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LEGISLATION HAS TO GROW ORGANICALLY TOO

The decision on the extent of the revision of the organic regulation is near. On 11 April Commissioner Dacian Cioloş took a whole hour to show his great involvement in the further development of the organic sector. He spoke at the extended Advisory Group on Organic Farming meeting in Brussels, where nearly 60 representatives of the organic sector spent a whole day discussion with the Organic Unit of DG Agriculture, as part of the stakeholder process.

Commissioner Cioloş’ aim is to serve and support the development of the organic sector. He mentioned that organic has to serve the interests of consumers, who have strong expectations of quality for organic and therefore he is strongly in favour of strengthening the principles of organic in the regulation and the strict control on the quality.

After answering many questions, the rest of the day was spent on the outcome of the public questionnaire, small holdings and finally the three options presented by the Organic Unit of DG Agri in regard to the revision of the regulation:

- The improved status quo option: improve the actual legislation where needed.
- The quality driven option: new legislation (and legal framework) with purpose to strengthen the organic principles.
- The quantity driven option: new legislation (and legal framework) to strengthen the growth of organic.

All representatives in the AGOF meeting shared the same opinion: improve necessary topics like quality of control and strengthening organic principles, together with topics that have been pending for a long time like poultry, greenhouses and additives (Annex VIII), in the current regulation, i.e. within the existing legal framework of 834/2007 and 889/2009, which came into force in 2009, only 4 years ago.

A decision to work in the direction of a complete change of the legal framework would harm the steady growth of the organic sector severely. Why? Because the organic sector would have to face another period of several years of uncertainty about this new legal framework and the unknown outcome. Will this uncertain process succeed, will it fail in the complex decision-model of EU? The good goals of Cioloş must be reached without dramatic changes, which would undermine the trust of organic and potential organic farmers in a steady legal framework.

As we say, everything has to grown organically, also the legislation on organic.

Bavo van den Idsert
IFOAM EU Vice President
POLITICAL HOTSPOT – REGULATION REVIEW

UPDATE ON THE EU ORGANIC REGULATION REVIEW

The review of the organic regulation is getting into its final stage. In this context, the Commission has recently prepared potential scenarios for the future of the EU Organic Regulation and consulted stakeholders at the last Advisory Group on Organic Farming which took place on 11 April 2013.

The meeting was opened by Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş who said that the main objective of the Commission is to prevent organic from becoming a victim of its own success by improving the current legislation, make it more efficient and ensure long-term credibility. He went on to say that the challenge for the future is to encourage production, while at the same time avoid falling into the temptation to lower the current standards. Consumer confidence is the main driver of the success of organic products.

IFOAM EU was present with a strong delegation passing the following core messages:

• We see a need for focused improvements, based on the significant achievements of the current regulation and including a common adoption across the EU of aims, principles and objectives.

IFOAM EU’s priority is to provide focused improvements without changing the legal framework.

• To enable the continued development of the organic food and farming sector and in the light of the focused improvements, there is a need for an EU Organic Action Plan with clear objectives in line with the emerging CAP, Horizon 2020 and the European Innovation Policy.

The Commission has given stakeholders a short period to provide written feedback and input on the scenarios. IFOAM EU is preparing a dossier including our position on how the EU Organic Regulation should develop and specific feedback on the potential scenarios.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION ONLINE CONSULTATION

According to the preliminary results presented at the last Advisory Group on Organic Farming meeting, about 45,000 replies to the Commission’s online consultation on organic were received. 96% of the responses come from citizens. The Commission also received about 1,600 emails with comments on the consultation. It is interesting to note that more than half of the replies came from France.

In general it is clear that respondents are happy that current regulation excludes GMOs and pesticides from organic. Good news is that a significant majority of respondents recognize the EU organic leaf logo and would like public money to be reserved specifically for research into organic production.

IFOAM EU Group President, Christopher Stopes, was elected Chairman of the Advisory Group on Organic Farming for a second term at the last meeting on 11 April. His election was based on the good work he has done chairing the advisory group over the last two years. The Vice Chairman, Mr Johannes Nebel of COPA-COGECA, was also re-elected.

Just in: New EU Organic Control Regulation
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 POLICY

SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING DAYS HELD IN DUBLIN

“A green new agenda for rural areas and farming in Europe” was the topic of the Sustainable Rural Development Training Days, held in Dublin on 23–25 April. The events were co-organised by the Organic Trust, the Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association and the IFOAM EU Group with the aim to develop strategies on how to boost Organic Farming, High Nature Value farmland and sustainable rural economies under the new Rural Development Programmes.

