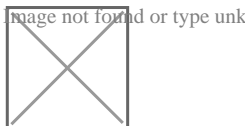




IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE ANNUAL REPORT

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2022
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To save you ink, paper and energy the background images, videos, etc. will not be printed. To read the full publication, go to <https://read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-organics-europe-annual-report-2022/> or scan the QR-code.

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WELCOME NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear reader,

As IFOAM Organic Europe's President, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 2022 annual report. It will provide you with insights into IFOAM Organics Europe's activities transforming European food and farming over the year.

In 2022 we had the honour of celebrating our 20 anniversary as the umbrella organisation for the EU organic sector. Over these past 20 years, IFOAM Organics Europe – through the commitment of its members and office staff – has been doing a great job at helping make Europe more organic, and 2022 saw no exception in this regard.

2022 was marked by important developments in the policy arena, which brought both challenges and opportunities for the European organic sector. The war in Ukraine raised concerns about food security in Europe and was exploited by some to push for a rollback of the EU Farm to Fork targets. IFOAM Organics Europe remained resolute in opposing these attempts to weaken the Farm to Fork Strategy. Furthermore, we committed to ensuring the EU would remain on track for the target of 25% organic land by 2030. In the face of geopolitical challenges, we believe the war in Europe served as a stark reminder to shift towards healthier, socially responsible, and environmentally friendly farming practices such as agroecology, organic farming, and agroforestry.

2022 also saw the entry into force of the new organic regulation. IFOAM Organics Europe actively engaged in helping organic stakeholders navigate the legal complexities of the new regulation by providing an online guidance tool, the [Regulation Guidelines](#), therefore leaving them free to focus on their core business activities.

In another policy development, the Commission launched a new proposal for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides regulation (SUR), setting targets to reduce pesticide use by 50% before 2030. Together with other NGOs, IFOAM Organics Europe proactively advocated against efforts to undermine the SUR and the idea that a reduction in pesticide use will lead to lower food security.

Our advocacy work also focused on the proposal to relax rules on the regulation of new genomic techniques as we were prominent in spreading awareness of the dangers of NGTs deregulation. One initiative I would like to point out is the organisation of the ["GMO-Free Europe Event 2022"](#) at the European Parliament together with Save Our Seeds, which gathered over 250 participants and 22 speakers. Deregulation of new GMOs would have dire consequences for the EU organic sector and harm the European citizens' right to choose GMO-free food.

In another key achievement of 2022, IFOAM Organics Europe closely followed the implementation of the new CAP 2023-2027 to ensure the achievement of the Farm to Fork targets. Given this, we reviewed the national CAP strategic plans and underscored their shortcomings, particularly regarding their deficiencies in supporting organic farming. IFOAM Organics Europe remains resolute in advocating for a CAP that truly reflects the EU Farm2Fork ambitions and that will put us on track to reach the 25% organic land target by 2030.

Other notable policy developments in 2022 concerned seeds, textiles, climate, and biodiversity, sustainable food systems, and labels. In all of these, we ensured that the voices of the organic sector were heard in the EU policy arena, and we strived to have organics be recognised as part of the solution to many present challenges faced by the EU regarding food security, climate change, and sustainability.

I would also like to highlight our efforts in research and innovation for organic together with [TP Organics](#), the European technology platform for organic food and farming. In 2022, TP Organics followed the development of two research and innovation partnerships on agroecology and sustainable food systems.

Finally, I cannot forget to mention our [20 anniversary event](#) on 11 May, attended by over 100 people representing the EU organic chain. Among the attendees was Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission. In his address to the attendees, he underlined that the Commission's commitment to the EU Green Deal to organic comes from their belief in its benefits for climate, environment, soil, biodiversity, animal welfare, and socio-economic development. It was truly rewarding to witness Mr. Timmermans supporting our vision, as he concluded his speech by calling on IFOAM Organics Europe to "Keep doing the good work you have been doing in the past years", contributing to solving climate and biodiversity

crises.

The above activities do not cover all we did in 2022, and I invite you to read more highlights in this report. I would like to thank all our members, sponsors, partners, and office staff for their incredible work and for bringing the organic vision closer to its realisation. You are an important part of Making Europe More Organic.

Organic regards,

Jan Plagge, IFOAM Organics Europe President

OUR VISION FOR 2030

The European organic movement's vision for food and farming is that of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy, and caring system widely adopted in Europe by 2030. To make it happen, we need to take stock of what organic has become, lead change and stimulate interactions with other like-minded organisations and initiatives, including fair trade, agroecology, and urban agriculture, focusing on three pillars:

- [Organic on every table](#)
- [Improve – Inspire – Deliver](#)
- [Fair Play – Fair Pay](#)
-



Since May 2020 the European Green Deal's EU [Biodiversity](#) and [Farm to Fork](#) strategies contribute to our vision to transform Europe's food and farming. They "address the challenges of sustainable food systems comprehensively, recognising the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet".

Importantly, one of the Farm to Fork Strategy's four targets is reaching 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

The Commission recognises organic as part of the solution to more sustainable food systems, providing Europe with more resilient European food and farming systems while addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.

[Read the European organic movement's full vision statement](#) (also below) and our [organic roadmap to sustainable food and farming systems in Europe](#) – providing an overview of what IFOAM Organics Europe, food & farming actors and policymakers can do to transform food and farming.

Get inspired about how you can make Europe more organic by visiting [EUorganic2030.bio](#) and exploring various initiatives already making our Vision 2030 a reality.

The European organic movement's vision for 2030

Our vision for food and farming is of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy, and caring system widely adopted in Europe. The European organic movement continues to lead change, believes in holistic approaches, and thrives on interactions with other like-minded initiatives, including fair trade, agroecology, and urban agriculture.

Driven by the support of citizens and by building bridges with other food and farming stakeholders in the food and farming system, we are committed to achieving more than half of Europe's agricultural land managed according to organic principles of health, fairness, ecology, and care, providing fresh, seasonal, fairly priced as well as minimally and carefully processed organic food to every European home, workplace and institution.

The European organic movement stimulates and rewards the further development of organic systems, improving the resilience and environmental performance of organic production systems, while innovative tools for upholding the integrity of the supply chain promote trust. Policy makers and citizens widely recognise and value the contribution of organic farming to the delivery and support of vital ecosystem services to society.

As we move forward towards our goal of being a model for sustainable farming and food systems, we support a culture of innovation based on holistic principles leading to more resilient and productive farming systems, greater biodiversity, better food quality, more appropriate processing, and fairer supply chains. New and indigenous, locally adapted varieties and breeds suited to organic farming practices and local conditions are encouraged and preserved. Farm animals are healthy, live in stress-free conditions and contribute to the sustainability of organic farms.

European farmers and all workers in the organic supply chain are fairly remunerated for their contribution to the health of the environment, communities, local and rural economies, and for providing flavourful and abundant food to contribute to the welfare of our planet and the quality of life of all people.

