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No 83 October 2015

Read about IFOAM EU’s contribution to the Organic Can Feed The Planet Action Network in the welcome note of this newsletter or click the image to read the report.
Dear friends,

Expo Milano, dedicated this year to “Feeding the Planet”, is coming to an end this month. The organic movement has been represented by the Organic Action Network, hosting many interesting events, culminating with the delivery of a Manifesto and political declaration to the Italian Minister of Agriculture Nunzia De Girolamo on 29 September.

As a contribution to the debate, IFOAM EU has published “Feeding the People – Agroecology for nourishing the world and transforming the agri-food system”. This report provides expert perspectives from diverse disciplines on the challenges of how we are feeding the people of the world. It is urgent that EU policy-makers realise that drastic changes are needed in our agricultural policies.

The contributors to the report help us to take stock of the drawbacks of the current industrial agro-food system that is failing to meet the needs of many in both global north and south. They outline the role international trade plays in shaping today’s agro-food systems and consider the relevance of short supply chains.

Small-scale farmers all over the world are prone to food insecurity and yet they feed more than 80% of the world’s population. Transforming these farms into productive agroecological systems offers a real opportunity; the same can apply to converting environmentally damaging, energy and chemical-intensive industrial production and consumption systems.

Certified organic farming is a champion and great example of agroecology in action, able to enhance the sustainability of food and farming system. As Angelika Hilbeck and Bernadette Oehen, the editors and co-authors of this report remind us, agroecology is “a movement that seeks a new way of food production. Increasingly, agroecology is a science looking at ways of transforming the existing food system, and of further developing agriculture and adapting it to the changing environment – an approach which is vital for food security”. They call for a “billion-euro flagship research programme on agroecology and the transformation of the European agro-food system”.

Warm thanks to all the contributing authors for sharing with us their knowledge, insight and vision.

Sincerely,
Christopher Stopes
IFOAM EU President
POLITICAL HOTSPOT

NEW ORGANIC REGULATION PROCESS: NEXT STEPS

After EU AGRI Ministers reached agreement on a general approach to the organic regulation on 16 June, the Latvian Presidency passed the baton to the Luxembourg Presidency. Under the Luxembourg Presidency the last phase of the legislative process – the trilogue negotiations – will kick-off as soon as the EU Parliament delivers its position.

Therefore, IFOAM EU’s attention is now fully focussed on ensuring the opinion of the European Parliament takes into account the organic movement’s concerns. The EU Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development has to process 1,480 amendments introduced by all Members of Parliament to the initial Commission proposal. These amendments include the opinion adopted by the EU Parliamentary Committee on the Environment.

All amendments are scheduled to be voted on during the Committee of Agriculture’s meeting on 12–13 October. The total number of amendments could be reduced if political groups agree on certain topic areas and groupings under so-called “compromise amendments”.

Upon analysis of the huge number of amendments, it is evident that the EU Parliament’s aims are in many areas in line with the EU Council’s opinion, e.g. the intention to build upon the experience of the current organic regulation and keep specific control requirements in the organic regulation (as opposed to the Commission’s proposal to include it in the legislation on official controls for food and feed).

The Parliament has proposed some new concepts in its amendments, including the establishment of an EU Organic Agency – similar to the EFSA (EU Food Safety Authority) or to the EFCA (EU Fisheries Control Agency). This agency would address one of the main weakness of the current organic system: lack of harmonised and coordinated implementation of the regulation throughout the EU.

Another new and innovative approach regards the import regime; it foresees the possibility of recognising regional standards already in place in third countries (instead of conforming to all and only details of the EU specific regulations as the Commission proposes). For example, in the EU there is legislation that bans child labour, so including this in the organic legislation is not necessary for production in the EU. However, in some third countries there is no such legislation. Therefore, regional organic standards that include elements missing from local legislation – such as protection of children, prevention of deforestation, and even codes for how working animals on organic farms must be treated – would be preferable for consumers and for the development of local economies.

