

No 98
March
2018

IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU IN 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	WELCOME NOTE
5	POLITICAL HOTSPOT
7	1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS
7	1.1 Regulation
8	1.2 Policy
11	1.3 EU research & innovation policy / TP organics
14	2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS
19	3 EVENTS
19	3.1 Preview of events
21	3.2 Review of events
27	4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU
28	5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

No 98
March
2018

15 YEARS OF

IFOAM MAKING
EUROPE
MORE
ORGANIC
EU GROUP

14 May 2018, Brussels

- Council meeting

15 May 2018, Brussels

- 9th General Assembly
- Anniversary reception

16 May 2018, Brussels

Public event on climate change mitigation and adaptation of the EU's agriculture sector

Visit www.ifoam-eu.org for more information

JOIN US

Celebrate 15 years of IFOAM EU with us 14-16 May. Visit www.ifoam-eu.org for details about the events we are organising or go to chapter 3.1 of this newsletter

15 YEARS OF



14 May 2018, Brussels

- Council meeting

15 May 2018, Brussels

- 9th General Assembly
- Anniversary reception

16 May 2018, Brussels

Public event on climate change mitigation and adaptation of the EU's agriculture sector

Visit www.ifoam-eu.org for more information

JOIN US

These celebrations are made possible by the generous support of:

wessanen



Help us to make the celebration of our movement's 15-year anniversary memorable! Find out what's in it for you, contact communication [a] ifoam-eu.org



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 IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

WELCOME NOTE

2018 is a special year for IFOAM EU, as we will be celebrating our 15-year anniversary! These celebrations coincide with the 9th IFOAM EU General Assembly on 15 May, where the IFOAM EU membership will elect a new Board. (read more about the General Assembly and the celebrations in this newsletter in section '2.3 IFOAM EU developments').

Even though the year has just started, and many events are lying ahead of us, a lot has happened already.

At the 5th Organic Processing Conference that took place in Zwolle 16-17 January, we had a business-oriented and practical look at digital opportunities for organic processors. Policy-makers and business representatives discussed how innovative tools can enable organic operators to improve quality, transparency and traceability along the value chain, and speakers from the 'new' and 'old' generations in organic looked into sector trends and perspectives for the future.

Less than one month later, at Biofach, we continued the conversation with policy-makers on the future of the European legislative and policy framework governing organic. At various sessions, we focussed on the organic regulation and other policies impacting the everyday work of organic practitioners, but we also looked beyond the regulation, at how organics can transform the entire food and farming system. We

brought together experts and policy-makers to discuss the organic regulation at Policy Day, at an event on creating a Common Agricultural Policy that benefits farmers and citizens, and at Science Day (organised by TP Organics and the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International (TIPI)). If you couldn't join us at Biofach you may be interested in the reports on IFOAM EU's sessions in section '2.4 Review of events' of this newsletter.

Also at Biofach, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) launched the latest data about organic in the world and **organic in Europe**. The statistics show that organic production and organic sales in Europe continue to rise. 12.1 million hectares of land or 6.7% of the total agricultural land area in Europe is currently dedicated to organic and is being used by 295,123 organic producers. This is still a long way off the amount of land **the organic movement want to see dedicated to organic by 2030**. One of the many steps to make this a reality is **the signing of a memorandum of understanding between IFOAM EU and the 'Organic Cities Network Europe'**. Local authorities will play an important role in guaranteeing that European citizens have access to organic food, and policies such as green procurement in public canteens will stimulate sustainable diets, the development of local and regional organic supply chains and increase public awareness of organic food products. However, the EU's future

Budget – **the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) – must prioritise organic food and farming post 2020** if we want to ensure a transformation of the current food system.

To help us transform the food and farming system in Europe, I'd like to call on you to continue submitting **your initiatives** that help us to make Europe more organic. Of course, we will continue to promote making **the organic movement's vision** a reality on these channels. The website www.euorganic2030.bio detailing our **Roadmap to a more organic Europe by 2030** and **your initiatives** that help to make this a reality are also constantly updated and promoted.

Last but not least, I'd like to invite you to check out our 15-year anniversary celebrations further on in this newsletter, and I'd like to announce that the **12th European Organic Congress** will take place in Austria in the fall of 2018. We provide you with more information about both events on **our website**, and our **Twitter** and **Facebook** accounts. Stay tuned!



Sincerely
Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM EU Director

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE ISSUES PRELIMINARY OPINION ON NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES

On 18 January, the Advocate General of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) released a preliminary opinion on the French Court Case C-528/16, related to which plant breeding techniques are covered by the EU legislation on GMOs. There is high expectation for the ECJ to provide legal clarification on the fact that new genetic engineering (GE) techniques, such as CRISPR/Cas9 or ODM, indeed fall in the scope of Directive 2001/18 on the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, and other related legislation – Regulation 1829/30 on GM food and feed, and Regulation 1830/2003 on traceability and labelling of GMOs.

The final opinion of the ECJ is expected in the coming months. However, it seems that the Court will not provide a final say on the matter, and that further legal clarification from the Commission will be necessary.

According to IFOAM EU, the Advocate General merely confirmed the existing exemption from the requirements of the GMO legislation for plants obtained through “mutagenesis” techniques and recalled a criterion already in the Directive to decide which techniques would fall into the existing exemption or not,

which is itself open to interpretation. According to the Advocate General, “mutagenesis techniques are exempt from the obligations of the GMO Directive provided that they do not involve the use of recombinant nucleic acid molecules [...]”. Some proponents of deregulation were a bit too quick to conclude that new genetic engineering techniques (NGET) would be exempted, while other experts estimate that most if not all techniques involve the use of recombinant DNA and will therefore be legally considered as GMOs.

The fact remains that the current exemption to the GMO Directive dates back from 1990 and should be considered irrelevant to decide whether the latest technologies should be exempted from an assessment of their risks. Behind the term ‘mutagenesis’, there are techniques very different from those that existed at the time of the adoption of the GMO legislation in 1990, or even at the time of its revision in 2001.

Beyond the legal dispute, there is a political decision to be made: are European policy-makers, the Commission and national governments, really ready to abdicate any responsibility and to allow the introduction of living organisms obtained by these new powerful technologies into the environment and the food chain, without any form of risk assessment, without any possibility to withdraw products from the market in

case of a problem, and with no information for breeders, farmers and consumers?

Deciding that, in the name of innovation, neither the precautionary principle nor the most basic transparency and information should apply to these new technologies, would be the best way to create the conditions for a public uproar. This would also be in contradiction with the international obligations of the EU under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a protocol attached to the Convention on Biodiversity.