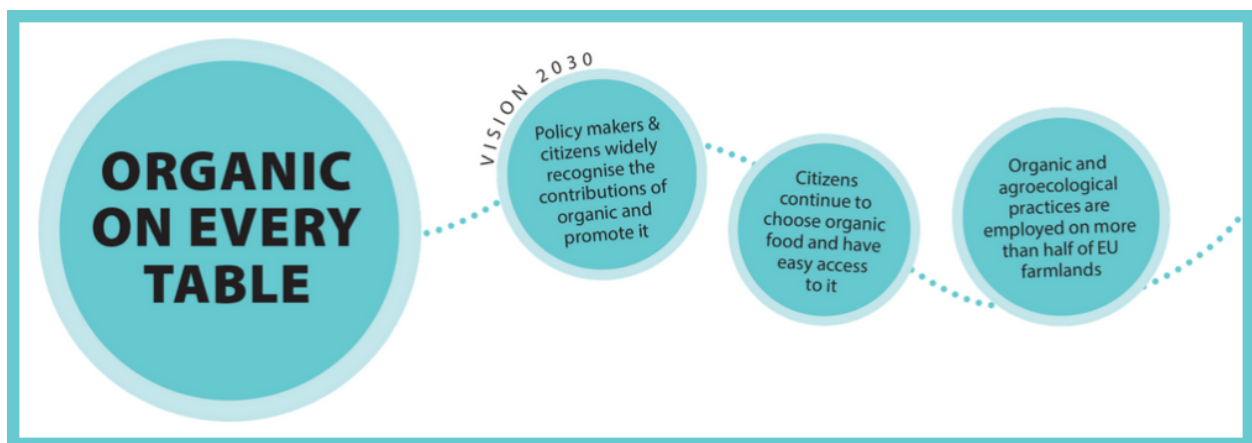
The organic movement works towards a paradigm shift in education and learning to strengthen the connection between environmentally and socially responsible food choices. People reconnect to food production by actively engaging with short supply chains.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

For us, [Organic on every table](#) means high-quality and healthy food becoming more widely available. In pursuing this goal, we were met with challenges in 2022 due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which raised concerns about food security, trade implications, and the availability of agricultural inputs. This in turn delayed the EU's regulation setting ambitious pesticide reductions and put into question the organic targets laid out in the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy. Instead of finding a systemic solution, the agrichemical industry saw this crisis as a chance to push tech-focused, narrow-minded solutions leveraging a narrative according to which EU food sovereignty is under threat due to insufficient production.



In our [letter to MEPs](#) on 17 March, we responded by emphasising the need to rethink the food production system, aligning with the objectives of the Farm to Fork. Contrary to calls for rolling back environmental policies, IFOAM Organics Europe asserted that these strategies are crucial for building a resilient, independent, and sustainable food production system.

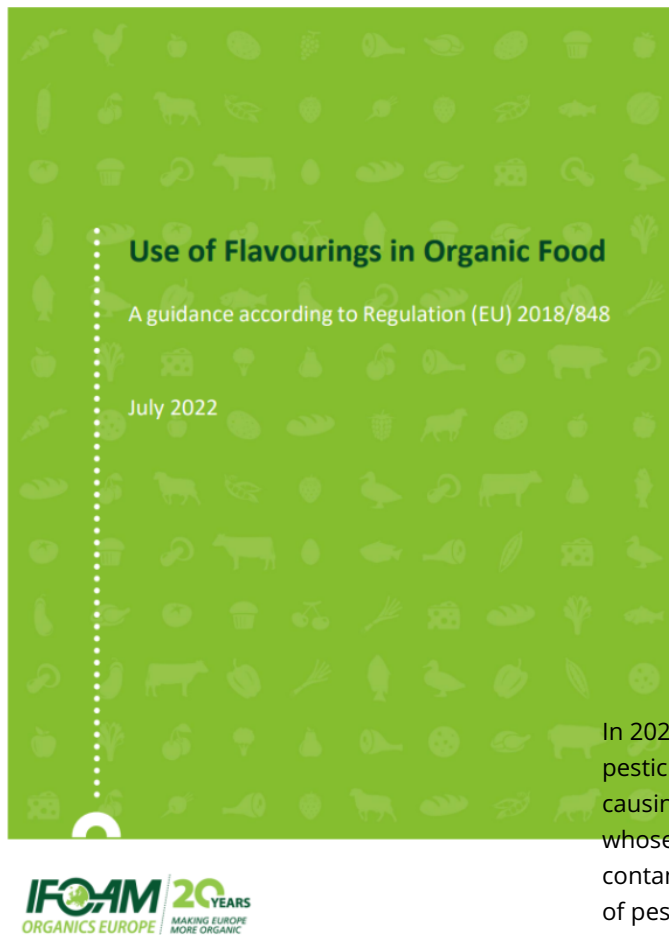
At [IFOAM Organics Europe's 20 anniversary celebration event](#), Franz Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission criticised the argument that increasing food production is the best solution to food insecurity, and urged for a long-term view on food security, adding that "there will be no food shortages in Europe". There is a global food crisis which is not based on food scarcity but rather because "we cannot get enough food from where it's produced to where it's needed".

Guiding organic actors through the new EU Organic Regulation

In a milestone year for organic agriculture, 2022 witnessed the activation of the [new EU Organic Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848](#). However, the conclusion of 2021 saw the publication of numerous delegated and implementing regulations linked to the EU Organic Regulation. Recognising the complexity of this new regulatory landscape, IFOAM Organics Europe took a proactive approach to ensure a clear understanding of the new rules.

As part of our commitment to supporting our members, [we launched online guidelines aimed at helping organic actors](#) navigate the intricacies of the new regulations. This user-friendly resource facilitates a better understanding of the new regulatory framework and promotes transparency within the organic community. Our guidelines, which have registered over 500 subscribers, took several steps in making the new regulations clearer and more accessible, such as:

- Consolidating the new EU Organic Regulation and its secondary legislation by grouping areas;
- Provided definitions, recitals, and articles of other EU legislations;
- Highlighted main changes compared to previous EU Organic Regulations;
- Provided comments and explanations of unclear points or of points where there is room for interpretation.



In 2022, we also confronted the subject of pesticide residue in organic farming, often causing issues for organic stakeholders whose production takes place in a contaminated world with the omnipresence of pesticides. Therefore, in the context of finding common approach for the organic sector on dealing with residue findings

under the relevant rules set by the EU Organic Regulation, we launched the project: "[Developing Organic: Pesticides Use and Contamination](#)". The basic objectives of the project were to understand the level of pesticide presence affecting the food and farming sector and reach a fair legislative framework for organic agri-food in case of residue findings. As part of this project, we were able to deliver [a scientific article published in the Journal of Environmental Pollution](#). The article found that organic produce is at risk of environmental, technically unavoidable pesticide contamination and that there are uncertainties regarding the transition of contaminants into non-target foods.

Ensuring pesticide use is measured correctly

In 2022, we actively advocated for EU institutions to uphold [the commitments laid out in the Farm to Fork Strategy](#), which includes a 50% reduction target in the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030. In this regard, we were concerned by the lobbying tactics used by the pesticide industry and relayed by other lobbies and political actors to undermine the EU's Farm to Fork. These included several attempts to postpone and derail the Sustainable Use of Pesticide Regulation (SUR) setting legally binding targets on synthetic pesticide reduction.

On 28 February we co-signed [a joint statement](#) with more than 70 other NGOs to provide recommendations on the SUR and criticize the lack of ambition in the current proposal. On 21 March, together with other civil society organisations, we sent a [joint letter](#) calling on the Commission to stand by its commitment to the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies. In the letter, we expressed concern over the repeated attacks on the Farm to Fork Strategy, which intensified since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. We also refuted the argument that the targets set by the SUR and Farm to Fork would lead to lower yields and threaten food security in the EU. Moreover, we co-signed other two letters, on [13 June](#) and on [10 November](#), urging the European Commission and Parliament to adopt the SUR proposal without further delays and to resist attempts to weaken it. In these letters, we emphasised that the massive use of synthetic pesticides already has a negative impact on human health, on biodiversity including pollinators, as well as on water and soil quality.

