IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE'S ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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WELCOME NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear reader,

As IFOAM Organic Europe's President, it is my pleasure to present our 2023 annual report. In its pages, you will discover the endeavours of IFOAM Organics Europe in transforming European food and farming throughout 2023. As the leading umbrella organization for the European organic sector representing nearly 200 members across 34 countries, we are committed to creating a healthy, resilient, and biodiverse food system in Europe.

In 2023, IFOAM Organics Europe navigated a shifting European and global landscape beset by changing political priorities, concerns for weaker consumer demand, rising inflation, and weaker initiatives from the EU governments. In addition, 2023 witnessed some worrying political developments that risk negatively impacting consumers' choices and the health of citizens, besides undermining the environmental goals of the EU's Farm to Fork and New Green Deal Strategies. Given these challenges, expanding, developing, and innovating organic practices in Europe has become more vital than ever to ensure healthier food choices for consumers and sustainability in food production systems.

Worryingly enough, some have used the Farm to Fork and New Green Deal as scapegoats for current concerns with food security in Europe and are leveraging these concerns to call for a rollback of the EU's environmental goal. However, IFOAM Organics Europe remains committed to these crucial policies as they are key tools for the agroecological transition in the EU. Now more than ever, we need a clearer vision that takes into account long-term effects and holistic approaches rather than a short-sighted focus on increasing outputs and technological quick fixes. In this respect, IFOAM Organics Europe remains resolute in its goal to ensure the role of organic in the EU as a leading model to transform food and farming.

This new political context will also be instrumental in setting the direction of our newly elected board, which started its mandate in 2023. Our board and interest group will have to focus their efforts on revising our strategy to better adapt to the changes and forge a stronger path for organic in Europe.

On the policy level, 2023 was a busy year for IFOAM Organics Europe as we were deeply engaged in advocacy work, addressing critical issues in European food and farming. An example of this is our advocacy effort to maintain the regulation of genetically modified organisms in the EU. Ensuring regulation and labelling of GMO-derived plants is paramount for IFOAM Organics Europe, as it is instrumental to preserving consumers' right to choose GMO-free foods. Furthermore, with a focus on ensuring healthier diets, we pursued our dedicated effort to promote sustainable and organic food in public procurement through measures such as minimum mandatory criteria in public institutions.

Our environmental concerns were equally at the forefront of our activities in 2023. Through, our advocacy initiatives, we focused on ensuring the upcoming EU environmental legislation would recognise the environmental benefits of organic and take into account its potential for easing the climate, soil, and biodiversity crisis.

Our efforts also extended to the fight against "greenwashing", since another key area of our work in 2023 related to the Green Claims Directive on environmental labelling. In this regard, IFOAM Organic Europe is actively working to ensure consumers' rights to free and transparent food choices, and we reject any attempts to misguide European citizens interested in greener diets.

But while 203 was quite a hectic year, there is still a lot more to do in view of the upcoming EU elections and the many EU policy files that remain open such as NGTs, Green Claims, and the Sustainable Food Systems (SFS).

I would also like to mention the other important aspect of IFOAM's work – its research and innovation activities, which are instrumental to developing a more resilient organic sector. A key partner in this is TP Organics, the European technology platform for organic food and farming which has taken a leading role in several EU-funded research initiatives on organic. Throughout 2023, we continued our involvement in numerous EU-funded projects aiming to find innovative solutions capable of achieving the highest potential of organic production in Europe. From developing integrated pest management strategies to exploring the benefits of intercropping and organic plant breeding, we were active in exploring venues or research for making organic more competitive and resilient.

I kindly invite you to read the 2023 for a comprehensive outlook of our initiatives throughout the year. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our board, council, and interest group members, as well as all the IFOAM Organics Europe's members who are giving us their support, as well as the IFOAM Organics Europe staff for their incredible work. All of you are key components in making our 2030 Vision into reality. Together with the farmers retailers, and consumers who are making the organic choice every day, you are contributing to creating a healthier and sustainable lifestyle for everyone.