IFOAM EU believes that the transparency and freedom of farmers and consumers not to use and buy these products are key. Farmers’ and consumers’ free choice are the conditions for an open and mature debate on the merits (or lack thereof) and consequences (positive or negative, including the impact of patents on seeds and genes on the European breeding sector) of the use of these technologies in the agriculture sector. Acting responsibly should also involve the funding of research projects to develop detection methods for these new GE techniques.

Last November, the global organic movement adopted **a position that considers that these new GE techniques should not be used in organic production**. It is also committed to creating the

practical tools to ensure that organic production remains GMO-free as much as possible.

The organic movement is also active at national level to raise the awareness of citizens about new genetic engineering techniques. For example the company Rapunzel, one of IFOAM EU's members, together with other German actors from the organic movement,

launched a successful campaign to urge policy maker to regulate new genetic engineering techniques as GMOs and to make sure they are properly labelled. During Biofach, the FOODprint petition just reached 100 000 signatures (to know more about [Rapunzel campaign FOODprint](#) and to [sign the petition](#))!

Dear Europe,
Do You Want
MORE BIODIVERSITY?

Diversity on farms plays
a crucial role in pollination
and sustaining food systems

+34%
more
BIODIVERSITY
on organic farms

Source: Tuck et al., Journal
of Applied Ecology, 2014



SUPPORTED 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 communication 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.

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW REGULATIONS AND DECISIONS PUBLISHED

Several items relevant to organics were recently published in the EU Official Journal:

- **Regulation (EU) 2017/2273** postponing the end of the exceptional production rules of articles 42(b) and 43 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 until the end of 2018. The exceptional production rules refer to the use of non-organically reared pullets for egg production and of non-organic protein feed for porcine and poultry species;
- **Council Decision (EU) 2017/2307** on the 'Organic' Trade Agreement between the EU and Chile that entered into force on 1 January 2018 (**Read the text of the Agreement**);
- **Regulation (EU) 2017/2329** amending and correcting Annexes III, IV and V of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 on organic imports.

Regulation (EU) 2017/2470 establishing a list of authorised and notified Novel Foods was published. This Regulation is not related to organic food only.

ONLINE SERVICES SELLING ORGANIC PRODUCTS

A recent judgement of the EU Court of Justice (C-289/16) reads that online services selling organic products must be subject to the 'organic' control system and must notify their activities to the Competent Authority.

The **judgement – available in all official European languages – reads:** "Article 28(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 must be interpreted as meaning that, in order for products to be regarded as being sold 'directly', within the meaning of that provision, to the final consumer or user, it is necessary for the sale to occur in the presence of both the operator or his sales personnel and the final consumer."

ORGANIC IN EUROPE

EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE MAP

PRODUCTION & RETAIL DATA BY COUNTRY

ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe

Produced by IFOAM EU GROUP | MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

Data compiled by FiBL

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

Supported by Wessanen, Green Organics, CIHEAM Bari, MOAN

The graphic features a tablet displaying an interactive map of Europe with various data points. A prominent statistic shows '10.3 million tonnes of food organics'.

1.2 POLICY

› CLIMATE CHANGE

Thanks to the efforts of **Ecovalia**, our video **Transforming agriculture to combat climate change** is available in Spanish: watch the video **Agricultura ecológica, la gran herramienta contra el cambio climático** now.

IFOAM EU and FIBL produced also the **Climate Change report** that highlights organic agriculture's potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change and it underlines the importance of adopting a systemic approach to reducing all the environmental impacts of agriculture.



› CAP

MEMBER STATES MUST SET CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO DELIVER AN AMBITIOUS CAP, SAYS IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU has challenged Member States to set out concrete solutions to deliver an ambitious CAP reform. The call comes as Agriculture Ministers engage in series of in-depth exchanges, under the Bulgarian EU Presidency, on the European Commission's Communication on the CAP post-2020.

In a **press release**, IFOAM EU said that to secure an effective and efficient CAP, Member States must take an active role in shaping a reform that enables farmers to transition towards more sustainable farming systems, adding that such an approach needs to be backed by a strong EU budget. IFOAM EU welcomed the acknowledgement from the majority of Ministers that the Communication moves the CAP in the right direction by taking a more integrated approach. However, it added that Member States need to work with farmers and citizens to find concrete solutions that can ensure an ambitious implementation of EU objectives and UN Sustainable Development Goals. Pointing to the forthcoming discussions on the EU budget post-2020, IFOAM EU, reiterated the fact that strong investment in the EU agriculture sector

Post-2020 requires a much stronger link between farm income support and public goods delivery. Ministers are expected to adopt Council Conclusions on the future CAP in mid-March.

Elsewhere, IFOAM EU hosted a session at Biofach on 14 February to discuss the current debate on the CAP post-2020 and priorities for the organic movement. The session also explored how to enhance public goods delivery in the CAP using different instruments and approaches including sustainability assessment tools. An overview of this session can be found under the Biofach event review in this newsletter.

IFOAM EU is actively monitoring and engaging in the debate on the next CAP reform. For more details about the reform process or the latest developments, please contact [eric.gall \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:eric.gall@ifoam-eu.org)

› GMOs

IFOAM EU AND FIBL PRESENT THEIR NEW STUDY: SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF GMOS ON EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

GMOs are massively imported in the European Union and have been grown in few European countries. Because of the high risk of adventitious presence at different steps of the production chain and despite the 'polluter pays' principle, the organic sector and the conventional GMO-free sector need to implement suitable and expensive measures to avoid contamination. This is why IFOAM EU and FiBL studied the socioeconomic impacts of GMOs on the European agriculture.

The study concludes that coexistence in breeding and seed production is unfeasible. The highest costs related to coexistence are testing and certification costs. Moreover, the study brings to light the unbearable situation of the organic sector when risks of contamination are too high: operators are obliged to adapt the production and to abandon certain types of productions. Such a situation is unacceptable: the organic sector should not bear the costs related to biotechnologies and should be free to produce without GMOs. IFOAM EU will continue its advocacy work to raise that concern towards European policy-makers.

The study focusses on four different production chains in five different countries and was conducted based on interviews with 17 company representatives. The main results of the study were presented at Biofach on 13 February. This research was part of IFOAM EU's '**Keeping GMOs out of food**' project.

