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IFOAM EU organised a meeting of experts to discuss policy work on seed, breeding and plant varieties © Ivan Marko Stazić

Maaike Raaijmakers (NL), Rikke Thomle Andersen (DK), Gebhard Rossmanith (DE), Reijo Käki (FI), Frederic Rey (FR), Albena Simeonova (BG), Louise Payton (UK), Juliette Leroux (FR), Philippe Cattinaud (FR), Monika Messmer (CH), from the IFOAM EU office, Marco Schlüter, Antje Kollling, Eric Gall and Effimia Chatzinkolabou joined the meeting. The meeting was co-financed by the Software AG foundation and the European Commission, DG Envi.
Dear readers,

With more than 40,000 organic processors in Europe, it’s clear that the practices applied throughout the sector have an important impact on people and planet. The organic movement is a movement of leaders and there are many organic-led initiatives to improve the quality and integrity of organic processing, reduce the impact of processing on the environment, as well as projects to help local producers achieve greater benefits for their work and raise awareness among consumers.

At the same time the organic sector as a whole is facing some serious challenges. Avoiding the contamination of organically grown produce. On one hand, chemical pesticides are used in conventional food production. On the other, consumers expect organic products to be without chemical pesticide contaminants. On one hand the widespread use of GMOs in specific countries threaten the integrity of organic products during cultivation, transport and processing. On the other hand consumers expect organic products without residues of GMOs. Contamination with pesticides and GMO residues is already a major threat and challenge for the organic sector: we have to carry the burden that the polluting agro-food sector creates. Organic farmers, producers and processors are already forced to pay large sums for preventative measures and testing. The Commission’s proposal for a new organic regulation aims to introduce decertification thresholds for non-allowed substances including pesticides; The argument is consumer protection: organic consumers expect products without residue contaminations. However, we think that setting a decertification threshold is not the right solution. The real way to ensuring consumer trust and solve the problem of residue contamination is to introduce clear rules based on the “polluter-pays-principle”.

Matching what’s best for the environment and what’s best for business. This is a topic organic processors are taking up successfully. The number of organic products with “carbon neutral” and other logos demonstrating environmental responsibility has increased significantly in the last five years. Yet, still more can be done. The question for businesses and the sector is: how best to implement environmental performance requirements and what should be in the organic regulation?

These topics are central to the development and success of our sector and it is in this light, that I would like to invite you to attend the 3rd Organic Processing Conference and network with your peers, learn about best practices from sector leaders and discuss the regulation review with representatives from the EU institutions and processing associations.

Looking forward to seeing you in Paris on 17–18 November 2014!

Bavo van den IJzert
IFOAM EU Board Member
POLITICAL HOTSPOT

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APPROVE NEW COMMISSIONERS WHO CAN SHAPE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EU AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

New Commissioners expected to shape the EU agri-food to 2020 were approved by the European Parliament in a plenary vote of the entire Juncker Commission college with 423 votes in favour, 209 against and 67 abstentions in Strasbourg on 22 October, following hearings with respective Parliamentary committees at the end of September and beginning of October.

The new President of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker has outlined the Commission’s priorities relevant to the agri-food sector for each Commissioner. Priorities identified under the leadership of the new Commissioners include:

Phil Hogan (IE) – Agriculture and Rural Development
- Ensuring that rural development spending is part of the EU’s jobs and growth strategies
- Implementation of CAP with an emphasis on the principle of subsidiarity and issues related to flexibility and simplification
- Further simplification of direct payments – in particular with regards to greening – as well as rural development, quality policy and the fruit and vegetables scheme

Vytenis Andriukaitis (LT) – Health and Food Safety
- Reviewing the existing decision-making process with respect to genetically modified organisms
- Ensuring the EU’s capacities to deal with food safety crisis and pandemics.