Organic regards,

Jan Plagge, IFOAM Organics Europe President

ORGANICS IN EUROPE AT A GLANCE

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Since 1991, the EU Organic Regulation regulates organic farming at the EU level. Until 31 December 2021, Council Regulation (EC) no 834/2007 set the European organic production requirements by defining its aims, objectives, and principles. Two implementing regulations (No 889/2008 and No 1235/2008) detail organic production, labelling, control and import rules. These regulations used to apply to all products with the organic label sold in the EU.

In 2011, the European Commission announced the revision of the legal framework for organic production. Three years later, it presented a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and Council of the EU. After a long revision process, the new organic regulation (EU) 2018/848 was adopted by the Parliament and Council and published in June 2018.

The new EU Organic Regulation was set to apply from 1 January 2021, but due to the difficulties posed by COVID-19, IFOAM Organics Europe asked for postponing the new EU Organic Regulation's implementation with one-year. Thanks to the joined efforts we did together with our members, we did what seemed impossible – we managed to postpone the implementation of the EU Organic Regulation with one year. This gave many organic operators the time to (better) prepare for the changes to their day-to-day business.

Since 1 January 2022 the new Regulation (EU) 2018/848 applies and is complemented by a significant number of secondary acts (implementing and delegated regulations). The new EU Organic Regulation also contains many references to other EU horizontal legislations (on food, official controls, fertilisers, flavourings, etc.). By now, reading the new EU Organic regulation is far from easy. We have developed guidelines to help operators navigate the regulations' legal labyrinth – they are available on regulation.organicseurope.bio and will be updated in 2024.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

European organic farming practices are greatly influenced by a variety of European initiatieves and policies, including the European Green Deal (EGD) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

With the European Green Deal's publication in December 2019, the Commission launched "a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use". The European Green Deal includes two important strategies for the organic sector: the Farm to Fork Strategy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy (2020).

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 recognised organic as part of the solution to more sustainable food systems. IFOAM Organics Europe believes this target is ambitious but achievable if the right mechanisms are in place.

One of the flagship initiatives of the Farm to Fork Strategy is the proposal for a legislative framework for sustainable food systems (SFS). This initiative aims to make the EU food system more sustainable, strengthen its resilience, and integrate sustainability into all food-related policies. It lays down rules on the sustainability labelling of food products and minimum criteria for sustainable public procurement of food. While the law was scheduled to be adopted by the Commission in the third quarter of this year, it has been indefinitely delayed and it is not clear if it will be presented before the end of this Commission's mandate in October 2024.

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy** aims to recover Europe's biodiversity by 2030. To do this, it states that 25% of the EU's agricultural land should be farmed organically.

An important tool to reach the 25% goal and further develop the organic sector is the 2021-2027 Organic Action Plan, published by the Commission on 25 March 2021. It aims at balancing increases in both production of and demand for organic products. The new Organic Action Plan increases the share of research and innovation funding for organic under Horizon Europe to at least 30% of the budget for R&I actions in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas to topics specific to or relevant to the organic sector.

Another key element of the EU Biodiversity strategy is the Nature Restoration Law, which proposal was adopted by the Commission on 22 June 2022. The proposal combines an overarching restoration objective for the long-term recovery of nature in the EU's land and sea areas with binding restoration targets for specific habitats and species. These measures should cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and ultimately all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. While the law was adopted by MEPs in July 2023, the articles have been watered down compared to the original Commission's proposal and the Council's position.

The **Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP) is the main policy instrument that could make the many objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies a reality – around 30% of the EU budget goes to the CAP. Since its creation, the CAP has already undergone significant reforms. The creation of Rural Development (Pillar II) was crucial to develop organic farming and other sustainable farming practices. It is now key that this major EU policy is reformed even further to put sustainability at the core of its architecture. On 23 November 2021, the European Parliament's Plenary adopted the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (2023-2027) Regulation. The new CAP Strategic Plan Regulation maintains the two-pillar architecture but includes a new direction towards more subsidiarity and an attempt to introduce a performance-based delivery model. This gives Member States more flexibility to design their CAP Strategic Plans at the national level.