After the vote in the Parliament, Rapporteur Martin Häusling will have a mandate to negotiate a compromise text with the EU Council of Agricultural Ministers and the European Commission.

In the meantime, after a careful evaluation of the 1,480 amendments over the summer, IFOAM EU and its members have been meeting with various MEPs from the EU Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to inform them about the implications of the proposed amendments and the impact these will have on the organic sector. IFOAM EU is looking forward to continue collaborating with all the institutions to reach a final text in line with organic sector’s needs and that allows for the sustainable development of organic production both within and outside the EU.
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

JOINT IFOAM EU – EOCC WORKSHOP ON RISK BASED ASSESSMENT: FEASIBLE RULES FOR THE SECTOR

Starting with the Commission’s proposal for a new organic regulation from March 2014, and throughout the legislative process, the importance of risk-based assessment has often been underlined. However, so far no one has defined the criteria to evaluate the risk of an operator.

Therefore, on 2 September, IFOAM EU and the European Organic Certifiers Council (EOCC) organised a workshop on risk-based approaches for organic inspection and certification. 30 people from certification bodies and organic companies were present to discuss and exchange.

All the participants agreed that the requirement for a minimum annual on-site control must be kept in the EU organic regulation. Annual control is necessary to maintain the operator’s connection with the control body and legislative developments and it is also one of the reasons why organic consumers trust the organic control system.

Additionally, the risk of each operator should be evaluated to decide whether further controls are needed. During the meeting the group started discussing the possible criteria to be taken into consideration when evaluating the risk of each operator (e.g. size of the farm, type of production, etc.) and how much the EU legislation should go into detail on this.

IFOAM EU and EOCC will continue to work together for feasible rules that can be implemented by the sector and to achieve smart and flexible harmonisation of risk-based assessment in Europe.

IFOAM EU POSITION ON EGTOP RECOMMENDATIONS

IFOAM EU has profoundly analysed the three reports (Read report 1, report 2 and report 3) on organic food produced by the independent Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production (EGTOP) between 2012 and 2014, and shares the majority of EGTOP experts’ conclusions. However, some points still require attention and further discussion in order to be as close to the organic principles as possible and at the same time to avoid disrupting organic production and the EU market.

Following the recommendations from EGTOP, the European Commission should issue implementing rules. IFOAM EU has therefore published a detailed list of areas where technical constraints and/or the reality of the market must be further considered before implementing the recommendations.

Read the IFOAM EU position on EGTOP’s food recommendations
1.2 POLICY

CLIMATE CHANGE

INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL EMISSION IN THE EU’S CLIMATE TARGETS?

IFOAM EU at Commission meeting on climate change and agriculture

On 14 and 15 September IFOAM EU participated in a stakeholder meeting on climate change and agriculture organised by the European Commission. The main issue was the integration of the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector in the 2030 EU Climate and Energy Framework (more about this in our June newsletter).

DG Climate Action reminded the participants that agriculture and land–based emissions will grow in proportion. By 2050 the agricultural sector will represent a third of the EU’s emissions, tripling the current share. Some Member States highlighted the need for more “flexibility” because in countries in which agriculture represents a high share of non-ETS emissions, e.g. Denmark, France and Ireland the intensity of the effort needed to reduce these emissions would create “competition distortion” compared to other countries. DG Agriculture and Rural Development presented the opportunities Rural Development Plans measures offer to “mainstream” climate action in agriculture.

Some of the conclusions of the workshop were that:

- A repartition of the effort between Member States based on a GDP/capita key – currently the case for non-ETS sectors – may not be the best solution for a potential LULUCF target.
- Carbon audits at farm level could both contribute to improving the reliability of national statistics and to helping farmers identify the measures best adapted to their farms and local conditions.

At the meeting, IFOAM EU highlighted the benefits of organic farming for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The way ahead

The LULUCF sector includes emissions from croplands, grasslands and forest management, and is a carbon sink in Europe, which means that its integration could weaken the European effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). One of the options put forward by the Commission in its impact assessment could also exempt the agricultural sector from any significant reduction effort.