While overall we welcomed the Commission's proposal on the sustainable use of pesticides, we were concerned that the indicator proposed to measure progress towards the 30% pesticide reduction by 2030 was the [Harmonised Risk Indicator 1 \(HRI-1\)](#). This volume-based indicator has been found by the European Court of Auditors to be inappropriate for measuring pesticide reduction and it systematically overestimates the risk of natural substances used in organic farming compared to synthetic substances. Due to the flawed nature of this indicator, we took the initiative in advocating against its use along with other NGOs. Together with PAN Europe, Global 2000, and Save Bees and Farmers Initiative, [we held a press conference on the topic of HRI-1](#), where we called for a more suitable indicator for measuring pesticide reduction. We proposed the French indicator NODU as a model for a possible new indicator, as it gives information on the intensity of the use of pesticides and does not discriminate against natural substances.

Preparing for the fight to keep Europe's food GMO-free

In 2022, we actively opposed the deregulation of "New Genomic Techniques" (NGTs), or new Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), and took several actions in this direction. We collaborated with other like-minded NGOs to coordinate actions, participated in technical meetings with DG SANTE and DG GROW, and did extensive preparatory work for 2023. However, some developments set a worrying tone for the political agenda regarding GMOs. Notably, an informal meeting of the EU Ministers of Agriculture on 15-16 September used the pretext of climate change adaptation, increasing yield, and international economic competitiveness to encourage the relaxation of rules on new genomic techniques.

In April, the Commission launched a 12-week consultation period in the context of the Impact Assessment for the new legislation on New Genomic Techniques, which took the form of a questionnaire available on the ["Have Your Say" website](#). As IFOAM Organics Europe, we provided input to the consultation, although we found it to have serious shortcomings. In particular, we objected to its failure to name concrete options on how the new rules could look like, thereby preventing the organic sector from providing concrete feedback on different ways forward. An ad-hoc briefing on the NGTs consultation was organised for IFOAM Organics Europe members on 1st July 2022. In this briefing, IFOAM Organics Europe presented to its members the Commission's consultation and potential impacts of the new legislation on organic food & farming and encouraged them to participate as well.

The consultation period was followed by a public survey in which NGOs were invited to participate. However, our concerns over the biased nature of the survey and the consultation prompted us to co-sign two letters addressed to Commissioner Stella Kyriakides. The [first letter](#), sent on 4 October, was co-signed with several other NGOs, while [the second](#) was signed on 15 December together with ENGA – European Non-GMO Industry Association. With these letters, we called on the Commission to repeat those parts of the impact assessment that fall short of the required standards. We also emphasised the need to maintain transparency and freedom of choice and raised concerns about potential conflicts with the Farm to Fork Strategy.

IFOAM Organics Europe was prominent in spreading awareness of the danger of NGTs to the EU public. In collaboration with Save our Seeds, we organized the [GMO-free Europe Event](#) on 17 November, bringing together diverse stakeholders to scrutinise proposals and take a collective stand against the potential relaxation of regulations. The event garnered substantial participation, both online and in person, with over 250 attendees and 22 competent speakers representing a variety of stakeholder groups, representatives of GMO-free Regions, scientists, farmers, producers, retailers, and consumers as well as NGOs, civil servants, and politicians. Furthermore, together with various stakeholders, IFOAM Organics Europe supported EU-wide and national petitions urging for regulation and labelling in the context of GMOs and new genomic techniques, such as the ["Keep new GM food strictly regulated and labelled"](#) petition. This petition reached more than 420.000 signatures, was run in 17 European countries, and was shared by a coalition of around 50 organisations.

Ensuring the regulation of new genetic techniques remains a key priority for IFOAM organics Europe as there is not enough scientific data and no long-term studies available to properly evaluate the risks that NGTs might present. According to the European Court of Justice's ruling of 25 July 2018, these [new techniques of genetic modification are GMO](#) and must be regulated as such. If new genetic engineering techniques were to escape EU regulations, any potential negative effects on food, feed or environmental safety would go unchecked. European consumers, farmers, and breeders would have no way to avoid GMOs.



Ensuring the availability of organic seeds

The [EU Organic Regulation](#) came into force on January 1st, 2022, marking a significant milestone for organic production. However, the initial implementation left certain details unresolved, particularly concerning the production of seedlings and other vegetative materials for organic cultivation. The European Commission addressed these issues through a Delegated Act (DA), providing further clarification. Under this DA, organically produced seedlings and vegetative Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) derived from conventional seed and parent plants are permitted to bear the organic logo. IFOAM Organics Europe welcomed this development, emphasising its positive impact. Notably, the formulation of the DA resulted from extensive collaboration involving the EU Commission, the organic sector, and Member of the MEP Martin Häusling, the rapporteur in the European Parliament on the Organic Regulation.



NEW SEED LEGISLATION IS NEEDED



5 COMPANIES

CONTROL **75%** OF THE SEEDS
sold throughout the world

putting **FARMERS**
& **THE FOOD WE EAT** 
IN THE HANDS OF JUST A FEW PLAYERS

ORGANIC  **ARE PARTICULARLY**
FARMERS AND CONSUMERS **DISADVANTAGED** by
the current requirements

The current seed laws contribute to the
CONSOLIDATION OF THE MARKET



90% of crop varieties
HAVE DISAPPEARED
FROM FARMERS' FIELDS

GENETIC DIVERSITY
OF CROPS IS ESSENTIAL 
for future **food security**

Increasing demand for organic
by promoting public
procurement

In 2022, IFOAM Organics Europe actively engaged in promoting sustainability in public food procurement, evident through our involvement in the legal framework on sustainable food systems. Through our work within the Food Policy Coalition (FPC), we reinforced the idea that public procurement serves as a catalyst for food system transformation and also that sustainable procurement is successful and cost-effective. The FPC was created informally in 2019 and aims towards policy integration and alignment at the EU level to facilitate the transition to sustainable food systems. It brings together civil society organisations working towards refining and advocating for a [shared vision](#) of sustainable food systems at the EU level. IFOAM Organics Europe co-leads the FPC Task Force on Public Procurement, together with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

To make sustainable public food procurement a mainstream issue at the European level, we decided to participate in the [Buy Better Food Campaign](#), where we advocate for mandatory criteria in public food procurement to be included in the Sustainable Food System Framework Initiative. We broadened our commitment to this issue by organising a roundtable on organic canteens on 28 March, bringing together relevant actors in the field to exchange best practices regarding organic products in public procurement. In addition, we provided feedback to the European Commission's public consultation on Sustainable Food Systems, also through exchanges with our members and partners, including SchoolFood4Change. We also promoted an EU-wide petition initiated by Buy Better Food Campaign "[A healthy meal for every child in every EU school](#)", aligning with the EU Farm to Fork. Additionally, we collaborated on the "[Manifesto for establishing minimum standards for](#)

[public canteens across the EU](#)", which was authored by ICLEI. The manifesto aimed to inspire the European Commission and the EU Member States, as well as regional and local public authorities, with seven actionable propositions for establishing minimum standards for public canteens in Europe and specifically wanted to set a goal to reach 20% organic in public procurement. After garnering support from 21 NGOs, it was made public on 11 October, at an event of the Committee of the Regions, and officially handed out to Alexandra Nikolakopoulou, Head of Unit Farm to Fork Strategy in DG SANTE. On 16 December, the FPC Task Force on Public Procurement met with Mr. Lukas Visek, member of the Cabinet of the Executive Vice-President Timmermans, and Ms. Annukka Ojala, Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, to discuss how the Manifesto can be used concretely in the Farm to Fork Strategy.

THE BENEFITS OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Including organic, plant-rich and healthier meals into public procurement offers many benefits when it comes to consumption, production and social system.

