recycling has published its **final report** and a **fact sheet**. The Focus Group considered ways to improve the use of recycled nutrients from organic sources. While organic farmers rely in the first place on manure and leguminous crops to maintain soil fertility, the use of recycled nutrients from organic waste (e.g. to maintain phosphorous levels) is of interest to the organic sector as part of efforts to close nutrient cycles. Parts of the work of the Focus Group may therefore be relevant for the organic sector too. For instance, the report addresses on-farm applications for nutrient management, and acknowledges the concerns of the organic sector in terms of integrity of production chains, traceability and contaminants.



EIP-AGRI Focus Group Nutrient Recycling

FINAL REPORT
November 2017

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

SAYING GOODBYE TO:



Josefine Johansson Zuazu

IFOAM EU bids a fond farewell to Josefine Johansson Zuazu who left after six years working with the organic movement in Brussels. For personal reasons, Josefine decided to leave IFOAM EU at the end of October and move with her family back to her home country of Sweden. Josefine joined IFOAM EU in 2011. With her background in agronomy, she started her work in the policy unit and then moved on to work with the IFOAM EU project team, applying her knowledge about food and farming to many grant applications, as well as the management of IFOAM EU's various projects. During her tenure Josefine played an important role in building the project unit, becoming the head of the unit and later IFOAM EU's Operations and Project Manager and Deputy Director.

The IFOAM EU team thanks Josefine for all her work during this time. We wish her all the best for this new chapter of her life!

HOW WE MADE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC IN 2016 AND HOW WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO IT NEXT YEARS

Read **IFOAM EU's short overview of our past, present and future work** that presents the achievements and activities of our work in making Europe more organic.

IFOAM EU and its members are advocating on the Organic Regulation, the Common Agricultural Policy, Research & Innovation GMOs as well as issues related to environment and food. In 2016, Cosmetics & Textiles was added to IFOAM EU's work portfolio.

For more information about how we interacted with EU Institutions and other stakeholders, consult **Making Europe more organic - overview of IFOAM EU's past, present and future work**.



IFOAM EU VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCED LIFE ON ORGANIC FARMERS IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE

Artur Sikora and Tsvetelina Plamenova, two volunteers that are currently completing their European Voluntary Service (EVS) at the IFOAM EU office, spent a week volunteering on two different organic farms, one in Flanders (Belgium) and one in the Ardennes (France).

Artur visited Ternat, 15 km from Brussels, where Dorothea Lequeux runs a 2-hectare field with vegetables and fruits. 'PlukPlek', which in Dutch means the place where one picks, is a relatively new project. The farm was established at the beginning of 2017 and since May is under organic conversion.

The farm is open to visitors who can harvest fruits and vegetables themselves and buy them on the spot. Many crops are described in a detailed way to provide farm guests during their visit with more information about how the food they eat is produced.

Artur assisted in diverse activities necessary to maintain the farm. Throughout his stay, he gained practical knowledge on plants but also on life of the farmer.

Tsvetelina stayed for a week at La Ferme du Clos-Berteaux, located in the Ardennes (France). The farm of Sandrine and Arnaud Pilet is now 100% organic after



Artur Sikora front of a raspberry field

its conversion from dairy to hemp production. The farm is now known as "Chanvrerie" from the French word chanvre, meaning hemp. The total surface of the hemp fields is 80 hectares with a production of around 100 tons of hempseeds.

Arnaud, the owner of the farm, practices biodynamic agriculture with the aim to integrate the life forces

of soil and the entire ecosystem. In order to produce higher quality organic products, Arnaud improves fertility of his soil by using livestock manure to sustain plant growth.

The farm processes its own hemp and Tsvetelina observed and assisted in the pressing the hempseeds into oil and also helped to produce artisanal hemp flour during her stay.

Thanks to the possibility of living and working on a farm, both EVS volunteers Artur and Tsvetelina experienced first-hand the tasks and challenges that organic farmers face daily.



The "Chanvrerie" (meaning hemp field) with a total surface of 80 hectares;
© Tsvetelina Plamenova

3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

REGISTER FOR IFOAM EU'S 5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

The 5th Organic Processing Conference will take place in Zwolle, the Netherlands on 16–17 January 2018. Organic processors from all over Europe will learn how IFOAM EU's new vision and strategy can help the organic sector to grow and develop by 2030. Participants will discuss how digital tools can enable organic operators to improve quality of processing, and ensure transparency and traceability along the value chain. They will also get an opportunity to look into market trends and new concepts in the organic sector. [Read more about the programme](#) and [register for the conference!](#)



JOIN US AT THE IFOAM EU POLICY DAY AT BIOFACH 2018

Wednesday 14 February, 16:00–18:00 Biofach (St Petersburg Room)

IFOAM EU's annual Policy Day will take place on 14 February at **Biofach** 2018 in Nuremberg.