Sharing experience about rural development programmes and best practice models was experienced as very helpful during the discussions in Ireland. Therefore, IFOAM EU office asks for you to share good and bad practice examples of rural development programmes, measures and initiatives featuring sustainability. Please contact stephen.meredith[at]ifoam-eu.org

A GOOD CAP NEEDS CIVIL SOCIETY PRESSURE

On 24 April, discussions on the new green agenda were continued in a public seminar. In his introduction, chairman of IFOAM EU farmer sector group Jan Plagge underlined the need for new Organic Action Plans. “As we move to converting 20% of EU farmland to organic production, the CAP and research and innovation policies are key to developing sustainable food production in Europe. This is where the organic sector can demonstrate that it delivers public goods.”

Other speakers from the organic movement, the Irish government, ARC2020 and the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism discussed the ongoing CAP reform and the measures needed during implementation in order for the new CAP to deliver on sustainability. Member of the European Parliament, Marian Harkin challenged organic farmers to make their voices heard. At the same time she said that “production methods such as organic farming and high nature value farming help to market all produce coming from Ireland as they deliver on the perception that all food coming from Ireland is clean and green.”

The seminar was followed by a training session and a strategy meeting. A more comprehensive report will be available soon.

Organisers

The event is co-financed by the EU Commission (DG AGRI) and MAVA foundation. The sole responsibility for any contents lies with organisers.
CAP SEMINAR IN PORTUGAL

In the framework of the national trade fair on organic farming, the Seminar “CAP towards 2020: meeting sustainability challenges” was held in Lisbon.

Speakers included João Onofre from the European Commission, DG AGRI, Luís Paulo Alves, Member of the European Parliament and Faustine Defossez from the European Environmental Bureau.

Jan Plagge, Chair of the IFOAM EU Farmer Sector Group, and Jaime Ferreira, President of the Portuguese Association for Organic Agriculture AGROBIO and Portuguese IFOAM EU board member, underlined that in the ongoing CAP reform negotiations, sustainability must be at the forefront. They demanded ambitious goals for organic farming and sustainability guide the drafting of rural development programmes in the Member States and regions.

Organisers

The event is co-financed by the EU Commission (DG AGRI). The sole responsibility for any contents lies with organisers.
GMO AND SEED ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH COMMISSIONER BORG

On 18 April, the IFOAM EU Group had its first meeting with Tonio Borg, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy since November 2012. After a presentation on the organic sector and highlighting that the organic food market is growing despite the economic crisis, IFOAM EU Vice President Bavo van den Idsert explained that the organic sector is facing high costs to keep GMO contamination out of the food chain. He demanded that these costs be carried by the GMO producers.

Director Marco Schlüter outlined that coexistence is not possible and the easiest would be to not allow GMOs to be grown in the EU. However, at the very least, there must be binding, EU-wide rules be established to ensure that contamination of the GMO-free food chain is prevented. He also explained that GMO free seed is a pre-condition for growing organic food. With regard to the revision of the legislation for the marketing of seed and propagating material, Policy Manager Antje Kölling outlined the need of the organic sector for simplified registration for heterogeneous plant varieties and populations; and moreover the need for a possibility to register niche varieties on the basis of simple description only.

The Commissioner and his cabinet member Harald Kandolf reported that several issues on GMOs are pending – such as the possibility for Member States to ban GMOs being stuck in the Council – and that solutions for organic seed needs have been negotiated, with a resulting legislative proposal to be published in early May.

SAVE THE BEES - STOP NEONICOTINOIDS

Due to the risks they pose for bee health and for the environment, the European Commission proposes to ban the use of neonicotinoids for an initial period of two years. Ministers decide on this proposal on 29 April. The recent EFSA report underlines the risks of these insecticides, mainly used in seed treatment. However, several chemical industry and farmer organisations are lobbying to maintain the authorisation of these substances.

The European Beekeeping Coordination is working to have the prohibition of neonicotinoids approved. Key messages (FR/EN) and presentations from the “Pollinator friendly farming is possible” conference (held in the European Parliament on 22 March) can be found on its website.