Both the proposal for a new Effort Sharing Decision – indicating how Member States have to share the GHG emissions reduction effort necessary to reach the EU objective of 40% emission reduction by 2030 – and the decision on including LULUCF are expected during the first half of 2016. Ministers will also discuss these issues at the November Agriculture and Fisheries (AGRI) Council.

IFOAM EU’s Climate Change Task Force submitted a reply to the EU consultation on LULUCF. The results of this consultation are available online, including the reply prepared by the IFOAM EU Climate Change Task Force.

IFOAM EU members will be invited to contact their ministers ahead of the November AGRI Council.
IFOAM EU HIGHLIGHTS ORGANIC FARMING’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXISTING EU NATURE DIRECTIVES’ OBJECTIVES

IFOAM EU has called for better targeted implementation of EU Birds and Habitats Directive as part of its input to the European Commission’s public consultation connected to the so-called ‘Fitness Check’ of the EU Nature legislation. The input also highlighted that given the current pace of biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and need to increase the sector’s climate resilience, a legal review could drastically compromise the EU’s ability to meet its Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and Europe 2020 Strategy targets and commitments under the 7th Environment Action Programme. It added that these challenges need to be addressed both inside and outside the Natura 2000 network with a more supportive policy environment for organics – using the CAP and other related agri-food policies – the best way to encourage farmland biodiversity and to protect high nature value farmland areas. IFOAM EU’s submission is based on existing group positions as well as input to Nature Directives’ evidence gathering exercise which is also part of the ‘Fitness Check’.

IFOAM EU CALLS ON THE COMMISSION TO TABLE COMMUNICATION ON LAND AS A RESOURCE

IFOAM EU in collaboration with other civil society organisations has called on the European Commission to include its forthcoming ‘Communication on Land as a Resource’ in its 2016 work programme. In a letter to First Vice President of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, as well as the Commissioners for Agriculture and Environment amongst others, civil society organisations stressed the importance of this topic as part of the EU’s efforts to address the environmental, social and economic impacts of unsustainable land use both inside and outside the EU. The letter stressed its added-value for beginning to create pathways for meeting the United Nations’ new Sustainable Development Goals set to be adopted at end of September. The letter follows successive delays by the new European Commission to start the process with the initiative also absent from the 2015 Work Programme. IFOAM EU will continue to monitor the process as part of efforts to address the growing challenges of land grabbing and land concentration as well as the importance of safeguarding existing lands under sustainable management.

Learn more about best practices in organic farming.
CAP SIMPLIFICATION AND THE REVIEW OF THE ORGANIC REGULATION REMAIN KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE LUXEMBOURG EU PRESIDENCY

CAP 2014–2020 simplification and the review of the organic regulation are key priorities for the Luxembourg EU Presidency, which took the helm of 6-month rotating chairmanship in July and until December 2015. Other priority topics include the school fruit and milk schemes as well as the issues related to authorisation of GMOs in foodstuffs and animal feed. The ongoing crisis in the dairy sector has also dominated the discussions amongst Agricultural Ministers with milk the main focus of the Presidency’s informal AGRI Council meeting which took place mid-September. Elsewhere the contribution of the agriculture sector to climate action is expected to take place at the October AGRI Council ahead of COP21 in Paris in December.

82 OF 118 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RDPS NOW ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Since mid-September, 82 out of 118 of new Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) for the period 2014–2020 have been approved by the European Commission. To date national and regional RDPs have been approved in 25 Member States with all programmes in 22 Member States now fully approved. These are expected to be adopted on a rolling basis throughout the second half of 2015 and possibly into the beginning of 2016. Further information can be found here.

JOIN US AT OUR FARMER’S SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP IN ROME – 5–6 OCTOBER 2015

In association with the Italian Association of Organic Agriculture (AIAB), IFOAM EU is organising a public seminar and workshop on Organic Opportunities for Sustainable Rural Development to 2020 on 6 October. Today, the crisis situation in the European dairy sector clearly highlights the failures of our current EU policies for supporting viable farm enterprises and balanced rural development. As a result the programme will include a panel discussion looking at whether EU agri-food policies are capable of supporting sustainable farming and food economies. This will be followed by a workshop exploring the state of play on RDP implementation in different Member States and regions.