This year's theme is "Beyond the new organic regulation" and will consider that the organic regulation is a foundation for the development of organic in the EU, but it is not the only one. Therefore, to reach ambitious goals and transform the whole food and farming system, other policy actions are needed to support the legal framework based on a strategic partnership between the organic sector and policy makers. IFOAM EU's Policy Day will bring together the EU policy makers and the organic sector to discuss the state of the play and the future of the legislative and the future of the 'organic' policy framework.

A green poster for "EU POLICY DAY". The main text reads "Beyond the new organic regulation" and "14 February 16:00–18:00 Room ST Peterburg". A dark green circular button with white text says "JOIN US". The background is filled with small, light green icons of various farm animals and food items. At the bottom, it lists organizers and supporters: "Organised by IFOAM EU GROUP MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC" and "Supported by Green Organics" and "BIOFACH 2018 into organic Wessanen". A small European Union flag logo is at the bottom left with a disclaimer: "This event is 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 the IFOAM EU Group. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided."

5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

16–17 JANUARY 2018
Zwolle, The Netherlands

- Digitalisation and innovative tools
- Market trends and perspectives for the future
- New business models and financial schemes

Registration, programme and additional information:
organicfoodprocessing.eu

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3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

SEEDS AS COMMONS

19 October 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The fundamental basis of all our food is seed, however market concentration in the seed sector is continuously growing. Demanding better seed policies is a very important tool to stop this trend, complemented by other strategies and practical alternatives to counter further privatising and monopolisation of seed. These were the main issues of discussion at a recent conference “Seed as Commons” organised by Demeter International and supported by IFOAM EU which took place on 19 October in Brussels. Speaking at the conference Effimia Chatzinikolaou, Policy Coordinator IFOAM EU Group outlined that developing the organic plant breeding sector was a priority for the organic movement. She added that it was important to change the current legislative framework on seed marketing in order to facilitate market access for organically bred varieties. If we want to reach 50% organic farming in the EU by 2030, this target also needs to be reflected in public research funding she contended.

The conference is part of the project ‘Promoting Organic Plant Breeding in Europe’, initiated by the Demeter-International e.V. EU Liaison Office in Brussels at the beginning of 2016. The project aims to contribute to broadening the uptake of organic varieties in the organic sector and to stimulate organic plant breeding in Europe.

IFOAM EU PARTICIPATES TO THE NATEXPO IN PARIS

22–24 October 2017, Paris, France

In October, IFOAM EU participated to **the Organic Products NatExpo** which took place in Paris over three days. NatExpo saw almost 15000 people visiting the International Trade Show with thousands of professionals showcasing their products. One of the most visited activities was the NATEXBIO Economic Forum which was the ideal scene to share with the general public all the detailed economical and statistical information about the opportunities and challenges facing organic sector’s realities and potentials.

During the NATEXBIO Economic Forum, IFOAM EU’s Policy manager, Eric Gall presented the latest developments in the review of the new EU Organic regulation as well as the latest trends in the European organic market.



© Faust Favart

KEEPING GMOS OUT OF FOOD PROJECT – WORKSHOP ON GMO-FREE PROCESSING AIDS AND ADDITIVES

9 November 2017, Fulda, Germany

On 9 November, IFOAM EU organised a workshop to discuss about GMO-free processing aids and additives and how to ensure their availability on the market for the future. The workshop is part of the project ‘Keeping GMOs out of food’ in Fulda and is a crucial topic for the all production chains of the organic sector (food, feed, cosmetic etc), in order to remain GMO-free. All documents (presentations and minutes) are available to member organisations on IFOAM EU’s Extranet. If you would like to be part of the next events organised on GMOs, please contact [pauline.verriere \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere[at]ifoam-eu.org).

IFOAM EU would like to thank particularly AÖL for hosting this event and all our sponsors for making the organisation of such events possible.



Participants of the ‘GMO-free processing aids and additives’ workshop;
© Mathilde Sechet

19TH ORGANIC WORLD CONGRESS

9–11 November 2017, New Delhi, India

On 9–11 November the **19th Organic World Congress** (OWC) took place in India. Held every three years, the OWC is considered the leading event for the development of the organic sector worldwide. It is held to promote and celebrate the inevitable turning of global agriculture to organic farming methods and to measure progress. This year's congress was attended by over 1000 farmers, that led to a massive exchange of organic agriculture innovations, and advanced techniques.

IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco and Policy Manager Eric Gall participated to share the dynamic development of organic farming in Europe, and IFOAM EU's Vision to further up-scale it and to mainstream truly sustainable farming systems.