To show the European Institutions that farming without neonicotinoids is possible, bee life is collecting examples of alternatives. Please send website links, documents and personal testimonies on farming initiatives without neonicotinoids to info@bee-life.eu!
EU COMMISSION AIDS TO BUILD A SINGLE MARKET FOR GREEN PRODUCTS

To improve clarity for consumers and to reduce administrative burden and costs for the industry, the Commission released on 9 April a communication and recommendation for a harmonized methodology to measure the environmental performance of products and companies. This comes in the context of increasing private and national labelling systems and methods for calculating the environmental performance and increasing public interest. According to a Eurobarometer survey from 2011, 48% of European consumers feel that environmental friendly products could be better labelled.

The Commission will not abandon existing well-established tools, including the Ecolabel, Energy label, Ecodesign, Green Public Procurement and Organic label. However, the Commission is proposing to Member States and private companies to harmonise the wide range of existing accounting methods by using one of two methods to calculate environmental performance, both of which are based on a life cycle approach: product environmental footprint (PEF) and organization environmental footprint (OEF).

Their use contributes to the implementation of the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe will be tested during a pilot phase (2013-2016). Further steps could be to integrate these methods into the existing tools such as Ecodesign or Ecolabel.

EU CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

The European Commission is launching its new climate change adaptation strategy at an event on 29 April. The strategy aims for greater coordination and information sharing between Member States, and by ensuring that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant EU policies. Cooperation with the private sector is highlighted as crucial strategy. IFOAM EU Group has highlighted the contribution of organic practices in climate change adaptation of food and farming in a study launched in 2012.

SUSTAININGAS

Develop strategies for integrating sustainable biogas production in organic farming is the object of the Intelligent Energy Europe project SUSTAININGAS. Project partners met in April to discuss the next steps as criteria for economic viability and ecological sustainability have been assessed and guidelines for organic biogas production have been drafted.

Interested IFOAM EU members will be consulted on guidelines for organic biogas production in the upcoming weeks. Training webinars and workshops will start in September; concrete dates will be available soon. For more information, please consult www.sustaingas.eu or contact antje.koelling(at)ifoam-eu.org
1.2 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY/TP ORGANICS

EIP FOR AGRICULTURE: SHERPA GROUP DISCUSSES STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Director Marco Schlüter represented IFOAM EU at the Sherpa Group of the High-Level Steering Board meeting on 19 April. The main item for discussion was the draft of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) for Agriculture, which outlines the challenges of the European agriculture sector, possible solutions and explains how an innovation culture can be created in the sector. The SIP should be considered to be a general recommendation that leaves sufficient room for new insights and bottom-up initiatives throughout the implementation of the EIP.

The first draft of the SIP was written collaboratively by all Sherpa. A fair overview of the diversity of viewpoints, including those of the organic and low-input sector, was achieved. IFOAM EU made a clear point that simply increasing production and productivity cannot be the main challenge of the EIP. Instead, IFOAM EU asked for the EIP to employ a holistic approach that connects food production based on ecosystem services with internalisation of external and environmental costs.

After the meeting, Marco Schlüter said: “Considering that the diversity of stakeholders and food industry players who are part of the process, I am confident that we managed to achieve a SIP that provides sufficient space for organic innovations.”

ORGANIC PROCESSORS KEEN TO EDUCATE STAFF MORE

Fifty-five companies from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Belgium and Israel answered an online survey on the educational needs of organic processors, conducted by the EduOFP partnership.

The preliminary results show that the highest education needs are in the following areas:

- EU and national regulations
- Information about the difference between conventional and organic products
- Quality aspects (vital quality - true nature)
- Product development
- Communication tools to involve the customer in organic issues / sustainability
- Traceability

Preliminary results are available here.

DEBATE ON IMPROVING ORGANIC MARKET DATA COLLECTION IN EUROPE

A public discussion on the improvement of organic market data collection in Europe is now open at the Organic Data Forum. The forum run by the OrganicDataNetwork project invites all stakeholders to provide input and further discuss the relevant challenges.

The starting point for the debate is the results of the 1st stakeholder workshop which took place on 15 March 15 at the Organic Research Centre in the UK. A key challenge identified at the workshop is the harmonisation of organic market data in terms of methods, classification and definitions. The responsibilities of different institutions to collect data and the role of certification bodies are under discussion. Specifically with regard collection, the ongoing review of the EU organic regulation provides a good opportunity to discuss the legal basis for organic market data collection in the EU.