Karmenu Vella (MT) – Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
- Reviewing of existing environmental legislative framework including an in-depth evaluation of the Birds and Habitats directives which are the cornerstone of EU policy on biodiversity
- Assessing the current state of play on the Circular Economy package based on feedback from European Parliament and Council. This is linked to the better use of resources and lowering the impact on the EU’s natural resources

IFOAM EU believes that as Europe begins to slowly emerge from the economic crisis, real sustainable solutions must be at the heart of the incoming Juncker Commission’s agenda and not sidelined in favour of short-term opportunistic political and economic goals that lead a to “race to the bottom.” In the EU Organic Action Plan 2014, the Commission itself acknowledges that organic farming offers real solutions to realising the EU’s Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. IFOAM EU will continue to highlight the importance of ensuring that EU policies over the next five years are capable of stimulating sustainable growth and green job creation that can be delivered by the organic sector.

Visit the Commission website for further information about the Juncker Commission’s priorities, including other Commissioners of high importance such as Miguel Arias Cañete, ES, Climate Action and Energy; Carlos Moedas, PT, Research, Science and Innovation and Cecilia Malmström, SE, Trade).

The new structure of the Juncker Commission has been approved by the Parliament (Photo: JLogan – shared on Wikipedia under the Creative Commons 3.0 license)
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

ORGANIC REGULATION DEBATE CO-ORGANISED BY GREEN MEP MARTIN HAUSLING AND IFOAM EU

Martin Haüsling, member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the European Parliament (European Green Party) has recently been appointed rapporteur for the legislative proposal for a new organic regulation. Together with IFOAM EU, he organised a debate on the Commission proposal on 22 September at the representation of the German state Hessen to the EU in Brussels.

Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU Board Member, stressed that the Commission proposal in its current form is not sufficient to achieve the initial aims of removing obstacles, ensuring fair competition and maintaining consumer confidence – aims shared by the Commission and IFOAM EU. For example, the establishment of a specific decertification threshold for organic producers and the removal of most of the exceptional rules would represent a real obstacle to the development of organic production in Europe and likely lead to a serious decrease in produce available.

Representatives from the European Institutions also joined the discussion, including João Onofre, Head of the Organics Unit at DG Agri.
THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS’ DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ORGANIC REGULATION REVIEW

On October 3, the “Natural Resources Commission” operating within the Committee of the Regions adopted the draft opinion on the Commission proposal for a new organic regulation prepared by the Dutch Rapporteur Willemien Hester Maij, Member of the Council of the Province of Overijssel. This opinion is in favour of the improvement of the status quo “on the basis of improvements to, and more effective implementation of, the existing legislation” and criticises the lack of ambition of the Commission’s action plan as the objectives and budget for it to succeed are lacking. The draft Committee of the Regions opinion doesn’t support the removal of most of the exceptional rules and the shift from a process-based approach to an end-product approach introduced by the Commission proposal.

This is the reason why the Natural Resources Commission recommends removing the entirety of article 20 of the Commission proposal, which would establish a specific decertification threshold for organic producers.

The next step is the adoption of this opinion in a plenary session of the Committee of the Regions on December 3, 2014.

HEARINGS AT THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Mr Armands Krauze, member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and rapporteur for the organic regulation review dossier, welcomed a panel of speakers representing organic stakeholders, varying from organic producers and processors to control bodies and the European institutions at a hearing on 15 September. The draft opinion from the European Economic and Social Committee was presented and participants invited to give feedback. The presentations from this meeting held on 15 September are available online.

The draft opinion asks the Commission to modify its proposal and extend transitional periods for the removal of the exceptional rules such as the exceptional use of non-organic untreated seed when organic seed is not available. In order to achieve the use of 100% organic seed without a great loss of biodiversity, the report asks the Commission to develop tools to support the production of organic seed, including a proposal not to limit the rights of farmers to exchange seeds among themselves and to allow them to grow varieties that are not registered in the common catalogues of varieties of agricultural plant and vegetal species.