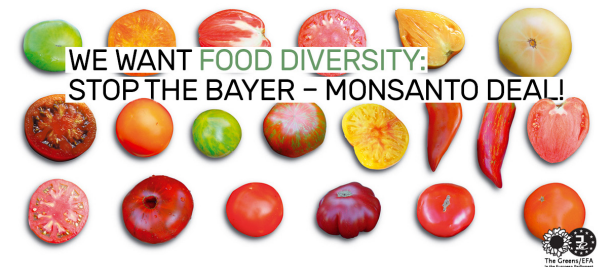


Biofach 2018: Launch of the study '**Socioeconomic impacts of GMOs on the European agriculture**'; © Stephen Meredith

SAY NO TO THE MERGER OF MONSANTO AND BAYER

Mergers of agri-business companies on a global scale are accelerating. Six of the biggest companies are currently merging: Dow and Dupont, Syngenta and ChemChina, Bayer and Monsanto. The European Commission already gave its green light for the first two mergers but launched an investigation regarding Bayer and Monsanto's merger last August, as it will create '**the world's largest integrated pesticides and seeds company**'. The opinion of the European Commission regarding this merger is expected before 5 April. Meanwhile, the Greens at the European Parliament launched a **campaign** to ask Ms Vestager, Commissioner for Competition, to ban the merger and highlight the devastating consequences of such a merger on farmers, the environment and our food diversity.

Get informed about the campaign by **watching the Greens' video** and engage on social media using **#Baysanto #stopBaysanto** and **#mergerfromhell**.



© The Greens/EFA in the European Parliament

FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

IFOAM EU CALLS FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING TO BE PRIORITISED UNDER THE MFF POST-2020

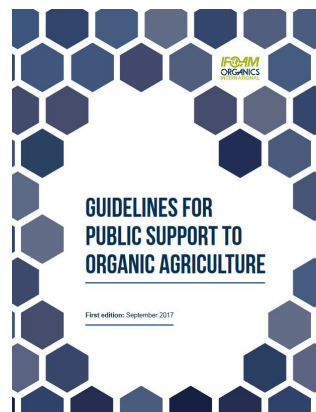
IFOAM EU has called on Member States to prioritise organic food and farming in the EU's future budget under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Post-2020. **In an open letter to the President of the European Council Donald Tusk**, IFOAM EU stressed that the next MFF must enable a more prosperous and sustainable Europe that delivers an ambitious implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The letter highlighted the role that organic food and farming can play in achieving more sustainable food systems, pointing to the fact that **the organic market is growing fast** and is proof that European citizens demand high quality food that also delivers a range of societal benefits. However, to leverage the full potential of the organic food and farming, IFOAM EU said that it is essential to prioritise organic sector development under the next EU budget by:

- Making best use of organic farming, under a reformed Common Agricultural Policy, to fully implement the principle of public money for public benefit and thereby develop the organic farmland area in Europe;

- Investing in organic SMEs and entrepreneurship through smart use of the EU's Cohesion Policy to better enable urban and rural businesses to thrive and flourish and stimulate the development of a diversity of marketing channels that foster a fairer distribution of value;
- Dedicating at least 10% of the total agri-food research and innovation policy budget for organics to maintain a strong agronomic and ecological knowhow at farm level and to stimulate the development of more sustainable supply chains.

IFOAM EU is actively monitoring the debate on the next CAP reform and the MFF. For more details about the reform process or the latest developments, please contact [eric.gall \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:eric.gall@ifoam-eu.org)



Consult IFOAM – Organic International's new toolkit to get a complete global overview of policies supporting organic agriculture

ORGANIC CITIES AND IFOAM EU JOIN FORCES TO BRING ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE IN EUROPE

On 15 February, the 'Organic City Network Europe' and IFOAM EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding at Biofach. This memorandum will give a strong foundation to their joint work towards the implementation of the **Organic Vision to 2030** for a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming system.

The 'Organic City Network Europe' and IFOAM EU will cooperate on the future of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), regional and local food supply chains, Green Public Procurement (GPP) policies, research and innovation, the true cost of food, increasing the transparency of supply chains, and access to land for new organic farmers.

Local authorities will play an important role in transforming the food system to a sustainable system – both in Europe and globally – and in guaranteeing that European citizens have access to organic food. **Learn more in IFOAM EU's press release.**



Claudio Serafini, Director of the 'Organic Cities Network Europe' & Eduardo Cuoco, Director of IFOAM EU after the signing ceremony

1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

CONTRIBUTE TO THE EU PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON RESEARCH & INNOVATION PRIORITIES

The European Commission is currently holding a **public consultation** on budget priorities concerning research & innovation, along with support for investment, entrepreneurship and Single Market. IFOAM EU encourages its members to submit a response, which is possible in any of the official EU languages. The deadline of the consultation is 8 March.

The European Commission is aiming for an increase of the research and innovation budget by 50% up to 100%. Proposed budget increases can help to boost competitiveness and productivity, however, IFOAM EU believes that research & Innovation should primarily be directed towards achieving the greatest possible impact for society and public goods. Dedicating at least 10% of the total agri-food research budget to organics has large potential to deliver on the wide range of challenges facing Europe. Investing in organic research would help to maintain a strong agronomic and ecological knowledge basis of soils, crops and animals and support the transition towards more sustainable food systems by tackling issues such as minimal food processing, fair distribution and sustainable consumption. Such investment should be part of a wider mission to transform European food and farming systems based on organic and agroecological principles.

EIP-AGRI UPDATE

New Focus Groups launched

At the end of February, a call for experts for three new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups was launched. Topics are:

- New feed for livestock,
- Protecting perennial crop production from frost damage,
- Reducing food loss on the farm.

For more details, visit [the EIP-AGRI website](#).

EIP-AGRI brochure "Organic is Operational"

A new **EIP-AGRI brochure** was published showcasing innovative solutions in organic farming for stimulating soil health, pest control and livestock management as well as market development. It also highlights the importance of collaboration and of exchanging knowledge between farmers, researchers and advisers, through Operational Groups and networks such as **OK-Net Arable**.

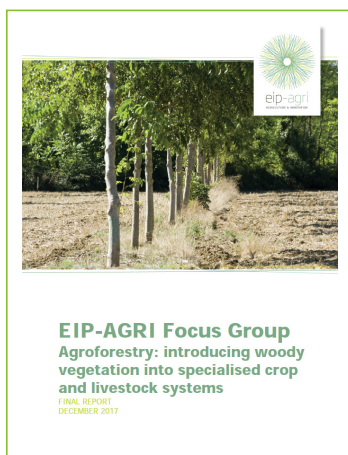


Download the brochure of EIP-AGRI to have a closer look of innovative solutions in organic farming

RESULTS FOCUS GROUP ON AGROFORESTRY READY

The results of the EIP-AGRI Focus Group are ready. Read the Focus Group's **final report** and **factsheet**.