The public discussion on the forum will be taken into account at the 2nd stakeholders’ workshop foreseen for summer 2014.
NEWS FROM THE STOAS PROJECT - SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOLS

In the STOAS project, eight European organic associations, including IFOAM EU, are exploring the use of three advisory tools for sustainability assessment: RISE, the Public Good Assessment Tool and the Bioland Assessment Tool. Here is a short overview.

Response-Inducing Sustainability Evaluation (RISE) provides farmers with scientifically sound yet practically relevant information that motivates and helps them improve the sustainability of their farms. Based on an extensive interview with the farmer, the RISE model calculates 68 sustainability parameters and summarizes them in 10 indicators. It was developed at the Swiss College of Agriculture (SHL) to assess the sustainability of farms in the tropics. FiBL is now experimenting with a version for organic farms in temperate climates.

The Public Good Assessment Tool was developed by the Organic Research Centre and the Institute of Organic Training and Advice in order to inform policy makers on the effectiveness of policy actions such as agricultural grant schemes and to support farmers in their management decisions. As with the RISE tool, the results of the assessment are presented in a cobweb diagram that can quickly be understood by the land manager.

The Bioland Tool aims to raise awareness about the Bioland principles of organic farming. Usually, the assessment is done for only two or three of the seven principles (base agriculture on natural cycles, promote soil fertility, respect animal specific behaviour, produce high-quality food, promote biodiversity, protect natural resources and promote quality of life).

Whilst also being understandable by the general public, all three tools are designed to achieve active engagement of the land manager. Rather than providing ready solutions, they stimulate farmers to find solutions themselves.
1.3 NEW COLLEAGUES AT IFOAM EU

Monica Sousa  
New Financial Officer

I come from Lisbon, Portugal. I studied management and have a specialization in taxation from the Instituto Superior de Gestao in Lisbon. I previously worked for a company doing cancer and Alzheimer research, and for an International Foundation.

Although organic is a new area for me, I am very happy to come to IFOAM EU and to work in this environment. I hope to learn a lot about sustainable agriculture and maybe one day help my country better use its natural resources.

Ivan Marko Stazic  
European Volunteer – Communications

Although I did not know much about organic agriculture and the related European Union regulation before coming to IFOAM EU Group, a journalist who is not curious is no journalist at all! Having the opportunity to volunteer for this organisation, I am looking forward to learning more about this field of agriculture. Proper communication is of great importance for this important sector and I am looking forward to help IFOAM EU spread information among its stakeholders. I will also do my best to influence my journalist colleagues to raise the awareness of importance of organic agriculture in my home country. I hope it will eventually lead to expansion of this sustainable way of producing quality food and help Croatia to use more of its agricultural potential.

Athanasia Champidi  
European Volunteer – Regulation

I come from a rural region of Greece where agriculture is the main economic activity. I am an agronomist with a master’s degree in Agriculture and Environment. I have worked as an inspector for QWAYS (IFOAM member) for two years. I truly believe in organic agriculture and I particularly relish the opportunity to support small agricultural entrepreneurs and their farms. I believe that the future of EU is its alimentary self-sufficiency.

Healthy diet is one of the major modifiable determinants in promoting or preventing chronic disease, and agricultural products have a major influence on the disease risk factors. I believe organic can reduce these risk. So, I will try to do my best, as an EVS Volunteer, to play a part in the remarkable effort that IFOAM EU makes to support and develop organic farming.
This year we are celebrating 10 years of IFOAM EU’s presence in Brussels with major achievements for organic food and farming in Europe. IFOAM EU’s lobbying work improves and sustains the framework organic stakeholders need to operate successfully in Europe.

The political and legal framework for organic farming in the EU is set by the European Institutions, and the unifying power of IFOAM EU gives the European organic movement the possibility of bringing its needs to the political decision makers and enables the movement to achieve so much.

Help to make organic’s impact in Europe stronger – donate today

Everyone who donates this year will have their (organisation) name and amount published. Top donors first!

Contact us:
laura.ullmann [at] ifoam-eu.org
Tel: +32 2 808 79 91

IFOAM EU KEY SPONSORS 2013
ARIZA, Ecovalia, Wessanen
ARIZA, Ecovalia and Wessanen show their support for the work of IFOAM EU by a financial cooperation with IFOAM EU throughout 2013. Their money will be used to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.

NEW: RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT WHEN ADVERTISING IN ORGANIC & WELLNESS NEWS
IFOAM EU is proud of a new partnership with O.W.N. to benefit our members and sponsors (of €3,000 or more). You can now receive a 15% discount when advertising in Organic & Wellness News (O.W.N.) when displaying the IFOAM EU 10-year logo in their ad.