FEWER CO₂ EMISSIONS¹

- Up to 88% less waste in production
- Up to 50% less food waste on plate

HAPPIER STAFF

- 54% increase in job satisfaction²
- Fewer sick days³

HEALTHIER DIETS³

- Less and better meat
- Fewer processed foods
- More plant-rich meals

MEAT³

Production and consumption of less and better meat

LESS COSTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH³

- Denmark can save €300 health costs per person/year
- Investing €1 in public kitchens saves €35/year

LET'S GET TO 25% EUROPEAN ORGANIC LAND BY 2030, TOGETHER!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE

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@OrganicsEurope

¹ Thomsen, Sabinski & Trolldenier (2014) Madspild i forbindelse med økologiproduktion i offentlige køkkener. DTU Fødevarerinstitutet. Reduced waste in public kitchens. <https://doi.org/10.17201/08-Madspild-i-forbindelse-med-økologiproduktion>

² Nina N. Sørensen, Hanne Løye, Inge Tørring, Jørgen H. W. Bruus, Anne D. Larsen, Wellbeing at work among kitchen workers during organic food conversion in Danish public kitchens: a longitudinal survey. *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 26, Issue 2, April 2016, Pages 123–128. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejpub/ckw029>

³ Mikellidou, E., Bruuslier, Jensen, M., Andersen, J., & Lassen, A. (2006). Are green canteens more likely to serve healthy meals than non-green canteens? Results from a quantitative study in Danish works catering. *Public Health Nutrition*, 9(7), 846–850. doi:10.1017/S1368897106005913

⁴ Ranganathan, J. D., Vermeir, R., Dunne, P., Dunne, B., Lignani, T., Sauchinger, and Chikara-WPR Model Authors. 2016. "Shift Diets for a Sustainable Food Future." Working Paper, Issue 11 of Creating a Sustainable Food Future. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. <https://pubs.wri.org/publication/61600>

⁵ Kastrup, K. (2021). Sundhedsøkonomiske effekter ved overførsel af klimavenlige køkken. 36 s., IFØ Udgivning, Nr. 2021/01

Ensuring the CAP 2023-2027 contributes to EU's organic targets

The year 2022 kicked off with significant developments in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). On 11 January 2022, COMAGRI approved most of the [CAP 2023-2027](#) Regulation's delegated and implemented acts. Simultaneously, Member States faced a crucial deadline, required to submit their CAP Strategic Plans outlining their strategies to realise the goals set in the CAP 2023-2027. To reach the EU's target of 25% agricultural land under organic production by 2030, the Common Agricultural Policy is key. This policy can drive the domestic production of organic land, crops, and livestock. Since its last reform, each Member State must realise this growth by creating national Strategic Plans to stimulate its organic sector. In 2022, the organic movement worked hard to ensure these national plans considered organic practices. For this, IFOAM Organics Europe was in very close contact with its national members, specifically those part of its Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF), with whom we had several meetings dedicated to the CAP reforms.



EU Green Deal in CAP objectives

The CAP's objectives should include the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' targets

How? Amending articles 6 and 106 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



National targets in CAP Strategic Plans

Analyse organics' needs and potential for further development and set up national targets for land under organic management

How? Amending article 92 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



Increased CAP support for organic

Payments towards organic conversion and maintenance for Eco-schemes and Rural Development should exceed the total payments made before 2021

How? Amending article 92 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



Adequate CAP budget for environment and climate actions

Ringfence 30% of Pillar 1 budget for Eco-schemes, increasing to 50% over the programming period (unspent funds should go to agri-environmental-climate of Pillar 2) and ringfence 30% of Pillar 2 excluding Areas with Natural Constraints

How? Amending article 28 and 65 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



Favour system approaches to transition

Payments for system approaches shall be higher than payments for less ambitious approaches based on single farming practices

How? National CAP Strategic Plans should incentivise ambitious system redesign

In a subsequent CDG on Direct Payments and Greening on 18 March, we actively addressed questions related to organic farming practices, leading to the European Commission committing to send observations on organic farming to specific states. In June 2022, we amplified our

advocacy efforts [by publishing a press release](#), sharing our observations, and raising demands to both Member States and the Commission. We called on Member States to integrate the Commission's observations, enhancing their support for organic farming. Simultaneously, we urged the Commission to continue their dialogue with Member States, ensuring modifications to plans that increase interventions and budgets for organic practices.

In the latter part of the year, we actively participated in two important consultations. Firstly, in response to the Commission's public consultation on sustainability agreements under [Article 210](#), we welcomed the initiative as a potential game-changer, incentivising farmers practicing high standards in environment, animal welfare, and biodiversity. Secondly, in a public consultation on a draft Implementing Regulation on the CAP 2023-2027 performance framework and data, our feedback emphasised the need for a thorough assessment of the evolution of organic farming in each Member State. We stressed the importance of evaluating whether Member States contributed to Green Deal objectives and Farm to Fork targets, especially the target of 25% organic farmland by 2030. Furthermore, in response to the Parliament's own initiative report on the [Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas](#), IFOAM Organics Europe prepared suggestions for amendments to mention the Farm to Fork Strategy and organic farming as opportunities to have resilient rural areas and sustainable farming systems.

In the context of making the CAP we also launched the Horizon Europe project [OrganicTargets4EU](#), led by IFOAM Organics Europe, which started on 1 September 2022. Its goal is to help achieve the EU's Farm to Fork targets of 25% organic farmland by 2030 and increase organic aquaculture. The project analyses optimal areas for organic farming, studies socio-economic impacts, provides evidence on organic food demand drivers, and supports advisory services. The project results will be discussed in a multi-actor policy dialogue, and it will make recommendations for the CAP strategic plans and EU/national organic action plans from 2025-2027 and from 2028 onwards.

Making sure organic fertilisers are available

Responding to the urgent need to address nutrient pollution, the European Commission has introduced the [Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan \(INMAP\)](#), marking a pivotal step toward the EU's target of reducing nutrient losses by 50%. IFOAM Organics Europe actively contributes to this initiative, advocating for organic farming as a cornerstone of sustainable nutrient management. Our involvement in the Commission's public consultation on the future INMAP underscores our commitment to integrating organic principles into the plan, fostering agricultural practices in harmony with nature. To fortify our position, we launched a Task Force on Recycled Fertilisers, seeking a unified organic movement stance on recycled inputs aligned with organic farming principles. This initiative strengthens the organic sector's voice in sustainable nutrient management. During 2022, IFOAM Organics Europe policy staff and task force members worked on a [position paper detailing our recommendations for the INMAP](#). Furthermore, they met twice with DG ENVI's policy officers drafting the INMAP to explain our recommendations and highlight how INMAP could answer to the foreseen growing need for natural substances arising from the Farm to Fork Strategy's 25% organic farmland by 2030 target.

The three-month public consultation on the INMAP presented a key opportunity for the organic movement to champion a holistic approach to plant nutrition. IFOAM Organics Europe encouraged active participation, stressing the importance of collective engagement in shaping sustainable agricultural practices. In August, we provided feedback to the Commission's public consultation, underscoring the need to position organic farming at the core of the INMAP. Aligned with the Farm to Fork's 25% organic target, our suggestions include advocating for waste separation, endorsing certified production processes, and promoting the authorisation of more natural fertilisers. Despite these efforts, the EU Commission's Communication on fertilisers raised concerns. Short-term fixes to the existing fertiliser system, postponing necessary changes for sustainability, were highlighted. In response, IFOAM Organics Europe, along with 9 NGOs, [co-signed a letter urging the Commission to set a long-term vision for the farming sector's sustainability in the upcoming Fertilisers Strategy and to avoid further delays in the publication of the INMAP](#). In the letter, we emphasised the need for reduced dependence on synthetic fertiliser imports and advocated for farming practices that employ system approaches and alternatives, such as organic fertilisers and improved nutrient recycling. As we navigate the complexities of nutrient management, IFOAM Organics Europe remains active in promoting practices that address environmental concerns, contributing to the broader goals of sustainability and organic agriculture.