UPDATE FROM THE MEMBER STATES’ COMMITTEE ON ORGANIC REGULATION

The Standing Committee on Organic Farming (SCOF) has been recently re-named and will now be known as the Regulatory Committee on Organic Production (RCOP). The committee is composed of representatives from Member States and its role is to assist the Commission in implementing the organic regulations according to article 37 of Reg. (EC) No 834/2007.

In a meeting which took place in Brussels on 22–23 September, no new implementing rules were voted on, but draft documents on import and organic aquaculture were further discussed.

Furthermore the Commission reported that the organic equivalency agreement with South Korea has not yet been reached both for political and technical reasons.

The Commission also presented the activities of the Expert Group for Technical Advice in Organic Production (EGTOP) to the RCOP. A second report on feed and a third report on food will likely be approved this month and two new mandates – one on cleaning & disinfection products and one on fertilisers – are in the works.
1.2 POLICY

GMO

EU PARLIAMENT DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE GMOS “OPT-OUT” PROPOSAL

The new directive, which would grant Member States the right to ban GMOs on their territory (the so-called “opt out” proposal) continues its way through the 2nd reading procedure.

On 13 October, the rapporteur on this dossier, Ms Frédérique Ries (Belgian, ALDE Group) presented her draft report to the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety committee (ENVI committee) of the European Parliament.

The amendments she proposed to the Council position include better grounds for the bans on GMO cultivation, mandatory liability rules and measures to avoid GMO contamination at the national level. On the other hand, the role of biotech companies in the procedure remains strong in Ms Ries’ draft recommendations, as Member States would first need to ask companies to exclude their territory from the scope of their application for a given GMO authorisation before being allowed to set up a ban.

One of Ms Ries’ amendments clarifies that Member States act as risk managers on the basis of EFSA’s risk assessment when they decide to ban GMO cultivation. This could reduce the opposition of the European Commission to allowing EU countries to ban GMO cultivation on environmental grounds that are complementary to those assessed by EFSA, as acting as a risk manager would allow Member States to base bans on risks related to the practical dissemination of GMOs without having to contradict EFSA’s assessment. This is particularly relevant as in practice some of the risks are not evaluated by EFSA, such as herbicide-resistant weeds and changes to the structure of farming.

After the presentation of Ms Ries, MEPs in ENVI committee held a discussion on the draft recommendations. Most MEPs, especially those from the Greens/EFA, GuE/NGL and EFDD groups expressed their support for the majority of the amendments. Some MEPs also asked that President-Elect Juncker fulfil his promise to revise the procedure for GMO authorisation before the new directive enters into force.

The rapporteur will now work out compromises based on the amendments tabled by the different political groups on 15 October. The position of the ENVI committee will be voted on 5 November and will be the mandate for the negotiations with the Council, which will start immediately afterwards. Regardless of whether an agreement between the Parliament and the Council is reached or not, the final vote will take place at the EP plenary session in January 2015. IFOAM EU is advocating for a strong legislation that defends the right of the stakeholders and the consumers to get access to GM-free food and feed. For more information, please contact Alejandro Gil: alejandro.gil[at]ifoam-eu.org

“KEEP GMOS OUT OF ORGANIC FOOD” PROJECT: STEERING COMMITTEE SELECTED

IFOAM EU project aimed at assessing the current legal situation, advocating for policy frameworks to keep GMO out of the organic food and providing practical guidance to organic operators now has a steering committee.

The steering committee is the decision-making body of the project and will provide strategic direction, practical support, advice and/or feedback on the project process, and help maximize coherence and synergy between the different groups involved. It is the decision-making body and will make recommendations on any matter involving an alteration of the project objectives and activities.