Overall the event will consider the latest reform of the CAP for the period 2014-2020. This sees the introduction of new policy instruments, including new RDPs, which come into effect in 2015/2016. Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in an excursion to Italian farms and enterprises in the Lazio region on 5 October.

The event is part of the project Boosting organic: making the CAP effective an action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development. It is organised in collaboration with Legambiente and FIRAB as part of AIAB’s annual BioDomenica programme.

IFOAM EU also wants to hear from you about the CAP implementation process in your country or region on the new RDPs and the EIP-AGRI. For further information about the event, please contact stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org.

This event is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.
**GMOs**

**MEMBER STATES STARTED IMPLEMENTING NEW ‘OPT-OUT’ DIRECTIVE TO BAN GMOS**

The new ‘opt-out’ directive granting Member States the right to ban GMOs for cultivation offers two different mechanisms to do so:

1. Member States can request the company applying for an authorisation for cultivation of a GMO in the EU to exclude their national territory in the geographical scope of their application.
2. Member States can unilaterally adopt measures to ban the cultivation of a GMO or of a group of GMOs, defined by the crop or trait of the GMO once the GMO is authorised by the Commission. In this case it is not necessary to notify the company of this ‘opt-out’, but Member States must ensure compliance with a number of legal requirements set out in the directive.

Since the entry into force of the directive, several Member States have used the first mechanism and submitted requests to restrict the cultivation of GMOs on their territory. Latvia and Greece sent letters to certain companies requesting a ban of all GMOs pending authorisation and renewal of authorisation, including MON810, the only maize currently authorised for cultivation in Europe.

Other countries and regions such as Scotland, Germany, Austria, France, Lithuania and Northern Ireland are implementing the directive to ban GMOs, making a clear statement that they want their territory free from the cultivation of GMOs.

For democratic reasons, IFOAM EU calls upon EU Member States to use the second mechanism – sovereign governments should not need the agreement of the companies selling GMOs to ban them.

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LIKELY TO REJECT COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON IMPORT OF GMOS FOR FOOD AND FEED**

Before being appointed Commission president, Jean-Claude Juncker promised to make the EU’s approval system for GMOs more democratic. On 8 April, the European Commission officially announced that its approach to Juncker’s pledge is a single measure granting Member States the possibility to ban imports of GM food and feed, following the same approach used for GMOs for cultivation, also known as the ‘opt-out’ proposal.

A vast majority of the Agriculture Ministers expressed opposition to these plans at their July meeting, as did the Agricultural and Rural development Committee of the European Parliament in an opinion. MEPs from the AGRI Committee are calling for a rejection of the proposal and the Environmental, Public Health and Safety Committee of the European Parliament is likely to make a similar decision because “the proposal lacks an impact assessment and would disrupt the single market”. The EU Parliament’s Environment Committee will put the proposal to a vote on 12 October.

IFOAM EU and like-minded organisations have been in close contact with MEPs, who are expected to amend the legislative resolution to include a clear statement to the Commission, asking for a new proposal that follows the political guidelines proposed by Mr Juncker.

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1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

HORIZON 2020 WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016/2017 A SUCCESS FOR ORGANIC

TP Organics – of which IFOAM EU is a member and hosts the secretariat – has been advocating for the inclusion of organic research in Horizon 2020, the EU’s funding scheme for research and innovation. Many of you contributed to the work on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. Now, this work is paid off with the European Commission’s pre-publication of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2016/2017 – it is full of opportunities for organic food and farming research. Two calls with a total value of €28 million are specifically targeted at the organic sector, namely a call on organic plant breeding and one on contentious inputs in organic farming. In addition, 16 calls with a total value of €174 million explicitly mention that the organic food and farming sector should be addressed too, among which a call worth €30 million for a large-scale pilot project on precision farming and applications of Internet-of-Things solutions in agriculture. Finally, ERA-Net Core Organic will receive €5 million to continue its activities.