Agroforestry is the practice of integrating woody vegetation with crops and/or livestock systems. It is a traditional farming practice that is being re-discovered. Agroforestry practices improve ecosystem services at the local and landscape level, while increasing farming productivity and profitability. Agroforestry practices can capture carbon, improve biodiversity, control erosion, and improve water resource management. Therefore, there is growing interest in developing modern, viable agroforestry systems within the EU. The Focus Group investigated challenges, opportunities, existing practices and ways forward to further develop agroforestry systems in Europe.



IFOAM EU CONTRIBUTES TO A NEW RESEARCH PROJECT ON FARM DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES – NEFERTITI



IFOAM EU is part of the NEFERTITI project. The project establishes ten interactive thematic networks and brings together 45 regional clusters (hubs) of demo-farmers and actors – such as advisors, NGOs, industry, education, researchers and policy makers – in 17 countries.

The topics covered by the ten interactive thematic networks have been chosen based on key concerns of the farming communities. IFOAM EU is deputy leader of two organic networks themes:

- Robust organic livestock systems
- Increasing productivity & quality in organic arable crops

Demonstration activities are planned in 2019-2021 in Germany, France, UK, Poland, Finland, Spain. More information about the demo activities will be made available in due time. IFOAM EU will contribute to this project by disseminating the results in the organic community and by raising awareness at policy level.

NEFERTITI stand for Networking European Farms to Enhance Cross Fertilisation and Innovation Uptake through Demonstration. The project is a unique Network comprising of 32 partners and is coordinated by ACTA, the head of Network of the French Agricultural Technical Institutes. The project focuses on creating added value from the exchange of knowledge, actors, farmers and technical content between networks to boost innovation uptake and to improve peer to peer learning and network connectivity between farming actors across Europe. In the end, it all contributes to a more competitive and sustainable agriculture.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement NEFERTITI (No 772705).

**INFORMATION ON
ORGANIC SEED AND
PLANT BREEDING PROJECT
NOW AVAILABLE IN 11 LANGUAGES**



The leaflet of the LIVESEED project is **now available in these languages**: English, Bulgarian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish.

The aim of the LIVESEED project is to improve the transparency and competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector. Read what LIVESEED does in your native language and share it with interested seed producers, farmers, advisors and relevant actors.

Follow LIVESEED's activities on **Twitter** and **Facebook**, and on **the project's website**. If you want to get involved or have any questions contact alexandra.fuss [@] ifoam-eu.org.

IFOAM EU coordinates this research project and is involved in organising national visits and workshops in Hungary, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Latvia, Spain, Italy, Poland.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement LiveSeed (No 727230)

**END OF OK-NET ARABLE,
START OF OK-NET ECOFEED
– CONTINUATION OF THE
OK-NET KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM**



The OK-Net Arable project came to an end in February. The end of OK-Net Arable is not the end of the project's **knowledge platform**. It will be taken forward by a new project called OK-Net EcoFeed.

OK-Net EcoFeed will help organic pig and poultry farmers in achieving the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed. OK-Net EcoFeed will work with 11 innovation groups that will identify innovations from the ground up and ensure that solutions disseminated by the project "work in the real world" of farming. All knowledge generated by OK-Net EcoFeed will be made available on the **OK-Net knowledge platform**.

The OK-Net Arable project promoted the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists, with the aim of improving organic arable cropping in Europe. One of the main outcomes of the project is the **knowledge platform: farmknowledge.org**. This platform provides access to more than 100 tools (guidelines, videos, fact sheets...) divided according to the most relevant topics in organic arable farming: soil quality and fertility, nutrient management, pest and disease control.



OK-Net Arable and OK-Net EcoFeed have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No 652654 and No 773911 respectively. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided

**RESEARCHERS MEET TO
TACKLE XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA**



November 13–15, 2017, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Last November, a major event brought together experts and researchers on *Xylella fastidiosa* from all over the world. The event promoted the latest scientific advances and encouraged dialogue and interactions in support of the on-going efforts to control the European outbreaks.

The consortium **XF-ACTORS**, of which IFOAM EU is an active partner, presented several contributions on the main aspects characterising the emergence of *Xylella* in Europe and the tools explored for its control. The book of abstracts and the complete video recording of the conference are now available, while a paper resuming the key aspects of research discussed at the event is under finalisation.

Visit **the website** for more information or reach out to communication [@] xfactorsproject.eu.

The conference was jointly organised by EFSA, the University of the Balearic Islands, the Euphresco network, the EU Horizon 2020 projects POnTE and XF-ACTORS, and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD).



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727987

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

IFOAM EU WILL HOLD ITS 9TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 15 MAY – IFOAM EU MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

IFOAM EU invites its members to the 9th General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 May.

This is a three-day event:

14 May 2018, 14:30–18:30, **IFOAM EU Council meeting**, including the elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

- This meeting is open only to IFOAM EU Council members

15 May 2018, 9:00–16:30, **IFOAM EU General Assembly** and Board Elections

- The General Assembly is open only to IFOAM EU Members and observers

15 May 2018, 19:00, **IFOAM EU 15-year anniversary** celebrations

- These celebrations are for invitees only

16 May 2018, 9:00–13:00, **public event** on 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation of EU's agriculture sector – showcasing organic farmers tackling climate change from the SOLMACC project'

- This is a public event

Register for this event. IFOAM EU members find more information about the General Assembly on **the IFOAM EU member extranet**. Do note that this information is available **for IFOAM EU members only**. If you are an IFOAM EU member and you do not have access to these files, please contact [caterina.berardi \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:caterina.berardi@ifoam-eu.org)

IS YOUR INITIATIVE LEADING EUROPE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM?

Submit your initiative now!

IFOAM EU is collecting successful initiatives and projects that are **transforming food and farming in Europe**.

The initiatives should be projects and programmes that are not older than 4 years and that address one of the following aspects:

- Organic on every table: initiatives and examples that make organic widely available and recognised
- Improve – inspire – deliver: initiatives and examples that develop organic further and inspire others
- Fair play – fair pay: initiatives and examples to achieve more transparency and fairness in the value chain

Submit your initiative now. Relevant submissions will be profiled on **EUorganic2030.bio** and **on social media using #EUorganic2030**.



EVS VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

IFOAM EU is looking for volunteers that will join the team for one whole year starting between May and June 2018.

- Do you want to learn more about organic food and farming?
- Are between the ages of 18 and 30?
- Are legally residing in Finland, Germany, Portugal, Turkey or the UK?

Apply by 18 March, or share this call with your network **on Twitter** and **on Facebook**.

More information about the EVS experience and the necessary forms is available on the **IFOAM EU website**.



Erasmus+

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.