O.W.N. is the first international B2B publication for organic and sustainable trade seen at major fairs in the Americas, Europe, the Pacific Rim and the Middle East. O.W.N. provides insight into how the organic sector is developing around the world. It is geared to stimulate fair business practices and healthier lifestyles.

For more information contact Adriana Michael (amichael [at] organicwellnessnews.com)
3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

7TH EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS


Register now – 20% off if you register before 30 April

This year will be a key year for organic farming. The European Commission launched review of the European legal and political framework. It may submit a legal proposal to amend regulation 834/2007 to the European Parliament and Council at the end of 2013. The EU organic action plan from 2004 may also be updated. Together with the reform of the CAP, this will define a new political framework for organic farming in the EU.

Contribute to the process: Your input at this congress will be used to feed into the IFOAM EU proposals provided to the Commission. Gathering opinions from and mobilising the European organic sector is thus the focus of the 7th European Organic Congress, organised by the IFOAM EU Group in co-operation with the Lithuanian EU Presidency.

We expect 250 people from the Commission, the European Parliament, Member states, the organic sector and agri-environmental stakeholders. Useful discussions and lectures, excellent networking opportunities and Lithuanian culture await you. Looking forward to seeing you in Vilnius.

July is the right time to act: let’s shape the Europe’s Organic Future together
Following the great success of our training course in 2012, we are now running an OLC for the European region! As a supporter of the organic ideal, you can both gain from and contribute to this exciting course.

**How can you gain?**

By enrolling yourself, or by sending one or more of your employees/associates to participate. Participants will gain and enhance their skills in:

- Organic Agriculture production principles
- Standards, certification and value chain development
- Advocacy strategy and practice
- Research and support systems
- Management and leadership
- Communication

We are proud to have secured the services of a great team of trainers and experts for the European course, listed on the right. Our experts bring with them decades of collective experience in Organic Agriculture. This experience, combined with our participatory methodology and new perspectives, will make the OLC Europe 2013 a truly worthwhile experience.

**Course Fee**

- Euro 2,800: Includes all materials, tuition, study visits and conferencing costs for two residential sessions (July 14 - 21, Switzerland and February 2014 Nuremberg) and 8 online webinar sessions (excludes travel and accommodation).
- Alternatively, a fee of Euro 4,000 will include all the above plus accommodation and meals (two persons sharing) for both residential sessions (travel costs excluded).

**How can you contribute?**

We have a number of qualified applicants committed to participating, but in need of scholarship support.

If your company or organization is willing to sponsor one or more of these candidates, IFOAM can offer a promotional package that gives your company visibility before, during and after the course, including at BioFach 2014 in Nuremberg, Germany.

For more information on participation or sponsorship, please contact us at academy@ifoam.org or visit us at www.ifoam.org/academy.
SUSTAINABLE FOODS SUMMIT

The 5th European edition of the Sustainable Foods Summit will once again take place in the international city of Amsterdam on 6–7th June 2013. For the first time, a summit will discuss practical methods of reducing the environmental impact of food products by using sustainable ingredients and changing consumer behaviour. How can food and ingredient firms lower their environmental footprints by the use of sustainable raw materials? What can be done to encourage consumers to undertake responsible purchasing and consumption of food & beverage products?

In light of recent food scandals, we have arranged also a pre-conference workshop on Food Authenticity & Traceability (June 5th) to help organisations strengthen their supply chains and prevent food fraud.

Other topics on the summit agenda include food safety & traceability, sustainability in retailing, local supply chains, marketing claims & mislabelling, water footprints, social impact of sourcing, sustainable brand marketing and tackling food insecurity, social media and responsible consumption.

The aim of the Sustainable Foods Summit is to explore new horizons for eco-labels and sustainability. Like previous events organised by Organic Monitor, the summit will bring together key stake-holders in the food industry and debate these major issues in a high-level forum.

More info on: www.sustainablefoodssummit.com
Email: info@sustainablefoodssummit.com
Tel: (44) 20 8567 0788
Fax: (44) 20 8567 7164

ORGANIC MARKET FORUM

The Organic Marketing Forum (OMF) is an international business to business exhibition as well as a networking and training meeting for companies and organisations from Eastern and Western Europe for a trade exhibition, conference, workshops, networking and excursion. The 8th edition will be held in Warsaw, Poland, from 17–19 June 2013. IFOAM EU is proud to be a patron of this event organised by EkoConnect.