IMPROVE-INSPIRE-DELIVER

The roadmap's second pillar to achieve our vision for 2030 is [Improve – Inspire – deliver](#). In view of this, in 2022, we firmly maintained our commitment to advocating for key issues at the intersection of environmental and food policy. Our focus was on promoting knowledge of organics and demonstrating the solutions they can provide to address challenges in food systems.



In a novelty for the organic movement, the first [Organics Europe Youth Event \(OEYE\)](#) took place on 31 August-1 September 2022 in Frick, Switzerland. It encouraged youth interested and active in organic to join the two-day event to discuss and learn about the potential & challenges of organic production and its role as a sustainable food system. The Youth Event brought together young people with diverse backgrounds: from farmers to retailers and processors, from activists to politicians. The event fostered cross-fertilisation between different disciplines and generated innovative ideas for the future of organic

production.

Positioning organic as part of the solution to climate, soil & biodiversity crises

In the pursuit of mitigating the environmental impact of agriculture, particularly its carbon footprint, [the Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry \(LULUCF\) Regulation](#) emerged as a crucial instrument in 2022. This regulatory framework, designed to manage carbon emissions from cropland and grassland, underwent a significant revision proposed by the European Commission in July 2021. Key among the updates in the proposal is the establishment of a 2030 EU-wide target for net greenhouse gas removals, set at 310 million tonnes of CO₂ as it aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035. This initiative holds promise for fostering sustainable agricultural practices such as organic farming and agroecology that contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by enhancing carbon sequestration in soils.

As part of our advocacy efforts in environmental policy, we engaged with the [European Commission's initiative on 'Sustainable Carbon Cycles'](#). This communication, presented in December 2021, outlines strategies to bolster carbon sequestration and elevate the prominence of carbon farming in the European context.



In September 2022, the European Commission opened a public consultation on the [Soil Monitoring Law](#). This law aims to specify the conditions for healthy soil, determines options for monitoring soil, and lays out rules conducive to sustainable soil use and restoration. IFOAM Organics Europe replied to the public consultation of the European Commission asking for input from stakeholders. In our feedback, we asked the Commission to recognise organic farming as a practice for the sustainable use of agricultural soil. To further showcase the environmental benefits of organic, we published [a comprehensive document compiling scientific research showing its benefits for climate](#)

[and biodiversity](#). The document details how organic farming offers a systemic approach to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and increasing soil carbon sequestration while sustaining healthy soils and protecting biodiversity.

Ensuring better data collection on organic farming

In December 2021, the Council of the EU approved its mandate for the [Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs \(SAIO\)](#), a key tool for monitoring Farm to Fork targets. The SAIO Regulation is supposed to provide the necessary data to monitor three of the six key quantified Farm to Fork targets for 2030. IFOAM Organics Europe expressed concern over Member States limiting data on organic agriculture, especially regarding pesticides, hindering the assessment of the 50% reduction target by 2030.

In June, the Council and the European Parliament agreed on the new SAIO Regulation, enhancing data collection on agricultural production. Notably, statistics from organic farmers will increase, with detailed datasets distinguishing pesticide use between organic and non-organic farming. Together with 57 NGOs, we signed [an open letter calling on Member States and the Commission to adopt, without delay, and by the end of 2022, the Implementing Regulation harmonising the content and format of the pesticide use records](#). We addressed this letter to the Members of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (PAFF Committee). Furthermore, we provided feedback to the European Commission's public consultation, commenting on its proposal on the new Farm Sustainability Data Framework, stressing the need for comprehensive economic, environmental, and social data at the farm level.

On 3 November 2022, we signed a joint contribution with 15 NGOs on the Commission's public consultation on an implementing act of the Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs (SAIO) Regulation. The implementing act wants to ensure digitalisation of pesticide use records across the EU and therefore a better collection of data.

Innovating farming beyond technology

Organic farmers, processors, companies, and civil society groups are eager to work with researchers to help organic deliver on its principles and transform Europe's food and farming system. IFOAM Organics Europe represents and engages all these actors in the projects in which it takes part. We bring the latest research findings to practitioners and ensure research meets their needs and expectations. We also help building the organic sector's innovation capacity and have ample experience setting up science-practice-policy dialogues.

In 2022, we were involved in projects aiming to enhance the flow of knowledge, best practices, and innovations in agriculture and organic farming. These projects focused on creating platforms, networks, and methodologies that facilitate collaboration, learning, and the adoption of innovative practices among practitioners in the agricultural community. By fostering organic innovation, we contribute to the sustainability and competitiveness of the organic sector.

In view of this, we continued our work in the:

- [NEFERTITI](#) project focused on methodologies for knowledge exchange to boost the uptake of innovation and improve peer-to-peer learning;
- [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) platform providing access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production;

- [BIOFRUITNET](#) project aiming to strengthen the competitiveness of European organic fruit production through strong knowledge networks;
- [EU-FarmBook](#) project supporting agricultural knowledge exchange by developing and maintaining an easily accessible EU-wide digital platform;
- [EUREKA](#) project building a European knowledge repository for best agricultural practices.

In 2022 we made further strides in promoting organic production and innovation by co-organising the first edition of the EU Organic Awards. The annual [European Organic Awards](#) reward the most excellent and innovative actors in the organic value chain. Jointly organised by the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, COPA-COGECA, and IFOAM Organics Europe, they aim to stimulate organic production by sharing the inspiring stories of actors who achieved excellence in this field. In 2022 the awards were given to 8 winners in 8 different categories:

- Best organic farmer (male): David Pejic (Croatia)
- Best organic farmer (female): Nazaret Mateos Álvarez (Spain)
- Best organic city: Gemeinde Seeham am Obertrumer See (Austria)
- Best organic region: Occitanie (France)
- Best organic bio-district: Associazione Bio-Distretto Cilento (Italy)
- Best organic SME: Goodvenience.bio GmbH (Germany)
- Best organic food retailer: La Ferme à l'Arbre de Liège (Belgium)
- Best organic restaurant: Lilla Bjers HB (Sweden)



Advocating for organic research and innovation – TP ORGANICS



[TP Organics](#) is one of the 40 [European Technology Platforms](#) (ETPs) officially recognised by the European Commission. As an ETP, TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. It develops research & innovation agendas and roadmaps for research action at the EU and national levels. R&I is crucial for developing the organic sector and designing more sustainable food systems. That is why it advocates for more research funding benefiting organic and agroecological approaches. TP Organics functions as an innovation broker and is the main advocacy organisation of the organic movement for EU Research and Innovation policy.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we continued hosting and taking a leading role in TP Organics. In 2022, TP Organics followed the development and implementation of two new European Research & Innovation Partnerships:

- [The partnership candidate on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures](#) (in short: Agroecology Partnership); and
- [The one on sustainable food systems for people, planet and climate](#) (in short: Sustainable Food Systems Partnership).

TP Organics also launched a new study, "[Organic living labs and lighthouse farms in Europe](#)". It puts the spotlight on seven living labs and five lighthouse farms in the organic sector in Europe, putting farmers at the centre of research, innovation, and knowledge exchange.