SAYING GOODBYE TO:



Ann-Kathrin Trappenberg

At the end of February, IFOAM EU and its project unit bid farewell and good luck to Ann-Kathrin after five years with us. Ann-Kathrin demonstrated a great professionalism and enthusiasm in managing various EU projects that IFOAM EU is involved in, keeping the team motivated to run the projects successfully. We will miss her gentle approach, her collaborative attitude that greatly helped us in accomplishing our project tasks, as well as her sense of humour that made our daily work very pleasant. Ann-Kathrin will continue her career in her home country, Germany, where she will continue contributing to the development of the organic movement at Naturland.



Stephen Meredith

IFOAM EU bids farewell to its Deputy Policy Manager Stephen Meredith. Six years ago, Stephen started at IFOAM EU as an intern in the Policy Unit, and quickly became one of the leading experts on the CAP in Brussels. Stephen also built up in-depth knowledge about many other policy fields he has worked on over the years, such as plant protection products, land use issues, and organic action plans. He also managed IFOAM EU's Farmers Group and turned it into a well-functioning, highly effective and essential pillar of IFOAM EU, ensuring that national organic farmers organisations have a strong voice in the organic movement's decision-making process on EU policy issues.

Stephen will continue working on the CAP as Senior Policy Analyst for the IEEP, a think tank on environmental and agriculture issues. We thank Stephen for his commitment and dedication to the organic movement, and his tireless work to make Europe more organic!



Effimia Chatzinikolaou

IFOAM EU also bids farewell to another key member of the policy unit, Effimia Chatzinikolaou. Effimia started in IFOAM EU in 2014 and worked on several projects (i.e. Sustaingas, SOLMACC & LIVESEED) and different topics, such as climate change. She became the team's key expert on seeds and the EU seed legislation. Effimia proved an exceptional ability to multi-task and to adapt to new topics and challenges, and quickly became an essential part of the well-functioning of the Policy Unit. She also managed IFOAM EU's participation to DG AGRI's Civil Dialogue Groups, the Farmers Group, and the seed expert group, another key voice of IFOAM EU's membership into EU policy-making. Effimia took on new challenge as she moved to Ghana to manage a NGO working as Program Coordinator. We wish her all the best for this new step in her career and we thank Effimia for her commitment to IFOAM EU and its values, for her good spirit, and her tireless work to make Europe more organic!



Mathilde Séchet

IFOAM EU & its regulation unit is bidding goodbye to Mathilde, who spent one and a half years as a Regulation Officer. Her background in European law, politics and policies and her previous experience in the food sector were of fundamental importance for her role. During her time at IFOAM EU she focused, among others, on the coordination of the Interest Group on Organic Processing and of the non-food task-forces on organic Cosmetic and organic Textile. Her speed in digging into complex technical matter and understanding of the dynamics of the organic sector was outstanding. We would like to thank her for her tireless work, for her full commitment and for the excellent organisation of the 5th Organic Processing Conference. We wish Mathilde the very best in her ongoing professional development.



Sophia Bartuschat

We bid farewell to Sophia Bartuschat who volunteered as an EVS at IFOAM EU for half a year. Sophia joined the Research & Innovation Unit in June 2017, and decided early 2018 to finalise her Master's Degree in 'Management in Organic Agriculture' at HNE Eberswalde (Germany). Sophia provided essential support in the organisation of the Organic Innovation Days and took care of the website and newsletter of TP Organics, as well as the dissemination of the Horizon 2020 project "Internet of Food and Farm 2020". IFOAM EU thanks Sophia for all her work during this time. We will remember her dedication and positive spirit and wish her all the best for her studies and future career!

WELCOMING OUR NEW COLLEAGUES:



Monica Jacobs

Monica is IFOAM EU's new Strategic Development Manager, a position created as part of IFOAM EU's strategic growth plan. Monica is a Dutch national, residing and working in Brussels. Her combined experience in the for-profit (10 years) and the for-purpose sector (15 years), enables her to equally value and understand sustainability, social responsibility and the need for return on investment. Her former employment with the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and her love for nutritious organic produce, add to her desire to contribute to IFOAM EU's objectives to make Europe more organic. Her fields of experience are in international association management, fundraising, business development, marketing & sales, HR, operations, corporate communications & events.



Elena Zovi

Elena joined IFOAM EU as internal operations and HR assistant at the end of December 2017. She has been interested by environmental issues for a long time and tries to adapt her day-to-day life according to it. Working with IFOAM EU is a great opportunity to work in organic at an EU-level and learn a lot about it, thus contributing to a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Elena was born and grew up in Belgium. She holds a bachelor's degree in Political science and a Master's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy which she achieved in Belgium and an Erasmus experience in Italy. After her studies, she spent time in the USA to improve her English, after which she worked as administrative and marketing assistant in Belgium. Last year, she spent time in Canada on a working-holiday visa, and she worked and travelled around Canada and USA until October.



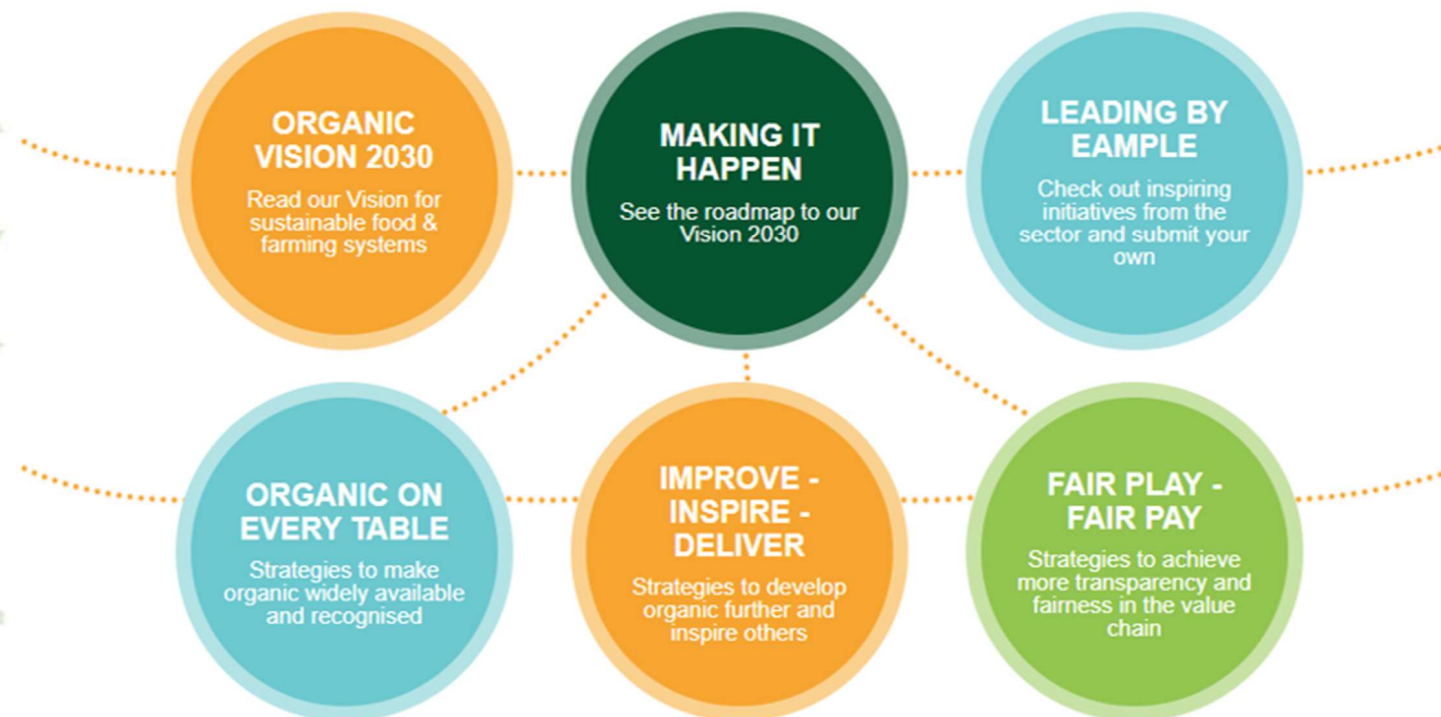
WANT TO TRANSFORM FOOD & FARMING IN EUROPE?