The new legal framework created:

- New social conditionality enhancing farmers' and farm workers' rights, mandatory as of 2025, to ensure that the CAP payments are linked to a compliance with certain European labour law provisions.
- New 'Green Architecture' consisting of:
  - New 'Eco-schemes' with a ringfenced budget of 25% of the first Pillar after a two-year transition period (2023-2024). They are mandatory for Member States and voluntary for farmers;
  - Nine Good Agricultural and Environmental Land Conditions (GAECs) in the first Pillar, also known as the conditionality to receive CAP payments; and
  - Agri-environmental and Climate Measures (AECMs) account for 35% budget of the second Pillar.

In November 2021, the Commission published the EU Soil Strategy for 2030 as one of the EU Biodiversity Strategy's commitments. The Soil Strategy addresses the importance of healthy soils for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, ecosystem services, food production, and the economy. As part of this, a new Soil Monitoring Law was proposed on 5 July 2023 to ensure a level playing field and a high level of environmental and health protection. It is a key deliverable of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and aims to contribute to the objectives of the European Green Deal.

In December 2021, the European Commission introduced the 'Sustainable Carbon Cycles' communication outlining the EU-wide Carbon Removal Certification Framework's design. The final draft regulation was released on November 30, 2022, and underwent negotiations in 2023. This framework incentivizes investments in carbon removal and storage within EU Member States, covering processes in land use and technical sectors. It aims to contribute to the 2050 climate neutrality target and other environmental objectives by ensuring high-quality carbon removal through established criteria and rules for monitoring and verification.

On 5 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for the European Parliament and Council on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625. Following the proposal, NGT (New Genomic Techniques) plants falling under 'category 1' would undergo a verification process based on set criteria. If they meet these criteria, they would be treated like conventionally bred plants and exempted from GMO legislation requirements. The legislative process in the European Parliament and European Council started after the publication of the proposal, with votes in the AGRI and ENVI committees.

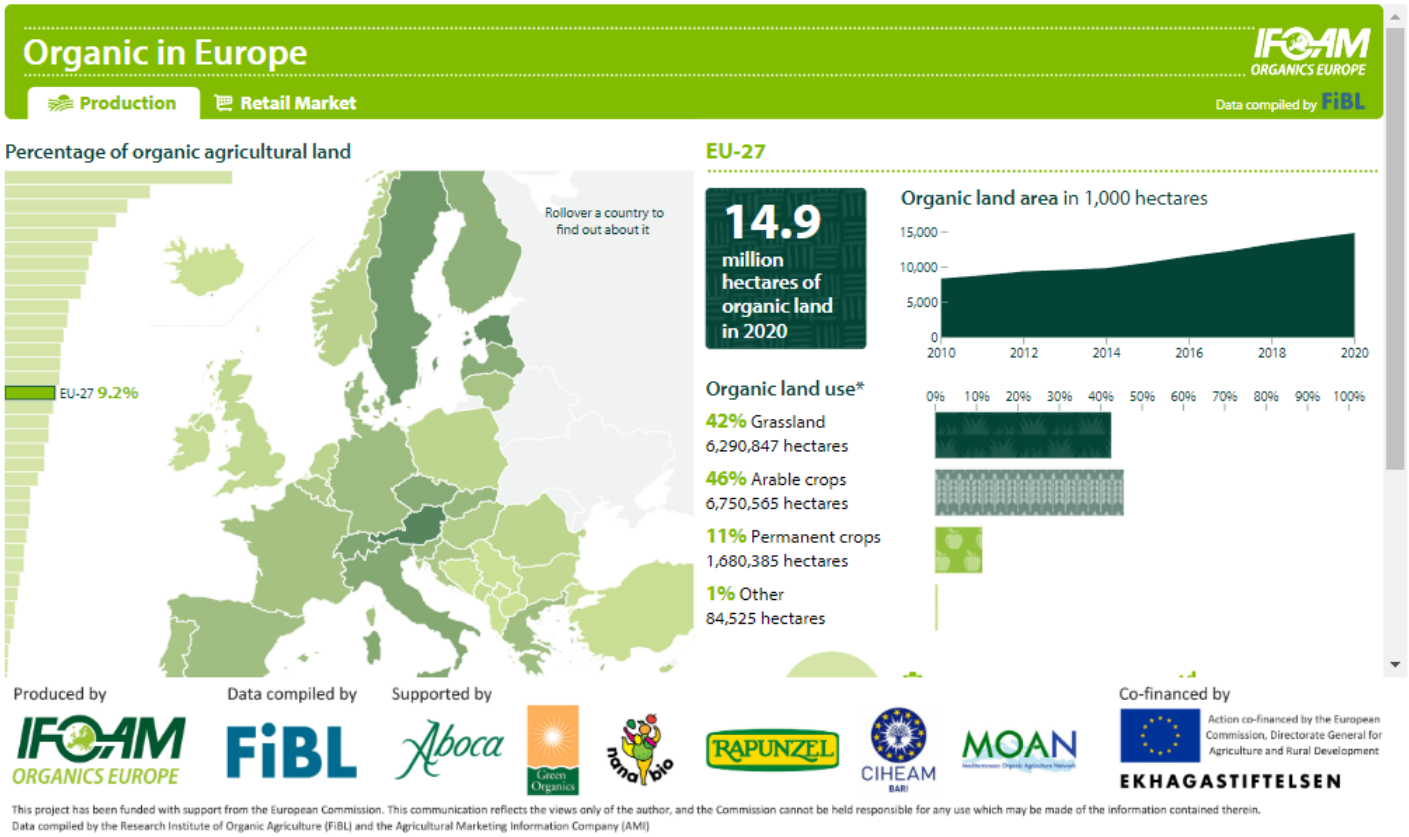
The EU Organic Day, 23 September, launched by the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Council of the European Union in 2021, represents the occasion to assess trends in consumer demands, continue raising awareness of organic in the supply chain, and finally, define new targets for the future of organic in Europe. This day is one of the actions in the EU Organic Action Plan to increase supply and demand for organic.