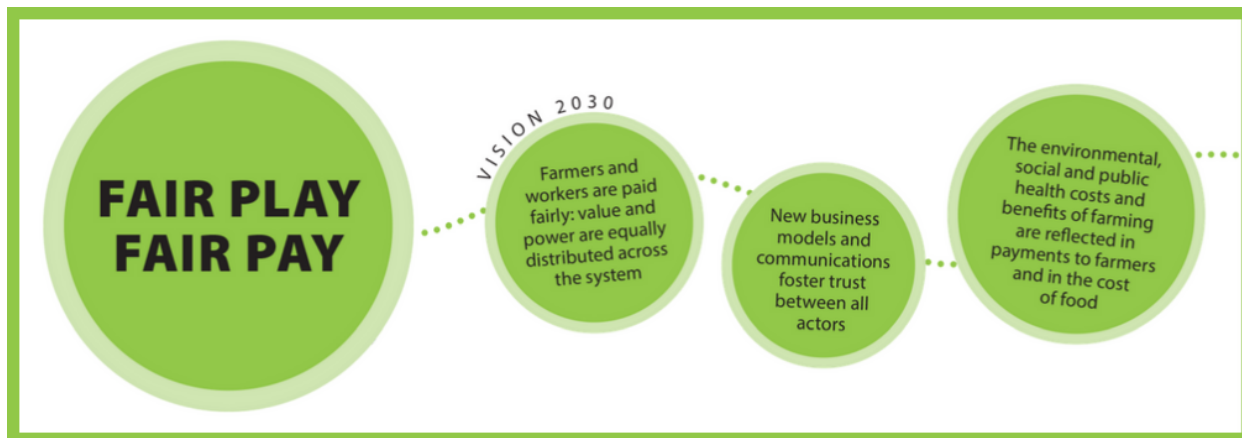
Finding alternatives to contentious inputs in organic



IFOAM Organics Europe aims to reduce the exposure of organic farming to external inputs. A cornerstone of our efforts in this area was the [RELACS project](#), which came to an end on 29 April 2022. RELACS promoted the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools, and technologies to reduce the use of external inputs in organic farming systems. IFOAM Organics Europe was responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue. We would like to thank all actors involved for turning great ideas into reality. Before it ended, the project had produced 26 scientific papers, 20 practical guidelines, 8 deliverables and reports, three roadmaps, and one new video. The research heritage of RELACS will certainly guide many future developments in organic crop production.

FAIR PLAY – FAIR PAY

The roadmap's third pillar to achieve our vision for 2030 is '[Fair play – Fair pay](#)'. In 2022, we committed to increasing credibility, fairness and transparency in the organic value chain. In particular, we focused on fighting greenwashing and ensuring labels would not deceive consumers. Europe needs to develop and adopt a basic set of key indicators showing the impacts on soil quality, water use, waste production, energy, and suchlike. For food systems to be transparent and fair, all actors need to work together to ensure that value and power are fairly distributed among all the operators in the system, and that the costs and benefits of food production are accounted for.



Ensuring labels don't deceive

The position of IFOAM Organics Europe is that a label should have a score based on the indicators that reflect the complexities of the agri-food system rather than a narrow metric. In 2022 our work on ensuring that labels do not deceive consumers focused on sustainability labelling and nutrition labelling.

While we are committed to fighting greenwashing, we criticised the [European Commission's efforts to substantiate green claims](#). Most notably, we objected the choice of the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) as the methodology to measure the environmental impact of food products. We voiced our concerns by publishing [a position paper on sustainability labelling and the Planet-Score](#) in which we emphasised the need for robust methodologies that go beyond the limitations of the PEF. In the paper, we observed that life cycle analysis (LCA) methodology, at the basis of the PEF, leads to continuity with the current intensive system. We also noted that the PEF does not take into account the use of inputs like pesticides, negative and positive externalities of different agriculture production methods on biodiversity, soil quality, deforestation or planetary boundaries.

Furthermore, we proposed the Planet-score, a tool that assesses the environmental impact by looking at externalities, as an alternative to the PEF. In cooperation with three MEPs from the Greens/EFA (Benoit Biteau, Claude Gruffat and Michèle Rivasi) and ITAB, IFOAM Organics Europe co-organised [a day of events on 26 October on sustainability labelling and the Planet-Score](#). Three events took place on that day: a direct action in a supermarket in Brussels, near the European Parliament, where MEPs applied a logo based on the PEF methodology and the Planet-Score, a press conference in the European Parliament, and [a webinar gathering economic, political, and technical experts](#). The webinar provided a more detailed overview because it informed on the technical part of the methodology and included the perspectives from the agricultural and food sectors as well as the textile and retailing sectors.

In 2022, we followed the legislative development of a front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition label. Until 7 March 2022, the European Commission called on stakeholders to give advice through the public consultation on the [revision of the rules on information provided to consumers](#). This consultation focused on nutrition labelling, origin labelling, and date marking. IFOAM Organics Europe had previously [provided feedback to the roadmap](#) regarding this initiative stressing that a nutrition label is not the most effective in changing consumer behaviour. We also expressed concerns related to the Nutri-Score nutrition label as it does not take into account the naturalness of food products. IFOAM Organics Europe believes that a front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition labelling will not, on its own, provide a solution to overweight and obesity. In August, IFOAM Organics Europe published a new [position paper on "Nutrition labelling & Nutri-Score"](#). This paper reaffirms the commitment of IFOAM Organics Europe to support a real and broad transformation of the food environment which goes beyond the implementation of a mandatory harmonised FOP label. We believe that empowering consumers to make informed, healthy, and sustainable food choices, requires raising awareness about nutrition but also different methods of production and the degree of processing of food.

FOOD LABELLING, PART OF THE SOLUTION?

Examples of the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology

Eggs from caged hens
Score A

Free range & organic eggs
Score A

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ALBA RAPUNZEL

This publication is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

Mobilising policy support for organic textile label

ORGANIC TEXTILES, PART OF THE SOLUTION

Cotton production accounts for:

- 16.1% of the world's insecticides use (more than any other crop) and 5.7% of the world's pesticides use
- 8.2 million tonnes of chemicals

Textiles industry accounts for:

- 3 billion tonnes CO₂/year
- 1,000 kg of textiles: 15-35 tonnes CO₂
- 6.7% global greenhouse gas emissions
- And harmful impacts on biodiversity, water quality & human health

Organic cotton, part of the solution

- Uses no hazardous pesticides & fertilisers
- 46% less global warming potential
- 62% less energy
- 70% less acidification
- 90% less water used
- 26% less eutrophication

Organic cotton: an expanding market

2018-2019	2019-2020
222,213 farmers	229,280 farmers
grew 239,787 tonnes	grew 249,153 tonnes
on 418,935 hectares	on 588,425 hectares
in 19 countries	in 21 countries

Consumers want to act but false claims and greenwashing can be confusing

60% green claims in textile sector are exaggerated, false or deceptive

EU consumers care about environmental and labour conditions

- 82% think there is not enough information on environmental impacts
- 86% wants labels on clothes with indications about environmental and labour conditions

Organic textiles

- Ensure high environmental and social standards
- Prevent greenwashing
- Give consumers a clear environmental choice
- Protect organic producers

EU policymakers can help

- Protect the use of the term "organic" in the same way as it is for the food chain
- Amend the 2011 EU Textile Regulation to allow for a definition of organic textiles
- Recognise already-existing organic standards

Read more & sources:

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- Special Eurobarometer 91: *Attitudes of European Citizens towards the Environment*, European Commission March 2020.
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ALBA RAPUNZEL

This publication is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA).

We reacted to the publication of the EU strategy for circular and sustainable textiles right after its publication in Spring 2022. We provided feedback to the European

Commission on different files such as the [Sustainable Products Initiative](#) and on the transition pathway on textiles. We also started contacting MEPs in July 2022 to raise awareness of organic textiles also within the European Parliament. In August, we published our position paper on the issue titled "[Organic textiles – Protecting the credibility of the organic label](#)" in which we

urged for the protection of organic textiles. The argument of the paper is that the credibility of the term “organic” in relation to textiles needs to be protected in the same way that organic food is in the EU. As such, the paper gives various recommendations on how to do so and thus prevent greenwashing issues riddling the ‘sustainable textile’ sector. We presented this argument also during a meeting with DG Grow on 7 October. This publication coincided with a period of significant political momentum. While the EU strategy did not explicitly address organic textiles, it did signal the reopening of the 2011 Regulation on textile fibre names, offering a potential avenue for protecting organic textiles.