Get inspired on www.euorganic2030.bio

GET INSPIRED

TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING IN EUROPE

An organic roadmap to our Vision 2030



3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

JOIN SME ORGANICS' EVENT 'USING ACTION PLANS TO DEVELOP ORGANICS'

23 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium

The first phase of the SME Organics project draws to a close at the end of March and will culminate with a **public event** in Brussels at Business Europe on 23 March 2018, from 9:00 to 13:00. Drawing on the results of the project's first phase, the event will look at how Organic Action Plans can help SMEs and the wider European agri-food sector to stimulate high quality food production, rural job creation, environmental protection, climate action and animal welfare by taking a more coordinated approach. Action plans do this by providing a framework for integrating different policies into a broader policy picture. They also help in setting common objectives, targets and actions that serve the organic sector's needs and meet public policy goals in a specific country or region. **Consult the event agenda for further information.**

Participants are also invited to an evening reception organised by CIHEAM-Bari and Puglia regional government at the Puglia Office of Institutional Relations to the European Union on **22 March** at **17:30**. During the reception, the Puglia Action Plan on Organic

Food and Farming will be presented with a special focus on its Regional observatory for the development of organic farming. The event will be followed by a tasting of typical products made in Puglia. More information about the event can be found in **its agenda**.

As the number of places is limited we ask you to **register before 16 March**. For further information about the event please contact meriam.ghedira [at] ifoam-eu.org

SME Organics seeks to improve policies and programmes under the EU's Investment for Growth and Jobs goal to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the SMEs in the organic sector of the participating regions. The project aims both at enhancing entrepreneurship but also at supporting existing SMEs in improving their performance. **Learn more about SME Organics.**



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU – 9TH IFOAM EU GENERAL ASSEMBLY & BOARD ELECTIONS (IFOAM EU MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS ONLY)

9:00–16:30, 15 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

IFOAM EU invites its members to the 9th General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 May. Between 9:00–16:30 IFOAM EU's members will hold the biannual **General Assembly and elect a new Board.**

Register for this event. IFOAM EU members find more information about the General Assembly on **the IFOAM EU member extranet**. Do note that this information is available **for IFOAM EU members only**. If you are an IFOAM EU member and you do not have access to these files, please contact [@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:ifoameu_membership)



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 IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU – ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (INVITATION ONLY)

19:00–23:00, 15 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Following the 9th General Assembly, we will celebrate 15 years of making Europe more organic at a festive reception. Together with policy-makers, organic practitioners, and representatives of the entire organic movement we will take the first steps on the road to many more years of representing organic in Europe. We will send out invitations to this event soon.

These celebrations are made possible by the generous support of:



wessanen



Do you want to help us celebrate 15 years of IFOAM EU? Get in touch with communication [\[@\] ifoam-eu](mailto:ifoam-eu) and hear what's in it for you!

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU – PUBLIC EVENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ORGANIC FARMING

16 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Farmers, policy makers, researchers and experts will gather for half a day to find systemic solutions for tackling climate change within the agriculture sector. The final results of the **SOLMACC** project will be presented, including policy recommendations and in-person accounts from the farmers who have been implementing climate-friendly practices for the last four years. Videos describing the practices and a practical manual on implementation will be launched.

Register for this event.



This event is supported through the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union in the frame of the SOLMACC project (agreement number: LIFE12 ENV/SE/0008000)

3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

16–17 January 2018, Zwolle, the Netherlands

The biannual Organic Processing Conference gathered many organic food companies, policy-makers, national and international organisations and organic certifiers. On 16 and 17 February, they discussed many topics.

The event opened with a debate between organic pioneers and newcomers in the sector. The opening plenary was followed by a first round of parallel sessions on digitalisation for improving the quality of processing, the traceability and the transparency. A second round of parallel sessions on market trends and perspectives and consumer communication closed the first day.

The second day started with a plenary discussion on the opportunities and the challenges of the future new organic regulation, focussing specifically on the possible impacts on the activities of organic food processing companies. The conference closed with a plenary on the new business model and financial schemes to transform food and farming. Lim Li Ching of **the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)** opened this session presenting the IPES Food report on concentration of power in the agri-food sector: **Too big to feed.**

If you were not at the conference and/or are interested in what was discussed more specifically, we are happy to share the main take-aways:

1. We need all organic actors, the entire food sector and policy-makers on board to make the new organic Roadmap to 'Transforming Food & Farming in Europe' a reality. Check the roadmap on www.euorganic2030.bio
2. Innovations such as blockchain technology have a great potential to increase transparency and traceability in the organic supply chain
3. New business models and financial schemes to transform food & farming already exist. Now, they need to shift towards creating a more circular economy instead of enforcing the current paradigm
4. The Internet of things (IoT) and Virtual reality (VR) are useful tools for giving the value chain access to the consumer, whereas Internet of things (IoT) and Augmented reality (AR) can help in improving the certification procedures
5. The 'new organic generation's' key to success is directly engaging with their consumer base and directly linking producers and consumers
6. The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) sounds the alarm on the wave of mega-mergers sweeping through food systems. Read **their report** to learn more

7. The new organic regulation will apply from January 2021. If organic actors are involved in defining the detailed requirements, the new regulation can become a good way to support the development of organics
8. 90% of the 5th Organic Processing Conference attendees were business representatives
9. Interested in a particular presentation? The speakers' interventions are now available on the [conference website](#)
10. Missed the conference or want to relive it? Watch Organic-Market.Info's videos on their [YouTube channel](#)

The **5th Organic Processing Conference** was co-organised by IFOAM EU and Bionext took prior to the BioBeurs organic fair.