ORGANIC MARKET AND PRODUCTION

In 2022, the EU's total area of farmland under organic production grew to 16.9 million hectares. Compared to 2021, the number of organic producers in the EU increased by 10.8% to 419,112. However, the EU's organic retail market does not accompany the significant production growth, decreasing by 3% as to 2021 data and resulting in45.1 billion EUR, still the second largest market, after the USA and followed by China. While the organic market moderately contracted in 2022, it generally remains as it was before the 2020 peak. Trends from 2019 to 2023 even indicate that the organic market is growing as anticipated, reflecting sustained interest and potential for future expansion in this sector.

Overall, the EU's organic market is very dynamic with growth rates varying between different countries. Its continuous positive development is due to a combination of factors. Besides the innovative character of organic food and farming, growing policy support and European citizens increasing demand for high-quality, sustainable food production, despite the geopolitical situation and the ongoing war in Ukraine. This is well represented in the growing per capita consumption of organic products, which reached 102 EUR on average. Generally speaking, consumers spend more on organic food every year with certain product groups achieving above-average market shares.

Browse our interactive infographic with country-specific data and trends on organic production and retail.



ORGANIC AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an urgent call to action for all nations to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. They address the global challenges related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

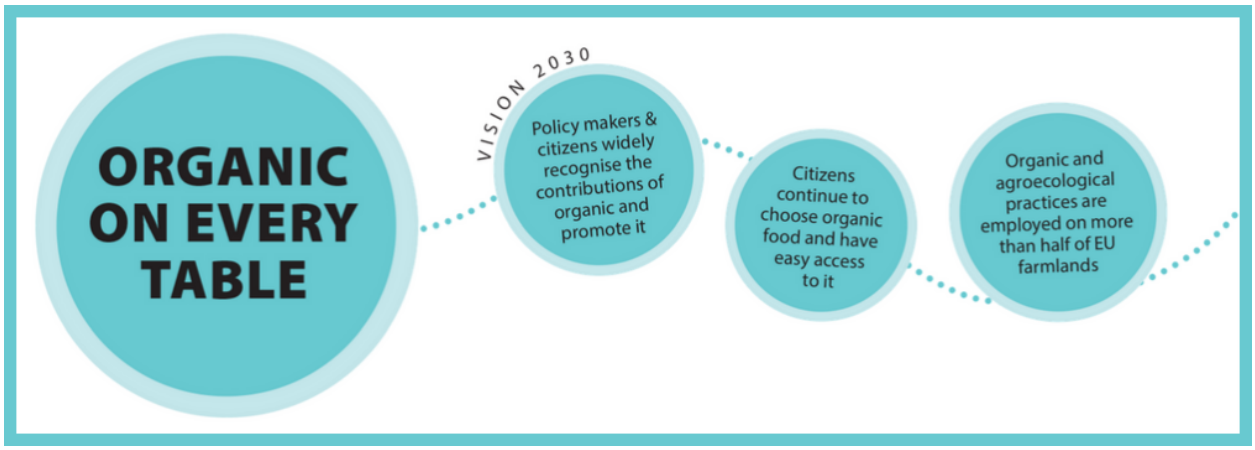
Organic agriculture is part of the solutions to many problems the SDGs are meant to face. Investing in organic food and farming can improve our chances of successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on the 17 SDGs.

- **Goal 2** – Zero hunger: Organic farming offers many environmental and social advantages as it trains farmers in low-cost agroecological farming methods, building on local management skills and resources, enabling them to grow nutritious food and combat hunger in their communities. Organic agriculture supports ecologically sound food systems that increase and stabilize yields, improve resistance to pests and diseases and battle poverty by reducing debt incurred by the purchase of chemical inputs, thus fostering food security. As 95% of our food comes directly and indirectly from the soil, we need farming practices that protect our soil. That is why the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) encourages organic agriculture as one of the five forms of sustainable farming practices.
- **Goal 3** – Good health and well-being: Healthy and sustainable food can only come from healthy sustainable agriculture. By not using harmful chemicals in growing food, chemicals which deplete soils and contaminate water, and with fewer antibiotics, organic farming improves the health of farmers, the environment, farmworkers and society as a whole.