As in the previous Work Programme, many calls (38) ask for a multi-actor approach. Multi-actor projects should involve all relevant actors and be targeted to the needs of practitioners.

Note that the pre-published version of the Work Programme has not officially been endorsed by the European Commission yet. The official, and legally binding, publication of the Work Programme is expected mid-October.

EIP-AGRI BROCHURE “RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACROSS EU BORDERS”

The EIP-AGRI Service Point has published a brochure to help you find your way through research networking initiatives in agriculture. It gives a thematic overview of ERA-Nets, Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and European Technology Platforms (ETPs).

Download the new EIP-AGRI brochure

WANT TO KNOW MORE? JOIN THE HORIZON 2020 – INFO WEEK

From 24 to 26 November the European Commission is organising an info week on Societal Challenge 2 (Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, maritime and maritime inland water research and bio-economy) of the Horizon 2020 Work programme 2016/2017. The week starts with a workshop on the multi-actor approach on 24 November, followed by an info day on the 25th where the calls of the Work Programme will be explained, and a brokerage event on the 26th for potential project partners’ to find each other. Visit the Horizon 2020 website for more information.

Download the full assessment of organic opportunities in the new Horizon 2020 Work Programme.
2 EVENTS

2.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

8TH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIC AND REGIONAL FOOD FAIR NATURA FOOD

2–4 October 2015, Lodz, Poland, NATURA FOOD Fair takes place. Join IFOAM EU on 2 October 13:30–17:00 at the Biodiversity Forum “Consumer demands as an opportunity for Biodiversity” at Hala Expo-Lódz, al. Politechniki 4. During the Forum IFOAM EU will address the strategic role of organic food and farming for managing biodiversity and meeting EU agri-environmental objectives.

Natura Food is an industry event and the biggest event dedicated to organic food in Poland. It is also an ideal place to familiarize yourself with international trends in the development of organic agriculture and related industries, as well as an excellent opportunity for direct contact with companies functioning in the market.

Every year, nearly 300 exhibitors and 12,000 visitors participate in the event; enthusiasts of organic products, organic food, regional and traditional products and products made from environmentally friendly materials. Over 50% of visitors are representatives of the managers, farmers, producers, processors, distributors and store owners. Among the visitors to the event are also a large group of consumers from Lodz, the Lodz region and other regions of Poland.

NATEXPO

18–20 October 2015, Paris Nord Villpinte, Hall 7, France, Natexpo, the trade show for organic, health food and ecological products takes place. A strictly trade-only show, NATEXPO reveals the new organic trends emerging in a buoyant market where actors have to provide responses to the demand for quality and new products from buyers in all categories. 14% of exhibitors from 19 countries, a year-on-year increase of 23%, and 12% of non-French visitors from 64 different countries, NATEXPO continues its international deployment with the aim of helping trade professionals in their growth ambitions, whether searching for new export markets or widening their product sourcing channels.

IFOAM EU is proud to be a partner of Natexpo and we very honoured to be present and share a stand with Natexbio, Synabio, Agence Bio and France Vin Bio. We are also happy to provide the attendees of Natexpo with an overview of recent developments at the European level and an insight into who is protecting their interests at EU level. During our session (L’impact de l’Union Européenne sur les intérêts du marché bio) we will talk about the practical implications of EU policies and focus on the effect and costs of them on organic businesses. Moreover, we will provide insight into the representation of conventional as compared with organic interests at the institutions which form the heart of the European Union.
KEEPING GMOS OUT OF FOOD: EXPERT ROUNDTABLE AND WORKSHOP ON THE AVAILABILITY OF NON-GMO FEED IN EUROPE

27–28 October 2015, Ulm, Germany, the experts of the roundtable expert group of the ‘Keeping GMOs out of food’ project are gathering to discuss:
- Strategic input on the impact of a possible harmonisation of the GM-free labelling scheme at EU level
- The capacity of the food sector to increase the availability of GM-free processing aids and additives in Europe

In addition to the roundtable, there will be a workshop on possible synergies between the organic and conventional sector to increase the availability of GM-free feedstuffs in Europe and the alternatives available to the GM-free sector to avoid contamination of the GM-free feed chain.