The members of the Steering Committee are:
- Thomas Fertl, IFOAM EU Board Member and Agriculture Policy Manager in BioAustria
- Dorota Metera, IFOAM EU Council Member and Director of BIOEKSPERT
- Alexander Beck, IFOAM EU Processors Interest Group chair and Managing Director of Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller e.V.
- Eric Gall, IFOAM EU Policy Manager
- Marco Schlüter, IFOAM EU Director

For more information, please write to the secretary of the Steering Committee, IFOAM EU GMO policy coordinator Alejandro Gil: alejandro.gil[at]ifoam-eu.org
CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS MAKE URGENT KISHANTOS APPEAL FOR MAINSTREAMING SUSTAINABILITY

Citizens and civil society groups from across Europe have questioned why the Hungarian government has allowed the Kishantos organic demonstration farm – in operation for over 20 years – to be taken out of organic production despite outlining in key strategic documents ambitions to increase the amount of agricultural land in Hungary under organic management. The importance of formal and non-formal education and training at all levels as a means of increasing public awareness and citizens’ participation in sustainable development was also stressed.

The comments stem from the outcomes of an international conference on Adult Education for Sustainability: The importance of cooperation and demonstration, which took place at the Kishantos Rural Development Centre and Folk High School, Hungary on 18 September. In an urgent appeal, the conference participants called on the European Commission and Member States to mainstream sustainable development based on agro-ecological approaches at the heart of European democracy.

Sadly the conference also coincided with the spraying of the former Kishantos fields with synthetic, chemical inputs and effectively ending its two decade management under organic production. This is the result of the decision of the Hungarian Land Fund not to renew lease for the state owned land in October 2013. Kishantos maintain that they have been a victim of a government-assisted land grab.

IFOAM EU also took the opportunity presented by the conference to call on the Hungarian Government to support Kishantos as a best practice model of rural development and to ensure that that a significant proportion of the 3.45bn euro worth of funds allocated for rural development – under the its Partnership Agreement with the European Commission – is used to fulfil commitments set out its national Action Plan for the Development of Organic Farming (2014-2020)

The campaign to Save Kishantos remains ongoing. For further information you can view their campaign video, visit the website or follow them on Facebook.

CAP IMPLEMENTATION: COMMISSION FEEDBACK ON DRAFT RDPS & APPROVAL OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

The European Commission is currently in the process of issuing “Observation Letters” to Member States assessing the quality of Rural Development Programme (RDPs) drafts. These letters highlight irregularities that must be addressed before the RDPs can be approved and put forward recommendations for improvement. Final RDPs are expected to be adopted on a rolling basis by the end of 2014 with the first new RDPs coming into effect on 1 January 2015.

Partnership Agreements (PAs) are instruments prepared by national governments; they are connected to the new RDPs and set out national spending priorities for EU structural funds 2014-2020 (including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – EAFRD). At time of press 17 PAs have been approved by the European Commission. This includes Denmark, Germany, Poland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Cyprus, Slovenia, Portugal, Romania, Bulgaria, France, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Hungary and Finland. The remaining PAs are expected to be adopted on rolling basis by the end of Autumn. For specific details about PAs in your country visit the Commission website.
COMMISSION CALLS ON MEMBER STATES TO PRIORITISE WATER IN NEW RDPS

Member States need to demonstrate greater ambition to use their new rural development programmes (RDPs) to better support the implementation of the EU’s Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives according to Commission officials.

Speaking at the EU’s WFD and Agriculture Expert Group – attended by IFOAM EU – in Belfast on 6 October, Commission officials pointed to the lack of prioritisation for water in the Member States and region’s draft RDPs. This is despite the fact that water is a clear priority in the new rural development regulation. Not only do many of the draft RDPs fail to adequately address the implementation of WFD objectives, but in some cases proposed measures – related to issues such as irrigation, flood defences and land consolidation – could have a detrimental effect on the development of sustainable water management practices and risk making the WFD even more difficult to implement.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Agriculture Expert Group is coordinated by the DG Environment – Water Unit under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). The aim is to provide a forum to exchange on WFD implementation among Member States representatives and civil society groups working on water and agriculture in the context of meeting of the WFD objectives.

IFOAM EU remains committed to supporting the implementation of the WFD including the utilisation of relevant RDP measures such as conversion to and maintenance of organic farming and agri-environment-climate practices as well as knowledge transfer and advisory services. For further information see our water factsheet on organic approaches to Rural Development Policy.