- **Goal 6** – Clean water and sanitation: Organic farming prevents the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By managing nutrients more carefully and reducing nitrogen and phosphorus leaching, organic farmers help protect our water systems from pesticide run-off and keep our water clean. Moreover, the use of compost by organic farmers instead of artificial fertilizers increases soil life and organic matter content. This creates the 'sponge effect' and allows organic farmers to use up to 60% less water compared to non-organic farms.
- **Goal 8** – Decent work and economic growth: Sustainable agriculture practices like organic farming have a positive impact on local economies, promote resources circulation and reduce dependency on external inputs. Organic farms often create more jobs and better incomes for farmers and workers, as in addition to organic price premium organic certification can also be associated with indirect economic benefits such as training, credit, and special education programs, especially in developing countries. There, organic farms are also generally perceived as a safer working environment because workers do not come into contact with harmful chemicals.
- **Goal 12** – Responsible Consumption and production: Organic farming practices target more efficient use of natural resources such as soil, water, and air. It is for instance more energy efficient as organic farmers do not use energy-intensive synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and organic ruminants are largely fed on grass instead of energy-intensive concentrate feed. By assessing environmental, social, and economic costs and benefits of food production, and by making them 'visible', organic farming contributes to long-term sustainable food production. Raising awareness of the true cost of food production could also play a major role in reducing retail and consumer food waste.
- **Goal 13** – Climate Action: Research shows that the production of synthetic fertilizers is the second-largest source of emissions of CO2 in agriculture. Instead of being dependent on synthetic fertilizers, organic farmers apply beneficial soil management practices to ensure soil fertility (e.g., crop rotation, cover crops, minimum tillage, and compost). This also results in higher soil carbon sequestration compared to conventional farms. Practices like the use of compost help organic farmers also to improve the water retention capacity of the soil. Thus, organic farming makes farms more resilient, helps mitigate climate change and adapt to weather extremities such as floods, droughts, and land degradations processes.
- **Goal 14** – Life below water: Organic farming protects our water and its biodiversity by significantly reducing nutrient pollution through synthetic pesticide and fertilizer use, which are one of the main causes of marine dead zones.
- **Goal 15** – Life on Land: Organic farming increases the abundance and diversity of species. Organically managed lands often have more semi-natural habitats which help to protect and preserve biodiversity, and host on average 30% more varieties of flora and fauna and 50% more individual plants compared to farms that rely on intensive agrochemical use. Organic farmers also protect and enrich soil biodiversity (which represents 25% of the world's biodiversity) thanks to soil management practices supporting fertility and reducing soil erosion.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