This year’s GMO expert roundtable is supported by the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg. This roundtable is part of IFOAM EU’s ‘Keeping GMOs out of food’ project that aims to strengthen the capacity of the organic and conventional sectors to stay GMO-free. One of the main activities of the project is to set up discussion groups in which organic and conventional stakeholders discuss the state of play of the prevention of contamination of GMOs in the food chain and develop practical strategies to maintain the food chain free from GMOs.

If you are interested in getting more information about the event please send an email to alejandro.gil@ifofam-eu.org

CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPEAN ORGANIC FORUM

29–30 October 2015, Bucharest, Romania. IFOAM EU and Bio Romania are organizing the first "Eastern Europe Organic Forum" under the auspices of Viorica Dâncilă, MEP and Vice Chair of the Agriculture Committee of the European Parliament. The forum will take place during the INDAGRA fair, the biggest Eastern European agriculture and food exhibition organised by ROMEXPO in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Romania.

On 29 October there will be public sessions and an invitation-only roundtable. The aim of these sessions is to create a platform for continuous dialogue about policy and market-related issues in Central and Eastern Europe between key players of the organic movement. Register online for the public sessions or apply to join the roundtable.

On the second day of the conference there will be a workshop on strategy development for organic in Central and Eastern Europe. The goal of this workshop is to create concrete strategies to help the organic sector in Central and Eastern Europe move forward. To participate, please register.

If you would like to receive more information, please send an email to yulia.barabanova@ifofam-eu.org
NORDIC ORGANIC FOOD FAIR

Returning to Malmö, Sweden on 1–2 November 2015 for its third edition, The Nordic Organic Food Fair will feature the very best the region has to offer with over 200 leading suppliers – including big brands, exciting start-ups and best-sellers from around the world!

Nordic organics leaders will join IFOAM EU to talk about “Transforming food & farming: what should the Nordic organic sector do to improve and expand organic?” in a roundtable at the fair on 2 November at 12:00. In our rapidly changing world we have to be able to cope with new political, environmental and societal challenges.

The future role of organic food and farming for us, for farmers, for food production and for society has indeed been a focus of thought and action for many of our members. IFOAM EU launched a visioning process to try to define where the organic movement wants to be in 2030 and to help us prepare proactively to face the future. The results of this participatory approach were launched as Vision 2030 at the 9th European Organic Congress this summer.

Join Per Kølster, Chairman Organic Denmark, Charlotte Bladh André, Head of Organic Sweden, Johan Cejie, Sales Manager, KRAV Sweden, Marja-Riitta Kottila, Executive Director, Pro Luomo Finland, and Marco Schlüter, Director, IFOAM EU to what the Nordic market needs to achieve this.

The Nordic Organic Food Fair is an essential industry event for trade buyers who are looking to source the very best in organic food and drink, from wholefoods to vegetarian, from artisan to speciality – the show attracts nearly 4,000 trade buyers. Register today for your FREE entry badge.

WHY SOIL MATTERS? A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

18 November 2015, the links between soils, food security and climate, and how this interconnectivity is dealt with at a European level will be discussed in the European Parliament in Brussels. The conference will involve high level speakers from the academic world, such as keynote speaker Dr. Vandana Shiva, and share practical approaches from field actors, working on the ground to preserve healthy living soils. The event will bring a European perspective to major ongoing global debates, such as the discussion around sustainable food policies and agro-ecology and the upcoming Climate Summit (COP21).

Hans-Joachim Mautschke, a German farmer participating in the SOLMACC project will be a speaker on the panel on “Healthy soils, climate-friendly food: Raising opportunities for the COP21”.