NEW MATERIALS ON SUSTAINABLE BIOGAS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Members of the SUSTAINGAS consortium met in Aarhus, Denmark on 6–7 October. During the meeting, the project partners discussed what has been accomplished over the past 6 months since the last meeting in Warsaw, Poland, including:

- Guidelines on sustainable biogas production available in 7 languages
- An electronic booklet with the best practice examples of sustainable biogas production
- Free online webinars and training sessions offered over the next 5 months via the SUSTAINGAS website.

The project partners also had the opportunity to visit a biogas facility created by the University of Aarhus as well as time to discuss the next and final phase of the project which includes a closing conference and final project meeting in Brussels in Spring 2015 (dates to be announced soon).

For further information, please visit the SUSTAINGAS website, subscribe to the newsletter or read the latest issue.
Responsibility for the Commission’s forthcoming Sustainable Food Communication will come under the remit of the new Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis. This follows the Commission’s decision to postpone plans on sustainable food consumption which was anticipated to be part of the Commission circular economy agenda—led by DG Environment. A communication on how to transition the EU towards a circular economy was subsequently adopted in July 2014 without any reference to sustainable food consumption.

IFOAM EU believes that the incoming Commission must commit to setting in motion an ambitious sustainable food policy that can deliver real smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and will continue to monitor the process on the development of the EU’s policy. In this regard the new Commission can already begin by ensuring that all relevant actions and recommendations set out in the EU Organic Action Plan are recognised in the forthcoming Communication and implemented and built upon to 2020 in order to support the sustainable growth of the organic sector across the EU.

For further information read our article written in cooperation with Friends of the Earth Europe published on the Agriculture and Rural Convention website.

SEED

APPROACHES FOR FUTURE OF ORGANIC SEED DEVELOPED

The seed experts from eight different European countries who met in Brussels on 2–3 October for the IFOAM EU seed strategy camp concluded that awareness of the importance of organic plant breeding and the use of organic seed are still underdeveloped, even in some parts of the organic sector. Therefore, future work on seed must show the benefits of organically bred and multiplied seed and plant propagating material.

Experts remain determined to work for better legislation on the marketing of seed and plant propagating material in the EU which would finally facilitate access to the market for organically bred varieties. The important work being done by farmers, gardeners and networks to conserve farm-biodiversity and breeding must not be hindered by administrative burden. After the European Parliament rejected the Commission proposal for a new regulation on seed and plant reproductive material in March 2014, it has to be seen how the Juncker Commission will proceed with the topic – further steps are not expected before spring 2015.

Organic plant breeding

Topics discussed also included new plant breeding techniques. As indicated by discussions in some countries and a study conducted by FiBL, the organic sector should work on a common assessment on how to handle the current situation in which an increasing number of organic varieties on the market have been bred using controversial techniques.

To extend the use of organic seed, it is necessary to:

• better implement the organic rules invest in organic plant breeding
• facilitate market transparency
• fund research and innovation to increase the use of varieties that are adapted to organic farming conditions.

A change of the organic rules on EU level is not a solution.

If you are an IFOAM EU member and are interested to contribute to the policy work on seed, breeding and plant varieties, please contact Antje Kölling at: antje.koelling [at] ifoam-eu.org
CLIMATE CHANGE

SOLMACC FARMERS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE WITH HELP OF SCIENCE

Climate change is not just an academic discussion but a reality with strong implications for farming, say Klaus-Peter Wilbois and Andreas Gattinger from research institute FiBL. As scientific coordinators of the SOLMACC project, they visited Italian farms participating in the project.

The farmers explained how this year’s climate irregularities strongly affected their farms. Yet farmers can do a lot to mitigate climate change based on scientific recommendations. That is why the experts from FiBL have examined the 12 SOLMACC farms and given guidelines to the farmers.

The SOLMACC project aims to help them exchange good practices, both the ones they have developed themselves and those proposed by the scientists. Read more in the latest SOLMACC newsletter.