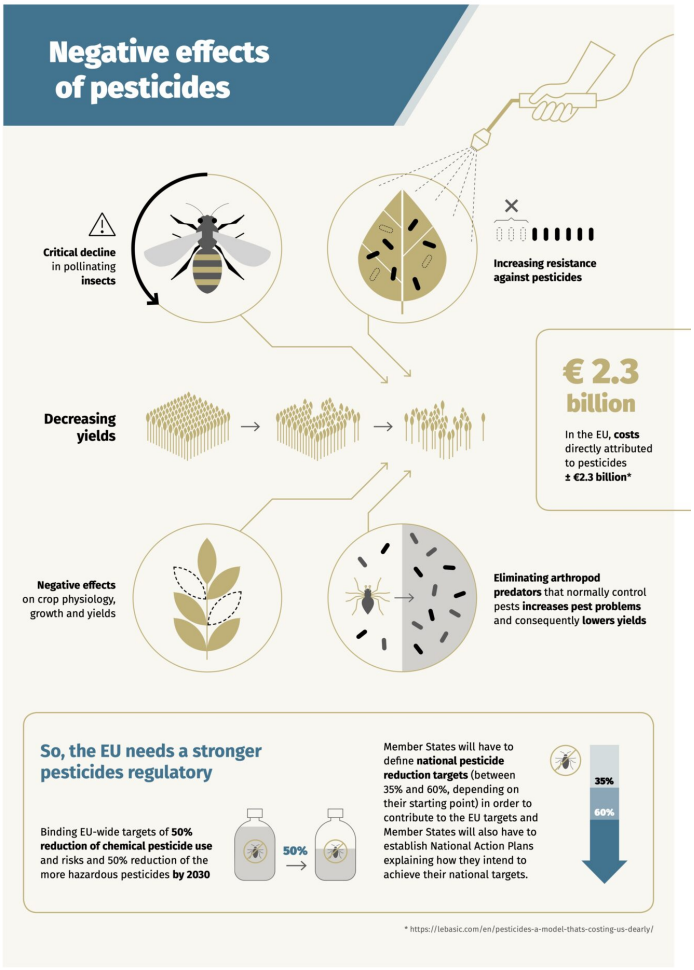
ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

For us, Organic on every table means high-quality and healthy food becoming more widely available. This can only be achieved by increasing production and raising awareness among consumers and policymakers of organic's economic, environmental, and social benefits.



To make organic on every table a reality, we advocated policymakers to put in place incentives and coherent policies supporting farmers providing public goods and promoting the consumption of organic food. We also aim to build sustainable and resilient value chains and to keep GMOs and synthetic pesticides out of organic production.

Countering false claims about plant health and natural pesticides



1 (HRI-1).

To underscore this point and to spread awareness of this issue, we commissioned an explainer video on the organic approach to plant health, in which we highlighted the shortcomings of the HRI-1 indicator to assess pesticide risk. On this topic, we also published a policy brief proposing an adjustment of the HRI-1 indicator to correct its misrepresentation of risk. This was presented in a press conference dealing with the HRI-1 indicator and the dangers related to its use.