More information and registration on the Greens’ website
ORGANIC INNOVATION DAYS

1–2 December 2015, Brussels, TP Organics is organising the Organic Innovation Days. The aim of the event is to show the innovation potential of the organic food and farming sector. In that context, TP Organics has launched a call challenging researchers, companies and farmers to propose innovative solutions to one of the following needs of the organic sector:

- Innovative technologies for pest management in organic cropping systems
- New organic processing concepts and technologies
- New business models of value addition at the farm level

The winners of the call will present their innovations and discuss the results with invited experts and policymakers in order to contribute to the implementation of EIP-AGRI and Horizon 2020.

The event also intends to explore opportunities and potential risks of innovations developed outside the organic sector, such as bio-plastics, the Internet-of-Things, proteins derived from insects or algae, and the recycling of urban and human waste. Should these innovations be taken-up by the organic sector and under what conditions?

Register now to discover the most promising innovations and be part of the discussion!

Any questions? Drop us a line at info [@] tporganics.eu

Check out the draft agenda and register.

ECOFRUIT:
CONFERENCE ON ORGANIC FRUIT GROWING

15–17 February 2016, Hohenheim, Germany. Registration is now open for the International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing ‘Ecofruit’. Now in its 17th year and under the patronage of IFOAM EU for a number of years – Ecofruit brings together European organic fruit researchers, advisors and interested practitioners to communicate and discuss the latest results connected with organic fruit production systems and their improvement. It is also a great opportunity for fruit-growing stakeholders to network and develop new forms of co-operation. Different topics up for discussion can include disease control and copper use reduction, fruit quality and storage, oil management, pest control and functional biodiversity, crop regulation, cultivars, sustainability/system design and economy.

Contributors are also invited to submit topics on the latest findings of their work that they would be interested to present at the conference. To register visit the Ecofruit website or for further information please contact Jutta Kienzle.
2.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF AGROBIOMEDITERRANEO

IFOAM EU joined the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the IFOAM regional group AgroBioMediterraneo. The event took place 10–13 September in Vignola (Italy), where the group was established in 1990.

Many outstanding speakers and participants from countries on the Mediterranean basin gathered to discuss the present and the future of the organic farming sector in this area of the world.

Entitled ‘Agroecology for Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean’, the aim of the conference was to improve interdisciplinary scientific dialogue, implement information exchange and dissemination of knowledge and innovation strategies on organic agriculture for the Mediterranean climate.

For more information, please visit the IFOAM AgroBioMediterraneo website.

IFOAM EU’S REGULATION SESSION AT SANA

During the Italian Organic Fair SANA which took place in Bologna 12-15 September Marco Schlüter, IFOAM EU Director, participated in the session entitled “The new European regulation: the sector’s needs for organic farming of the future” organised by the Italian Organic Federation FEDERBIO.

Mr Schlüter presented IFOAM EU’s positions on the most critical points of the new organic regulation process, from the clear position against a de-certification threshold to the need of including specific control requirements in the organic regulation, to the need of introducing a new concept for the organic import regime. Among the Italian sector there is agreement that harmonisation at EU level is needed to avoid potential unfair competition between operators in the different EU Member States.
IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2015

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.

WORKING IN THE ORGANIC SECTOR?
COMMITTED TO MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC?

DONATE NOW!

Protect your interests and help us make Europe more organic by:

• Ensuring that EU regulations match the reality of organic producers
• Ensuring that EU and national legislation do not discriminate against organic and traditional seed production
• Fighting the expansion of GMO use in Europe and protecting organic farmers and producers from contamination

You can help MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC
Much more than just organic sweeteners...  
an organic philosophy

Sipal Partners has earned a reputation for its unique range of non refined organic cereal and dried fruit concentrates thanks to:

- the variety of raw materials processed from cereals (wheat, rice, malted barley, maize, oat, spelt) and dried fruits (dates, figs and prunes);
- the multitude of sweetening and technical functionalities: cereal or fruit flavour, natural colour (from very light to darker shades), crispness, coating, fat replacer, prevent crystallisation;
- the use of clean, natural and non refining techniques that allows keeping a maximum of benefits of the raw materials, such as minerals (contents much higher than that of brown cane sugar) & guaranteeing more natural labelling (non refined rice syrup’ instead of ‘sugar’ or ‘glucose syrup).