Subscribe to the newsletter

SCIENTISTS CALL ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO INVEST IN AGROECOLOGY

Over 70 scientists worldwide have appealed to the UN Food and Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) Member States and the international community to support investments in agro-ecological approaches in order to respond to key sustainability challenges from climate change to continued food insecurity and poverty.

In a joint letter the authors argue that other approaches such as climate smart agriculture and sustainable intensification cannot be scientifically accepted in comparison with the majority of recognised definitions of “sustainability” as they do not take key social questions related to the principles of food sovereignty and food justice into account. The letter was issued ahead of the FAO’s 2-day International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition held in Rome on 18-19 September 2014 and 41st session of the Committee on World Food Security 13–18 October 2014.

SOLLMACC project explained in five minutes

SOLMACC project explained in five minutes
1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY/TP ORGANICS

SUBMIT YOUR BEST ORGANIC FOOD SECURITY PRACTICES FOR EXPO 2015 BY 31 OCTOBER

EXPO Milano 2015 is accepting applications for “Best Sustainable Development Practices on Food Security” (BSDP) until 31 October 2014. IFOAM EU, in cooperation with TP Organics and IFOAM, will award the authors of the two best submissions with:
- Reimbursement for travel to and three-day accommodation at EXPO Milano 2015
- Administrative and logistical assistance (visa issues, etc.)

Submit your best practice by 31 October 2014 through this website and have a chance win the prize!

The Best Practices collection and recognition is supported by the Feeding Knowledge Program which aims to establish an international scientific network for research and innovation to promote and transfer knowledge on food security.

All BSDP on Food Security admitted to the competition will be published and promoted through Feeding Knowledge web platform and 15 selected best practices will be presented at Expo Milano 2015.

TAKE PART IN THE 4TH SCAR FORESIGHT SURVEY ON BIOECONOMY

The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) has launched its 4th foresight survey to identify possible scenarios for European agriculture in a 20-year perspective. The scenarios will be used to identify priority research needs for the medium and long term. The survey particularly focuses on the interactions between the primary sector and the bioeconomy and is designed to identify the key dilemmas and constraints underlying these interactions, as perceived by different stakeholders.

Your opinion is important, so please take a few minutes to fill in the survey.

SAVE THE DATE: TP ORGANICS STRATEGIC RESEARCH & INNOVATION AGENDA LAUNCH ON 5 DECEMBER

Join the launch of the new TP Organics Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) on Friday, 5 December in Brussels at the European Commission – Directorate General for Research and Innovation.

The purpose of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) is to enable research, innovation, development and knowledge transfer that will deliver relevant outcomes – results that will contribute to the improvement of the organic sector and other low external input systems.

The document was developed through a dynamic consultative process that ran from 2013 to 2014 and involved a wide range of stakeholders who enthusiastically joined the effort to define organic research and innovation priorities.

Follow the TP Organics website for more information.

STAKEHOLDERS’ OPINIONS ON PRESENT AND FUTURE OF ORGANIC PUBLISHED

The results of the “What is your vision of organic in 2030?” survey have been published. 40 people from 20 different countries answered the survey. The highest participation came from the UK with 7 respondents, followed by the Netherlands (5) and Germany (4). All input received will be taken up in the final vision document that will set the direction for the further work priorities and strategies of IFOAM EU.

As announced, three respondents to the survey will receive a free entrance to the vision conference in June 2015 and the lucky winners will be contacted directly.

Read more about the Vision 2030 process.
2 EVENTS

2.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

3RD ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE: ENGAGE WITH POLICY-MAKERS AND SECTOR LEADERS ON WHAT’S BEST FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUSINESS
17–18 November (Paris, France)

Matching what’s best for the environment and what’s best for business: How to demonstrate the benefits of cutting edge operations, or how to improve them, to further develop organic and meet organic consumers’ growing demand?

For organic processing, environmental performance is one of the important aspects of the ongoing regulation review and the European Commission proposal for a new organic regulation.