France won the bid to organise the next OWC which will take place in the historic city of Rennes in 2020. IFOAM EU congratulates again the French organic movement for their inspiring vision and proposition for the next Congress, which will be an opportunity for the whole European organic movement to share innovation, skills and knowledge with the rest of the world and to demonstrate to EU Institutions how organic farming can transform European food and farming.

We're therefore looking forward to seeing you all at the 2020 OWC in France!

ORGANIC INNOVATION DAYS OF TP ORGANICS

15–17 November, Brussels, Belgium

The 3rd edition of TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days took place from 15 to 17 November. At the event, TP Organics launched its position paper on **"Research and Innovation for Sustainable Food and Farming"**. It contains TP Organics' recommendations for the 9th EU Research & Innovation Framework Programme. TP Organics believes that the 9th Framework Programme should install:

- A mission for the transformation of European food and farming systems towards sustainability by 2030
- a 10% ring-fencing of the total agricultural research budget for the organic sector

At the event the winners of the Call for Organic Innovations were presented. These included:

- EcoPlant Fertilisers
- Mixed farming of sheep and pigs in the dehesa system
- Climate-guided recipes from the Swedish grocery retailer ICA

The outcomes of the OK-Net Arable project were also presented. OK-Net Arable promotes knowledge exchange to help increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping across Europe. As part of the project, a **knowledge platform** was created.

On the last day, a brokerage event was organised to help researchers, farmers, and companies in the organic sector to take part in upcoming Horizon 2020 projects.

All presentations are available on the **website of TP Organics**.



Eduardo Cuoco moderating the session at the Organic Innovation Days;
© Tsvetelina Plamenova



NORDIC ORGANIC FOOD FAIR 2017

15–16 November 2017, Malmö, Sweden

Between 15–16 November, the Swedish city of Malmö hosted a showcase of organic and natural products in the Nordic region. A successful collaboration between the Natural Products Scandinavia and the Nordic Organic Food Fair brought together producers and consumers around products and themes relating to both organic and natural product sectors. The Nordic Organic Food Fair has become the most important Scandinavian industry event for retailers and buyers in the field of healthy living and eating. The event offered to its visitors the best in quality organic production. IFOAM EU's Communications Manager Magdalena Wawrzonkowska represented the organisation at the fair and observed the very latest organic trends and product innovations from the Nordic region and around the world.



FARMERS INTEREST GROUP MEETING TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION

15–17 November 2017, Reading, United Kingdom

The IFOAM EU Farmers Group met in Reading, United Kingdom on 15–16 November for second meeting of 2017. The main topic discussed at the meeting were the contribution of organic farming to climate mitigation and adaptation. Discussions explored the practical results and policy recommendations of the Strategies for organic and low-input farming to mitigate and adapt to climate change (**SOLMACC**). SOLMACC, funded by the EU's LIFE programme, seeks to demonstrate that farming can be climate-friendly by applying a combination of optimised organic farming practices to respond to climate change.



Kurt Sannen, a Belgian organic farmer who is also part of the IFOAM EU Farmers Group talking about the role of organic farming practices in climate change mitigation, with a focus on livestock; © Effimia Chatzinikolaou

Participants also visited three farms to look at how organic farming practices can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. This included an organic vegetable grower involved in innovative composting techniques using woodchips; learning about a Carbon Cutting Toolkit – written by farmers, for farmers to support farmers in taking action on climate change; rotational outdoor pig production; mixed farming techniques and the establishment of agroforestry systems. The Farmers Group meeting was followed by a public event on 17 November to debate the contribution of organic farming to help meet the challenges of climate change.

SOLMACC EXPERT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WORKSHOP: EXPERTS EXCHANGE ON UPSCALING CLIMATE-FRIENDLY FARMING PRACTICES

27 November 2017, Brussels, Belgium

20 experts including policymakers, farmers and civil society representatives gathered in Brussels to develop policy recommendations on making climate-friendly practices more mainstream in the EU agriculture and food sectors.

The workshop started with a presentation of the climate friendly practices being applied on 12 demonstration farms in Sweden, Germany and Italy, as part of the SOLMACC project. It was followed by diverse perspectives on agriculture's contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation from Christine Muller (DG CLIMA), Sylvain Pellerin (INRA) and Ben Allen (IEEP). Their insights led to a discussion on overcoming existing bottlenecks and prioritising policy recommendations such as the adoption of a systemic approach to reducing GHG emissions from food production and better integration of climate change policies in agriculture and food sectors.

The event was part of the SOLMACC project that aims to promote wider adoption of farming practices that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Visit the [SOLMACC website](#) to see presentations from the event, learn about the project, read the latest

SOLMACC [newsletter](#) and consult the [brochure on more economically viable climate friendly farming](#).