Sipal Partners has acquired a know-how in the organic sector over more than 20 years and has implemented an ultra-modern production tool dedicated to organic raw materials guaranteeing complete traceability from fields to the concentrates.

A consumption method from closer home and environmentally friendly is entirely in line with the organic philosophy.

Sipal range:
- wheat syrups, rice syrups, manioc syrups, maize syrup, malted barley syrups, oat syrups, spelt syrup, date juice concentrate and purée, fig juice concentrate, prune juice concentrate.

Seda range:
- gluten, starch and fructose syrup.

Certifications:
Organic, Kosher, Clean label, whole grain, ISO 22000 & 9001, FSSC 22000, GMO free, gluten free, Fair trade, Baby Food.

Visit us at FIE-NIE 2015  
PARIS-VILLEPINTE, FRANCE  
1/12 > 3/12/2015  
Hall 7 stand C37  

Feel free to contact us info@sipalpartners.com  
www.sipalpartners.com
October 2-4, 2015, Lodz, Poland

NATURA FOOD & beEco ARE:
- the main exhibition of organic, regional and low processed food and non-food products in Poland
- the only event with wide range of organic cosmetics, cleaning materials, textiles, package materials, household appliances, diet supplements, herbal medicines
- an annual meeting of organic food non-food market participants including farmers, manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers as well as their supporting institutions and companies
- an opportunity for direct contact with companies active on the Polish market of organic products
- an extensive schedule of conferences and sector meetings

NATURA FOOD & beEco ARE DEDICATED TO:
- organic food and non-food distributors and wholesalers
- owners of organic, green and high-quality food shops
- canteens, restaurant owners, barkeepers and catering firms
- farmers, entrepreneurs, organic food market actors
- consumers of high-quality food products

BUSINESS EVENTS:
- Biokurier Academy
- Biobusiness Forum
- 2nd Polish Organic Sector Forum
- 1st Biodiversity Forum

CONSUMENTS EVENTS:
- Live cooking
- Barista show
- Free dietitians advice
- Promotional products prices
- Trainings, workshops and lectures

BENEFITS FROM PARTICIPATING IN NF&BE FAIR ARE:
- establishing direct business contacts with Polish producers of organic, traditional and regional food
- promoting products on the Polish market
- meeting competitors
- identifying customer expectations on the Polish market
- attracting new customers and business partners

FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT 2014 NF&BE EDITION:
- nearly 300 exhibitors from 6 countries (Lithuania, Hungary, Italy, the Czech Republic, Germany and Japan)
- nearly 12 000 visitors
- over 50% of visitors were representatives of managers, farmers, producers, processors, distributors, store owners and food distributors
- about 1000 conference participants
4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2–4 October 8th International Organic and Regional Food Fair NATURA FOOD
Lodz, Poland

5–6 October Farmer’s seminar and workshop
Rome, Italy

14–17 October 5th International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences
Bratislava, Slovakia

18–20 October Natexpo
Paris Nord Villpinte, Hall 7, France

27–28 October Keeping GMOs out of food: expert roundtable and workshop on the availability of non-GMO feed in Europe
Ulm, Germany

29–30 October East Europe Organic Forum
Bucharest, Romania

1–2 November Nordic Organic Food Fair 2015 / Natural Products Scandinavia
Malmö, Sweden

18 November Why Soil matters? A European perspective
Brussels, Belgium

1–2 December Organic Innovation Days
Brussels, Belgium

15–17 February 2016 17th International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing
Hohenheim, Germany

Watch a short report of the session on the new EU organic regulation at Sana (in Italian). Video by BolognaFiere