This conference is the perfect opportunity to discuss environmental best practices and how best to implement environmental performance requirements with policy-makers and fellow sector representatives.

Topics of the conference include:
- Contaminant threshold limits
- Import and control requirements
- Organic processing techniques
- Use of additives, aids and flavours

Consult the programme and register here

COUNTERING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH ORGANIC FARMING
11 November (Brussels, Belgium)

In 2014 the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reaffirmed the pending threat of Climate Change showing that a 1°C rise in global temperatures will have a devastating impact on food production and crop yields.

- How can the forthcoming UNFCCC negotiations in Lima (2014) and Paris (2015) begin to fully embrace the agricultural sector as a solution for countering climate change?
- In what ways are regions globally already implementing climate-friendly farming practices?
- How can organic agriculture help to drive reductions in carbon emissions and improve climate resilience?
- What policy tools and investments are still needed to support climate action by the agri-food sector?

To address these questions, IFOAM EU and RTOACC bring together leading scientists, policymakers and civil society groups to discuss approaches in the fight against climate change. Visit the event webpage for more information and register for the seminar.

Organisers

IFOAM EU Group
SYNABIO

Making Europe More Organic

In cooperation with AoL, BioForum, Bionext, Organic Finland and Soil Association

Supporters

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This conference is co-financed by the European Community, Directorate-General for the Environment. The sole responsibility for this communication lies with the IFOAM EU Group. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

Consult the programme and register here

IFOAM EU Newsletter No 77, October 2014
3 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SPONSORS 2014

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.

HELP KEEP GMOS OUT OF ORGANIC FOOD

Organic stakeholders are invited to participate in IFOAM EU’s “Keep GMO out of organic food” project by taking part in the roundtable. The roundtable is the project’s discussion platform where experts will gather in topical working groups, complemented by national workshops in which in depth discussion about regional situation will be held. This set-up will ensure the entire GMO-free movement in Europe is represented. Read more about the roundtable and other ways to get involved through project activities.

You can also help keeping GMOs out of organic food by becoming a sponsor of the project or making a donation. For more information about this, please contact Laura Ullmann: laura.ullmann [at] ifoam-eu.org

“Keeping GMO out of Organic Food” is a three year project (2014-2017) aimed at developing new practical strategies for the organic movement and strengthening the current legal frameworks to protect the GMO-free food chain in Europe from GMO contamination. Read more about the project and its objectives and activities on the project page.

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ORGANIC IN EUROPE

The organic food and farming sector has gone a long way since it was first regulated at the EU level. There is a growing demand in the organic movement for guidance and direction of the sector, as well as a shared interest among the members to be more active in shaping the future of organics.

Following up on this demand and interest, IFOAM EU started a visioning process, bringing together stakeholders from throughout the movement and beyond. During consultations and workshops, stakeholders have the chance to voice their ideas about the future, develop scenarios for organic food & farming in 2030, and articulate inspiring visions that reflect diverse perspectives of the sector.

For more information about the Vision 2030, please contact Yulia Barabanova: yulia.barabanova [at] ifoam-eu.org

An overview of past and future steps can be found on the Vision 2030 project page.
Tadin Organic is involved in procurement, processing & distribution of organic ingredients.

To further optimize the integrated process that is organic agriculture is our mission: from farm to the market, we strive to work with the utmost respect for people and planet.

With own processing facilities for key items such as cocoa, sesame and sunflower we improve risk management ensuring organic integrity and highest product quality.
4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11 November  Countering climate change with organic farming
                Brussels, Belgium

17–18 November 3rd IFOAM EU Organic Processing Conference
                Paris, France

20–21 November  IFOAM EU Farmer Interest Group meeting
                Vilena, Spain

This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM EU members about the work of the IFOAM EU Group and its liaison and coordination office in Brussels. IFOAM EU is the European Regional Group of the worldwide umbrella organisation IFOAM and is responsible for all matters related to organic farming with a Europe-wide scope.

www.ifoam-eu.org

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Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to communication [at] ifoam-eu.org. For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

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