INTERNATIONAL SEED SWAP

An international seed swap and discussions on the future of seed will be organised on 11–13 June in Greece by Peliti. You are invited to come and share your experience and the practices that you have developed in your garden, neighbourhood, city, country with regard to local varieties and food cultivation. Participate in a big seed swap where we can offer each other the seeds of our ancestors.
3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

ORGANIC FOOD AND TOURISM GO HAND-IN-HAND

The excursion “Green Business on the Green Island” led participants to the Ballard Organic Farm, which converted to organic farming in 1999. The farmer, Pat Lalor, explained how organic farming practice is the most effective way to achieve fertile and productive soils. The farm produces beef and porridge, sold as Kilbeggan Organic Porridge, and moreover offers groups the chance to visit and learn about organic farming.

The second farm visited was Coolanowle farm run by the Mulhall family. Their herd of Irish Friesian cows delivers beef and milk, their main products. Meat is processed on the farm and sold at farmers’ markets. The farm has a bed and breakfast and an event venue. Excursion participants had the possibility to taste the delicious beef directly from the mobile market stand.

At the next stop Gavin Lynch from Organic Trust explained that tourism and agriculture are major industries in Ireland and that therefore the development of organic farming in Ireland is closely connected to the use of the opportunities that the image of a “green island” and ecotourism offer. As a best practice example, visitors had the chance to taste a great organic and wild harvest meal in the Strawberry Tree Restaurant, based in the beautiful and organic certified BrookLodge Hotel. Chef Evan Doyle is engaged not only in organic cooking, but also in the Slow Food movement and the Taste Council of Ireland. Another innovative way of promoting organic food to consumers was the “pop up store” of the Irish dairy company Glenisk in Dublin. Getting a take away lunch and a yoghurt, together with recipes and information about organic milk in a light and friendly atmosphere definitely gets consumers out of the idea that organic is boring. It tastes great and is good for the environment.

FARMER SECTOR GROUP

In the sidelines of the events in Ireland, the IFOAM EU farmer sector group met. Delegates from 13 member states decided to prolong the mandate of the current steering group to 5 November, when a meeting in Brussels is planned. All IFOAM EU member organisations representing farmers’ organisations are invited to join the sector group. For more information please write to: stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org
Organic Potato starch is produced in accordance with the European Union’s rules on organic farming and by the two well-known potato experts, Finnamyl Oy and Aloja Stärkelse S/A.

The full cycle from seed potatoes, starch potato cultivation and organic potato starch processing in Finland and Latvia is managed by well-experienced professionals.

Potato starch is a natural food ingredient traditionally used in Europe. Our customers are entitled to full application support service.

**Organic Potato Starch BENEFITS**
- A safe product with a clean taste
- A fully allergen-free product
- Provides high-viscous transparent gel
- Enables cost savings
- Is an EU-origin product

**Organic Potato Starch APPLICATIONS**
- For desserts, puddings, soups, gravies and meat products
- For baked and pasta products, and for coatings
- For dry blends, instant meals and confectionery

Both native and cold-swelling (pre-gel) starch are available. Native starch is mechanically extracted from organic potatoes. Cold-swelling starch is produced by precooking native starch, drying it on steam-heated drums, as well as grounding and sieving.

www.organicpotatostarch.com
### 3.3 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Application deadline extended to 3 May</td>
<td>IFOAM Academy for Organic Excellence: Cultivating Organic Leadership, Europe – apply here! Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland</td>
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<td>30 May</td>
<td>Bio Forum 2013</td>
<td>Bratislava, Slovakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>6–7 June</td>
<td>Sustainable Foods Summit</td>
<td>Amsterdam, the Netherlands</td>
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<td>17–19 June</td>
<td>8th Organic Marketing Forum</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
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<td>25 June</td>
<td>TP Organics Stakeholder Forum</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>26–27 June</td>
<td>Agroecology for Sustainable Food Systems in Europe: A Transformative Agenda</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td>2–4 July</td>
<td>7th European Organic Congress</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td>9–13 October</td>
<td>4th International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences (ICOAS)</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>11–13 October</td>
<td>Natura Food Fair</td>
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This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM members about the work of the IFOAM EU Group and its liaison and coordination office in Brussels. The IFOAM EU Group 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.


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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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Irish organic farming © John Portelli