In November, our focus shifted towards addressing potential risks associated with the legislative proposals on green claims, particularly in the apparel and footwear sectors. Regarding this issue, [we sent a joint letter to Executive Vice-President Timmermans and other EU commissioners which underscored the shortcomings of the Product Environmental Footprint \(PEF\)](#) and stressed the necessity of a comprehensive approach, applicable to all agri-food products including textiles.

Building bridges in the organic supply chain



On 30 November, we organised the [IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business event](#) in Brussels. This successful platform for exchange between players from the entire (organic) supply chain brings together IFOAM Organics Europe’s members and their members, as well as companies involved or interested in organic.

Event participants discussed current hot topics and trends in organic, including relevant political developments for organic and the state of play of the organic market, the relationship between regenerative agriculture and organic, pesticide residues, and organic regulation.



WHO WE ARE

OUR MEMBERS

Our members make us what we are and decide our official positions. As a membership-based organisation, we represent almost [200 members in 34 European countries](#). What makes us unique is that our members and work span the entire organic food chain.

We work closely with our members to ensure that our positions reflect the day-to-day business of organic farmers, processors, certifiers, retailers and other practitioners across Europe. This allows us to represent the voice of the entire organic food chain vis-à-vis the EU institutions. Through our close ties with key agricultural, environmental and technical decision-makers at local, regional, national and European level, the European institutions recognise IFOAM Organics Europe as the leading advocate for organic food and farming in the EU.

We thank all our members for their active work and efforts towards Making Europe More Organic! [See some of them speak at our 20-year anniversary celebration](#).

Are you interested in becoming a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to ensure your voice is heard? [Check out our website](#) or email [\[email protected\]](#) for more information on how you can become a member.

HOW WE WORK

Interest groups

Our four [interest groups](#) bring together the huge expertise of our members and directly involve different sectors in IFOAM Organics Europe's organisation and work. The interest groups formulate official policies and positions relevant for their sector:

1. **Interest Group of Organic Certifiers (IGOC):** IGOC's Steering Committee gathered at four e-meetings throughout the year to work on specific topics, such as the future of certification as well as organic supply chain integrity. The Steering Committee drafted a definition of the integrity of the organic supply chain, which was discussed, among other topics, with all IGOC members during the group meeting held in December 2020.
2. **Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF):** The IGOF gathered at four e-meetings throughout the year, to discuss topics such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, access to land in the EU, the Organic Action Plan, or livestock issues. Some IGOF members also decided to create a subgroup and work specifically on animal welfare labelling.
3. **Interest Group of Organic Processors (IGOP):** The IGOP organised four e-meetings throughout the year and discussed topics like the secondary legislation of the new EU Organic Regulation, flavourings, cleaning and disinfectants, and food and environmental claims. They also met online during the IGOP annual general meeting, and together with other companies during [IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business in December 2020](#).
4. **Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR):** The IGOR had four e-meetings throughout the year to discuss topics such as addressing the COVID-19 crisis, plastic free packaging, the Farm to Fork strategy and the new EU Organic Action Plan.

Are you interested in becoming part of one of our interest groups? Contact [\[email protected\]](#) for questions about membership and expressions of interest about the interest groups.

Working groups

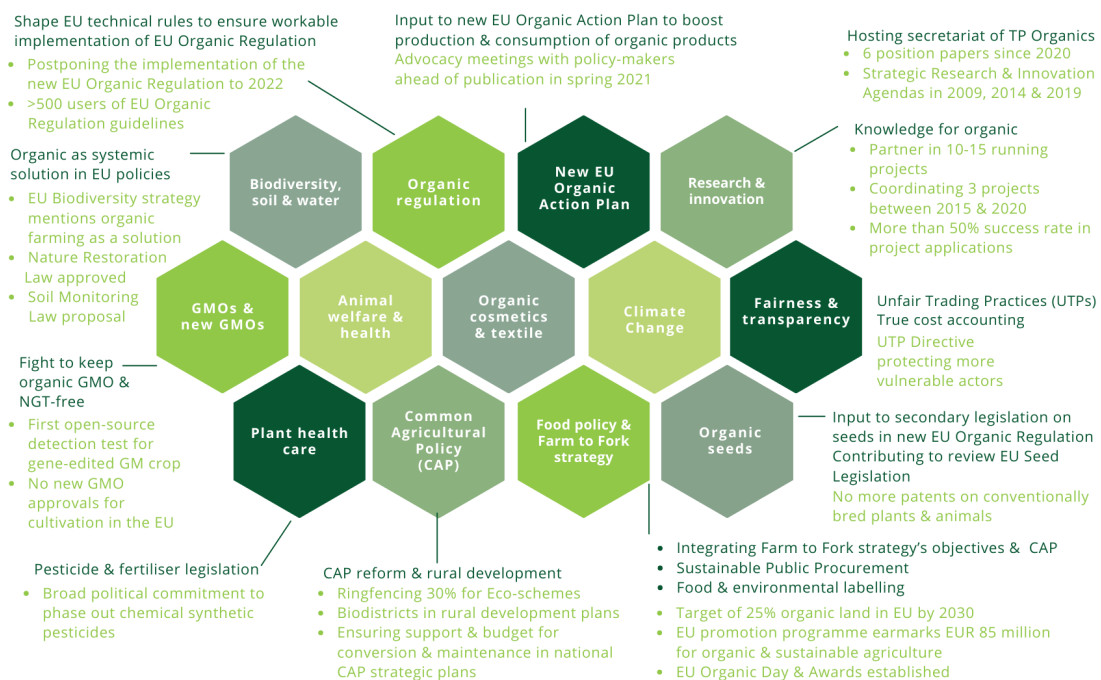
Our [working groups](#) formulate positions, highlight important developments, and advise IFOAM Organics Europe's Board and Council. They regularly exchange on topics relevant to their areas of expertise:

1. IFOAM Aquaculture Forum – EU coordination
2. Central and Eastern Europe Expert Group (Capacity Building)
3. European Organic Comms Hub (Expert group on communication)
4. Expert Group on Plant Protection Products and Fertilisers
5. Expert Group on Seeds

When political developments and developments within the movement call for it, we set up [task forces](#) with members excelling on the topics. In 2022, we had task forces on:

1. Climate Change and Biodiversity
2. New Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
3. Pesticide Use & Contamination
4. Statutes

OUR ADVOCACY TOPICS



OUR TEAM

The office team of IFOAM Organics Europe manages the day-to-day operations and activities to represent organic interests in Europe. They are supported by consultants where necessary.

Below you find their contact information. Feel free to reach out to them if you have any questions. Please note that we prioritise questions from our [members](#), NGO network, media and service providers.

The office staff of IFOAM Organics Europe is divided in 8 units:

- [Leadership](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Events and memberships](#)
- [Finance and office operations](#)
- [Policy](#)
- [Projects and partnerships](#)
- [Regulation](#)
- [Research and innovation](#)
-

PROJECTS WE WERE PART OF

The projects we coordinated in 2022



[BIOFRUITNET](#)

BIOFRUITNET will strengthen the competitiveness of European organic fruit production through strong knowledge networks. Within BIOFRUITNET, IFOAM Organics Europe leads the knowledge transfer and dissemination through easy-to-read end user materials, such as practice abstracts and videos. IFOAM Organics Europe is also responsible for developing a communication kit to maximize the impact of BIOFRUITNET at events, fairs, and congresses. BIOFRUITNET is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



[EUREKA](#)

Eureka will build a European knowledge repository for best agricultural practices, as well as boost knowledge interaction and connectivity between different knowledge reservoirs and existing initiatives. IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to contribute to the project with its expertise on organic farming and experience with multi-actor projects in the organic sector. EUREKA is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



[ClimateFarmDemo](#)

Climate Farm Demo will increase, speed-up and disseminate climate smart farming practices and tools through a network of 1,500 pilot farms across Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe will facilitate knowledge sharing and developing synergies between Climate Farm Demo and other EU projects, policymakers and flagship initiatives. IFOAM Organics Europe is the organic sector's thematic leader. IDELE coordinates Climate Farm Demo which will run until the end of September 2029.