Supported by



wessanen



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 IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

TWO IFOAM EU STAFF MEMBERS GRADUATED FROM THE ORGANIC LEADERSHIP COURSE 2017/18

13 February, Nürnberg, Germany

After nine intense months, IFOAM EU's Mathilde Séchet and Pauline Verrière and 20 other participants graduated from the Organic Leadership Course. The graduation ceremony took place at Biofach 2018.

From the bright Croatian islands to the snow-covered German forest, the course gave the 22 participants the opportunity to have passionate debates about organic agriculture, its principles and its future during two face-to-face meetings and ten webinars. The participants got to build strong connections all over the world and share their motivation to make the world more organic!

Mathilde and Pauline would like to thank once again IFOAM – Organics International and IFOAM EU for giving them that great opportunity and highly recommend this extraordinary experience!

The Organic Leadership Course is organised by IFOAM – Organics International. More information about the next OLC and application process is available on **IFOAM – Organic International's website**. The deadline for application for the next course is 9 March 2018.

BIOFACH 2018

14–18 February, Nürnberg, Germany

IFOAM EU organised and participated to numerous events at BIOFACH 2018

POLICY DAY – BEYOND THE NEW ORGANIC REGULATION

14 February, Nürnberg, Germany

The Policy Day, co-organised by IFOAM EU and Biofach, brought together EU policy-makers and the organic sector to discuss the state of the play and the future of the legislative organic framework.

After almost 4 years of discussions and negotiations within the 3 EU institutions (the Parliament, Commission and Council) a preliminary consensus on the legislative text for a new organic regulation has been reached in November 2017.

In the panel moderated by IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco representatives of the EU institutions – the Green German Member of the EU Parliament Martin Häusling, and high-level Ministry directors in charge of organics Javier Maté Caballero from Spain and Hugo Fragoso from Mexico – discussed the consequences for the sector with IFOAM EU President Christopher Stopes, Executive Director of the Organic Research Centre – Elm Farm Nicolas Lampkin and EOCC Board member Michel Reynaud.

BIOFACH2018
into organic

In the session it was confirmed that the organic regulation is a foundation for the development of organic in the EU, but it is not the only one. 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.



Christopher Stopes, President of IFOAM EU, in the panel discussion of organic regulation; © IFOAM EU

A COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR HEALTHY FARMERS, HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY PLANET

14 February, Nürnberg, Germany

At the session on **A Common Agricultural Policy for healthy farmers, healthy people, healthy planet** participants explored different approaches and instruments for securing fair farm incomes and addressing environmental and climate action in parallel under the CAP reform post-2020. This session included a presentation from Christian Schader, Head of Sustainability Assessment at the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) who looked at the potential of sustainability assessment tools to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and acceptance of farm payments. The presentation draws on the ongoing results of a **project** commissioned by IFOAM EU to consider pathways for the implementation of Vision for environmental and socio-economic public goods under the CAP). A second approach was presented by Sonke Beckmann, Senior Policy Officer, German Landcare Association (DVL) which looked at the association's pilot project in Germany, for supporting an environmental public goods bonus payment. Finally, Thomas Fertl, Head of Agricultural Policy and International Affairs at Bio Austria and an IFOAM EU Board Member, presented the IFOAM EU CAP Vision and organic movement's priorities in the context of the current CAP debate.

ORGANIC FARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE – THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION FOR EU'S AGRICULTURE

15 February, Nürnberg, Germany

The SOLMACC project, coordinated by IFOAM EU, was presented at the BIOFACH seminar "Organic farming and climate change – potential for greater climate adaptation and mitigation for EU's agriculture." Lin Bautze (FiBL DE) and Sigrid Griese (Bioland e.V.) discussed the role of organic farming in the fight against climate change and outlined specific farming practices that can provide both environmental and socio-economic benefits. Policy recommendations were given for ensuring greater mitigation and adaptation on EU's agriculture by Eric Gall (IFOAM EU). 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**.



This event is supported through the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union in the frame of the SOLMACC project (agreement number: LIFE12 ENV/ SE/0008000)

USING ORGANIC ACTION PLANS TO ENHANCE SME COMPETITIVENESS AND SUSTAINABILITY IN EUROPEAN REGIONS

15 February, Nürnberg, Germany

During the SME ORGANICS session on **Using organic action plans to enhance SME competitiveness and sustainability in European regions**, Nic Lampkin, Executive Director of the Organic Research Centre – Elm Farm, as part of the IFOAM EU team with the SME Organics project, presented the key elements for organic action plan development and implementation as well as recommendations stemming from the first phase of the project. This was followed by presentations from regional project partners on their draft regional action plans as well as the lessons learned for improving the regional policy environment in which action plans operate. Regional partner speakers included Resano Egea Joaquin, Chief of Bureau for the Promotion of Ecological Agriculture and Cross-Sectoral Actions in the Agricultural Sector in Navarra Department of Rural Development, Environment and Local Administration and Jérôme Cinel, Director of INTERBIO Nouvelle Aquitaine, a French regional organisation for the organic sector.



SCIENCE DAY – ORGANICS IN THE FUTURE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY

16 February, Nürnberg, Germany

On 16 February, the sixth Science Day took place at Biofach. Science Day is a joint event of TP Organics and TIPI, the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International. The morning session was dedicated to EU Research and Innovation Policy and organised in cooperation with ERA-Net CORE Organic. Philippe Vinçon, General Director for Education and Research at the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, called for a large research and innovation mission for the transformation of food and farming based on agroecological principles. Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, spoke about the target of the new German government to achieve 20% organic farmland by 2030, and the role of research and knowledge exchange in this. Participants also discussed the need for mild, and small-scale, food processing techniques for use by SMEs and on-farm, and explored how to improve communication towards consumers and the role of digitisation in this.

In the afternoon session TIPI elaborated on research gaps in organic food and farming systems in the Global South and its list of 100 questions to be addressed by novel organic food and farming systems. The aim was to inspire the development of strategic regional research agendas, which, in turn, will influence regional action plans. All presentations of Science Day are available here.

