As another year draws to a close we take a brief look at some highlights from the year, and also look ahead to 2017 with enthusiasm. Once again it has been an incredibly busy year for everyone in the organic sector; we hope that farmers new to organics have enjoyed their first year of organic production.

**OK – NET ARABLE**

In October a new web based platform was launched to provide technical assistance to tillage and horticultural producers. OK-Net Arable – is a project linking partners across Europe to promote exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists. IFOAM EU are the project co-ordinators and are working with 17 partners to bring the web based platform initiative to farmers across Europe.

Gillian Westbrook, IOFGA General Manager is also the Chairperson of the IFOAM EU Council. “This is a really exciting project and Irish tillage and horticultural producers can now use OK-Net Arable to find practical organic solutions, and at the same time discuss how it works in the field with our geographical and climatic conditions. This should enable us to give feedback on the solutions, improve them and, ultimately increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe”.

OK-Net Arable concentrates on 4 main areas with regard to specific crops, they are; soil quality and fertility, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and weed management.

“I would encourage our members to join the network. Not only can we find solutions and engage with each other via this platform, we can also propose solutions. We hope this will help improve exchange of knowledge among farmers” said Gillian.

To find out more about how to register please log on to [http://farmknowledge.org/](http://farmknowledge.org/)

**EVENTS FROM 2016**

The IOFGA Field Talk programme was hugely successful once again in 2016, and we in IOFGA are looking forward to bringing you an expanded programme in 2017. You can read about the last 2 events held in 2016 on page 31.

IOFGA also participated and presented at a range of conferences, events and festivals throughout the year with the ultimate aim of promoting organic food and farming.

As usual we were there for the 3 day National Ploughing Championships and there was a big interest in organic farming, however without an Organic Farming Scheme open to new entrants farmers must continue to be patient until the next tranche is opened, as of yet IOFGA has not been notified when this will happen.