[EU-FarmBook](#)

Within EU-FarmBook, IFOAM Organics Europe ensures the information on the platform suits the needs of organic actors. We will also promote the FarmBook platform and link it up to the already existing knowledge platform for the organic sector: [Organic Farm Knowledge](#).

Additionally, IFOAM Organics Europe will be involved in the creation of Education and Training material, such as practice abstracts and communication materials such as webcasts, farm cafes and knowledge exchange seminars. Ghent University coordinates the EU-FarmBook project which will run until the end of 2029, consisting of a consortium of 29 participating organizations.



[NEFERTITI](#)

The NEFERTITI project is an EU-wide connected network of demonstration and pilot farms to enhance knowledge exchange and innovation uptake. It established 10 interactive thematic networks, connected 45 regional clusters of demo-farmers and related actors in 17 countries. IFOAM Organics Europe is a partner in the project.



[SchoolFood4Change](#)

The SchoolFood4Change (SF4C) project started in January 2022 and includes 43 partners (including affiliates), contributing to the ambitious target of reaching at least two million EU citizens, by directly impacting over 3,000 schools and 600,000 young people in 12 EU countries. Focusing on children, SchoolFood4Change strives for a long-lasting impact on the whole food system that will benefit both the people and the planet.



[RELACS](#)

RELACS promoted the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of external inputs in organic farming systems. IFOAM Organics Europe was responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue. RELACS was an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



[OrganicTargets4EU](#)

The Horizon Europe project OrganicTargets4EU (2022-2026) aims to help reach 25% of agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030. IFOAM Organics Europe leads this project which is working on outcomes that will drive the growth and development of the organic sector focusing on policy implementation, evidence-based decision making, increased and coordinated Research & Innovation and increased knowledge sharing. The project results will be discussed in a multi-actor policy dialogue and it will make recommendations for the CAP strategic plans and EU/national organic action plans from 2025-2027 and from 2028 onwards.

EVENTS WE ORGANISED AND CONTRIBUTED TO



[IFOAM Organics Europe 20th Anniversary Event](#)

- **What?** More than 100 people representing the European organic supply chain, consisting of farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, including researchers and more, gathered in Brussels to celebrate the 20 years anniversary of IFOAM Organics Euro. The event was also attended by Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
- **When & where?** 11 May, Brussels, Belgium



[European Organic Congress 2022](#)

- **What?** IFOAM Organics Europe's high-level event to discuss and exchange with policymakers and organic stakeholders about current topics, such as the new EU Organic Regulation, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), an Organic Action Plan, the Farm to Fork Strategy and possible scenarios for a European food and farming system.
- **When & where?** 16-17 June, Bordeaux France.

[BIOFACH 2022](#)

- **What?** The world's leading trade fair for organic food. IFOAM Organics Europe organises daily side events at the fair's European edition. The annual 'Policy Day' is organised together with BIOFACH. TP Organics co-organises the annual 'Science Day'.

- **When & where?** 26-29 July 2022, Nürnberg Germany.



Organics Europe Youth Event 2022

- **What?** The Youth Event brings together young people with diverse backgrounds: from farmers to retailers and processors, from activists to politicians. The event fosters cross-fertilisation between different disciplines and generates innovative ideas for the future of organic production.

- **When & where?** 31 August – 01 September 2022, Frick Switzerland.



Organic innovation Days 2022

- **What?** The Organic Innovation Days of [TP Organics](#) serve to discuss research needs and innovations within and outside the organic sector. IFOAM Organics Europe hosts TP Organics' secretariat and promotes the event.

- **When & where?** 11-12 October 2022, Brussels and Flanders Belgium.



IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2022

- **What?** An annual event bringing the organic food industry closer together.

- **When & where?** 30 November, Brussels Belgium.

TP ORGANICS: EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING



By hosting TP Organics' secretariat, IFOAM Organics Europe contributes to ensure Research & Innovation (R&I) is making Europe more organic. [TP Organics](#) is the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming and plays a key role in

highlighting what areas European R&I funding should focus on. The platform unites the whole organic value chain, with more than 120 companies, farmer, consumer, and civil society organisations as well as research institutes. As a European Technology Platform, TP Organics is officially recognised by the European Commission for giving input in research policy and programmes, developing research & innovation agendas and roadmaps for research action at EU and national level. R&I is crucial for the development of the organic sector and the design of more sustainable food systems. That is why TP Organics advocates for more research funding benefiting organic and agroecological approaches, while also promoting research participation and knowledge exchange between the organic actors.

THE IFOAM NETWORK



IFOAM Organics Europe is one of the regional bodies of IFOAM – Organics International, the global umbrella organisation for organic food and farming. IFOAM Organics Europe and IFOAM – Organics International collaborate closely on many important issues.

Mirroring the principles and structure of IFOAM – Organics International, we represent the organic movement and sector's interests in Europe. We strive to unite and lead the European organic movement in its full diversity to achieve positive, sustainable change around the world. Along with the other Regional Bodies, we work in line with [Organic 3.0](#) and according to the [four principles of organic agriculture](#).

[Find more information about IFOAM's different regional bodies, national groups, and sector platforms on our website.](#)

GOVERNANCE

Board

The [IFOAM Organics Europe Board](#) acts as a first chamber, directs our affairs and develops detailed budgets and work programmes in accordance with IFOAM Organics Europe Vision and internal strategy together with our General Assembly and Council. Our members elect IFOAM Organics Europe Board every three years during the annual [General Assembly](#), according to sector-related and regional criteria. Once the Board is elected, its members vote for a President, a Treasurer, a Vice-President for Regulation and a Vice-President for Policy during the first Board meeting.

Council

The [IFOAM Organics Europe Council](#) acts as a second chamber to the [IFOAM Organics Europe Board](#) and transmits national interests and specificities to the European level. Every three years, national assemblies – all IFOAM Organics Europe's members of a given Member State or EFTA country – elect their national representatives. IFOAM Organics Europe's Council consists of one Council member and two Deputy Council members from each EU country at most. Following the IFOAM Organics Europe [General Assembly](#), the Council elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair among its members for a three-year term.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CDG	Civil Dialogue Group
COCEGA	General Confederation of Agricultural Cooperatives
COMAGRI	European Parliament Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
COPA	Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations
DA	Delegated Act
DG	Director-General
DG ENVI	Director-General for the Environment
DG GROW	Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
DG SANTE	Director-General for Health and Food Safety
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ENGA	European Non-GMO Industry Association
ETP	European Technology Platform
FOP	Front of the Label
FPC	Food Policy Coalition
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
H2020	Horizon 2020
HRI-1	Harmonised Risk Indicator 1
	Interest Group of Organic Certifiers
IGOC	
IGOR	Interest Group of Organic Retailers
IGOP	Interest Group of Organic Processors
IGOF	IGOF Interest Group of Organic Farmers
INMAP	Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan
LCA	Life Cycle Analysis
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
NGT	New Genomic Technique
NODU	NOmbre de Doses Unités (Number of Dose Units)
OEYE	Organics Europe Youth Even
PEF	Product Environmental Footprint
PRM	Plant Reproductive Material
R&I	Research and Investment
SAIO	Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs
SUR	Sustainable Use Regulation

COLOPHON

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EUROPE



ABOCA

RAPUNZEL



NANA BIO



CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT
EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

YEAR OF ORGANICS



YEAR OF ORGANICS



YEAR OF ORGANICS



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