BENEFITS OF NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES IN ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING – INSIGHTS FROM THE INTERNET OF FOOD AND FARM 2020

16 February, Nürnberg, Germany

During this session dedicated to the insights of the **Internet of Food and Farm (IoF2020) project**, three speakers from the organic sector presented their involvement in the project and discussed how the Internet of Things (IoT) can bring organics forward and improve its performance. IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco, outlined the objectives of the IoF2020 project which fosters a large-scale uptake of Internet of Things in the EU food and farming sector. Cristina Micheloni from the Italian Organic Association (AIAB) focused on the digitisation in organic, underlining that IoT is useful with what the organic sector already does: certification, animal welfare monitoring, soil in depth knowledge, adaptation to rapid changes etc. Matteo Balderacchi, Valoritalia's coordinator of the IoF case study, shared a use case on how to use digitisation in organic certification. Visit the **IoF2020 website** for more information about the project and about **the trials that the project is running**.



IoF2020 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 731884

ECOFRUIT CONFERENCE 2018

19–21 February 2018, Hohenheim, Germany

The 18th International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing (Ecofruit) took place at the University of Hohenheim in Germany. Organised, among others by Foeko e.V., Ecofruit aimed at bringing together researchers, consultants and growers to discuss the latest developments, opportunities and challenges for organic fruit growing. The conference provided participants with the possibility to exchange on the current results related to organic fruit growing also regarding the improvement of the production system. Sessions covered mainly issues related pest and disease control, system design, biodiversity and sustainability.

IFOAM EU was delighted to have been the patron of this important biannual event.



SME ORGANICS: STAKEHOLDERS AND POLICYMAKERS LEARN ABOUT ORGANIC ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT IN POLAND

27–28 February 2018, Łódzkie, Poland

IFOAM EU, other project partners and regional stakeholders travelled to the Polish region of Łódzkie for the 8th interregional Field Visit of the SME Organics project. The visit was hosted by the Marshal's Office of the Łódzkie Region and Office of the Łódzkie Region in Brussels

On day 1, participants gathered at the Łódź University of Technology's Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Science for a series of presentations exploring different initiatives in the central Polish region. This was followed by visits to a tea manufacturer and a wine producer. Project partners also discussed the recommendations stemming from the project as well as strategies for securing political buy-in for their implementation of the regional action plans, facilitated by the IFOAM EU team.

Day 2 included a visit to the Agricultural Advice Center of Łódzkie Region in Bratoszewice where participants learned about the work of different stakeholders involved in the organic sector and beyond. Among these stakeholders were several organic producers and representatives from the Agricultural Advice Center, the Chamber of Agriculture of Łódzkie and the Research Institute of Horticulture in Skierniewice. This was followed by further field visits within in the region.

Elsewhere, IFOAM EU hosted a special dissemination event of SME Organics project at BIOFACH on 15 February to present the some of the regional organic action plans as well as recommendations to better support action plans development and implementation elaborated during the first phase of the project. An overview of this session can be found under the Biofach event review in this newsletter.



SME Organics 7th fields visit to region Łódzkie in Poland. Nic Lampkin presenting SME Organics; © SME ORGANICS



PARTNER AND STAKEHOLDER OF THE INTERNET OF FOOD AND FARM 2020 PROJECT MEET IN ALMERIA



28 February–1 March, Almeria, Spain

Partners and stakeholders of **the Internet of Food and Farm (IoF2020)** project gathered in Almeria, Spain for project's annual event. The discussions revolved around 'Unleashing the potential of Internet of Things in the food and farming sector'.

The event fostered existing and created further synergies between the IoF2020 partners and stakeholders from along the entire agri-food value chain, including farmers, technology providers, policy-makers and researchers. The event provided partners and stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss and shape the €5 million IoF2020 open call that will be launched in the second half of 2018. The call is open to everybody with an interest in pushing the boundaries of digital farming applications.

Visit the **IoF2020 website** for more information about the project.



IoF2020 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 731884



Meurens Natural, expert in organic solutions from cereals, is the designer & producer of **Sipal®** range for 30 years



ORGANIC CEREAL EXTRACTS

Sipal® is a unique range of non refined organic cereal & dried fruits extracts, that fulfills a wide variety of sweetening & technical functionalities for all sectors of the agri-food industry.

RICE SYRUP

BARLEY MALT SYRUP

DATE SYRUP

OAT SYRUP

WHEAT SYRUP

FIG SYRUP

SPELT SYRUP

MANIOC SYRUP

PRUNE SYRUP

CORN SYRUP



Website: www.meurensnatural.com

Phone: +32. 87. 69. 33. 40

E-mail: info@meurensnatural.com

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2018

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 organic' project is a two years and a half project (2018–2020) following the 'Keeping GMOs out of food' which will end in June 2018. This new project aimed at:

- Strengthen GMO-free organic food production by organising and supporting the organic movement in its effort to develop practical strategies to stay GMO free and to facilitate discussion with the GMO-free sector.
- Develop positions and coordinate advocacy work to maintain the ability of the organic sector to remain GMO-free.

This new project will have a specific focus on new genetic engineering techniques, to follow the crucial ongoing discussion at the European level and make sure these new techniques will be regulated as GMOs.

IFOAM EU previously released

- **Preventing GMO contamination – An overview of national “coexistence” measures in the EU**
- **Socio-economic impacts of GMOs on European agriculture**

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

- › 23 March 2018 **Using action Plans to Develop Organics**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 22–23 April 2018 **Natural & Organic Products Europe**
London, the United Kingdom
- › 15 May 2018 **Celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU
9th IFOAM EU General Assembly & Board elections
(IFOAM EU members and observers only)**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 15 May 2018 **Celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU – Anniversary
celebrations (invitation only)**
Belgium, Brussels
- › 16 May 2018 **Celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU – Public event
on climate change and organic farming**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 7–8 June 2018 **Sustainable Food Summit**
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- › 23–24 September 2018 **Natexpo**
Lyon, France
- › 14–15 November 2018 **Natural Products Scandinavia & Nordic Organic
Food Fair**
MalmöMässan, Sweden
- › 14–17 November 2018 **XIII SEAE Congress on Organic Farming
and Agroecology**
La Rioja, Spain
- › 27–28 November 2018 **Organic Innovation Days**
Brussels, Belgium



33,000 protesters call for new agricultural policy; ©Fabian Melber

IFOAM **EU GROUP** **MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC**

Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32-2-280 12 23
Fax: +32-2-735 73 81
Email: [communication \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org)
www.ifoam-eu.org  

© IFOAM EU 2004 to 2018

Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to [communication\[at\]ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org).

For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

Editors IFOAM EU Newsletter: Eric Gall, Magdalena Wawrzonkowska, Eva Berckmans, Triin Viilvere

Newsletter layout: Diana Jastrzębska & Paweł Maszerowski, **Heroldart**



This publication 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 IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.