Experts exchange on upscaling climate-friendly farming practices;
© Artur Sikora



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SME ORGANICS 7TH FIELD VISIT

28–29 November 2017, Transylvania, Romania

For the seventh field visit of the **SME Organic** project, IFOAM EU together with project partners and regional stakeholders travelled to city of Cluj in the Northwest region of Romania. The visit was hosted by the Romania Northwest Regional Development Agency.

During the first day, participants gathered at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca, Romania to learn about the organic sector and different initiatives in Romania and the Northwest region. This was followed a series of presentations from Northwest Romania, Lombardy (Italy) and **Lodzkie** (Poland) about the progression and development of their regional organic action plans, facilitated by the IFOAM EU team. Other sessions concentrated on action plan implementation planning, and setting a monitoring and evaluation framework as well as an exchange on best practice examples from the different regions.

The second day was devoted to practical exchange on best practices examples with the opportunity to discover traditional meat curing at Salina Turda – a former salt mine, organic cold pressed oil production and a final visit to an organic retailer in Cluj. The next field visit will take place in **Lodzkie** region in Poland in February 2018.



Participants of the SME Organics seventh field visit



WESSANEN LAUNCHES THE “ORGANIC FOOD AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE” CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

This year Wessanen ran the “Organic Food against Climate Change” challenge, in association with Triodos Bank, powered by the Impact Hub Amsterdam. Promising social entrepreneurs were invited to participate in a comprehensive two-month training programme full of workshops and field-trips to support them in growing their businesses and therefore making a contribution to the overall change of the world of food.

“There has never been a greater need to change the way we produce our food than today” said Klaus Arntz, Executive Vice President at Wessanen.

Conventional farming, overconsumption of meat and an increasing global population exacerbate the current climate situation. Many studies show that organic agriculture systems can contribute proactively climate action - making organic food production an important part of the solution that delivers multiples benefit beyond the climate challenge.

Organic is part of Wessanen’s DNA and the company has been a long-term supporter of IFOAM EU as well as many local organic associations.

“We believe organic is key creating a more sustainable food system. This year we decided to go one step further and share our knowledge with promising startups that are addressing climate change by replacing for example animal with plant based protein, reducing food waste or actively raising awareness.” says Laurence Beck, Director of Sustainability at Wessanen.

During three training days and four master classes selected entrepreneurs learned how to grow and scale-up their business and were challenged to take action and inspire each other.

The outstanding engagement of Botanic Bites and Charly’s All is Fair throughout the programme and their unique final pitch convinced a jury to reward each of them EUR 10,000, access to a broad network of experts, additional management hours from Wessanen and Triodos Bank, as well as a connect membership at the Impact Hub Amsterdam.

“I am overwhelmed! This is the right push at the right moment – five steps forward” says Doreen Westphal, founder of Botanic Bites. Botanic Bites are green and clean protein products made with local ingredients and from leftover streams.

“We are thrilled to be the winner of the challenge” adds Charlotte Zum Vörde Sive Vörding, founder and face of Charly’s All is Fair. “It is a wonderful opportunity to further change the world of food.” Charly’s All is Fair produces handmade vegan cheese alternatives.

“We are impressed by the enthusiasm of all participants. As a company focused on providing healthier food for healthier people and planet we are glad that we had the chance to support young businesses that address key challenges of the global food system”, Klaus Arntz sums up this exciting journey.

More about Wessanen and its green initiatives on www.wessanen.com



Sponsor article



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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.



wessanen

SUPPORT THE 'KEEPING GMOS OUT OF FOOD' PROJECT

The '**Keeping GMOs out of food**' project, started in 2014 aimed at protecting the food chain against GMO contamination, at developing practical materials for the organic and GM-free sector and leading advocacy work through:

- Analysis of the current legal framework
- Development of position
- Assessment of the socio-economic impact of GMOs cultivation in the EU
- Lobby meetings and a high level conference
- Practical strategies developed with Roundtables
- Discussion in thematic 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.

For further information, contact [pauline.verriere \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere@ifoam-eu.org)

HELP US TO MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

Write to communication [at] ifoam-eu.org or call +32 (0)2 808 79 91 to find out which sponsorship opportunities are available and suit your organisation

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 16–17 January 2018 **5th Organic Processing Conference**
Zwolle, The Netherlands
- 17–18 January 2018 **Bio-Beurs**
Nürnberg, Germany
- 14–17 February 2018 **BIOFACH 2018**
Nuremberg, Germany
- 19–21 February 2018 **18th International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing**
University of Hohenheim, Germany



Angelika Hilbeck, from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, speaking about the unfulfilled promises of GM crops. From left sitting on the stage: Vandana Shiva and André Leu, IFOAM president; © Eric Gall



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