As part of our efforts to find organic alternatives to synthetic pesticides, we also took part in IPMWorks, a project building a European farm network to promote the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. These strategies are based on a diversity of pest management measures that are combined at the farm level to reduce reliance on pesticides. In February, IFOAM Organics Europe was present at the European Parliament for an exhibition of IPMWorks showcasing the project's results to 40 MEPs from different political groups. Similarly, we co-hosted the "Way Forward in Organic Plant Health Care" conference in November 2023 aiming to bring together researchers, farmers, extension workers, policymakers, and authorities to discuss and develop plant health care strategies ever more in line with biodiversity and ecosystems as a whole.

Fighting to keep inputs GMO-free: New genomic techniques & seeds

In 2023, IFOAM Organics Europe continued its efforts to ensure that the legislative proposal on a new regulation of plants created through so-called New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) takes into account concerns of the organic movement, especially in regards to provisions on traceability, labelling, and the possibility for national co-existence measures. NGTs, such as transgenesis, TALENs, Zinc Finger Nuclease, or CRISPR/Cas9, involve the editing of an organism's genes without having to introduce the DNA of a foreign plant, thus creating new genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Currently, there is not enough comprehensive scientific data and no long-term studies available to properly evaluate the risks they might present. According to the European Court of Justice's ruling of 25 July 2018, these new techniques of genetic modification are GMO s and must be regulated as such. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain transparency, traceability, and risk assessment for

products obtained through NGTs to avoid their unchecked diffusion through the supply chain. Without proper traceability, labelling, and transparency, consumers and producers may not be able to make informed choices and organic operators may not be able to ensure that their production is entirely GMO-free.

Another worrying implication of dismantling the GMO regulation is an exacerbation of the problem of patents and intellectual property rights, since both the processes and the products of GMOs and NGTs are currently patentable under EU law, regardless of the breeding method. This would virtually put an end to the free access to genetic material for plant breeders, which in turn would lead to reduced genetic diversity available to develop new crops and a reduced choice for farmers and consumers, as well as constant legal uncertainties regarding patent infringement claims. For these reasons, we are concerned by the legislative proposal published by the European Commission in July 2023.

Ahead of the publication of the legislative proposal, IFOAM Organics Europe undertook extensive advocacy efforts both on a technical and a political level in the European Commission, in several DGs, as well as the cabinets of Commissioners. On February 7, a petition which was run by the Biodynamic Federation Demeter International, and promoted by IFOAM Organics Europe, was presented to the European Commission with over 420.000 signatures, urging for the regulation and labelling of the new generation of genetically-modified organisms. On 16 May, alongside over 300 other organisations, we co-signed a letter addressed to Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal Frans Timmermans, asking him to intervene and prevent the far-reaching deregulation of new genomic techniques at the expense of nature and climate, and of farmers' and consumers' rights. We also signed several more letters addressed to EU agriculture ministers, warning them about the implications of deregulating NGTs, and urging them to maintain traceability and labelling of all GMOs, including NGTs. After the publication of the proposal, IFOAM Organics Europe also contributed to the public consultation and submitted feedback to the European Commission on the Have Your Say website.

During our General Assembly on 22 June, as the European Organic movement, we adopted a resolution in favour of ensuring that organic production remains GMO-free. The resolution calls for a shift away from short-term fixes like genetic engineering towards holistic, agroecological approaches and reaffirms our commitment to the Farm to Fork and EU Green Deal Strategies. IFOAM Organics Europe also engaged extensively in advocacy work and member capacity-building during the co-decision process which started after the publication of the legislative proposal. We reached out with meeting requests and letters to parliamentarians as well as national delegations of the European Council to share our main concerns and demands on the NGT proposal. The IFOAM Organics Europe membership was continuously updated on important policy developments and key strategies, argumentations, and material were shared to streamline and galvanize national advocacy actions as well.

In order to highlight once more our commitment to keeping NGTs out of organic and calling for traceability and the possibility of national co-existence measures, IFOAM Organics Europe organised a press conference on 30 November, which saw the participation of Angelika Hilbeck, a Senior Scientist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology as well as Jan Plagge and Bernard Lignon, IFOAM Organics Europe president and board member respectively. During the press conference, Dr. Hilbeck explained that NGT technology is unsafe because it focuses on editing single genes while disregarding the contextual system in which genes are embedded and which defines their phenotypic expression.

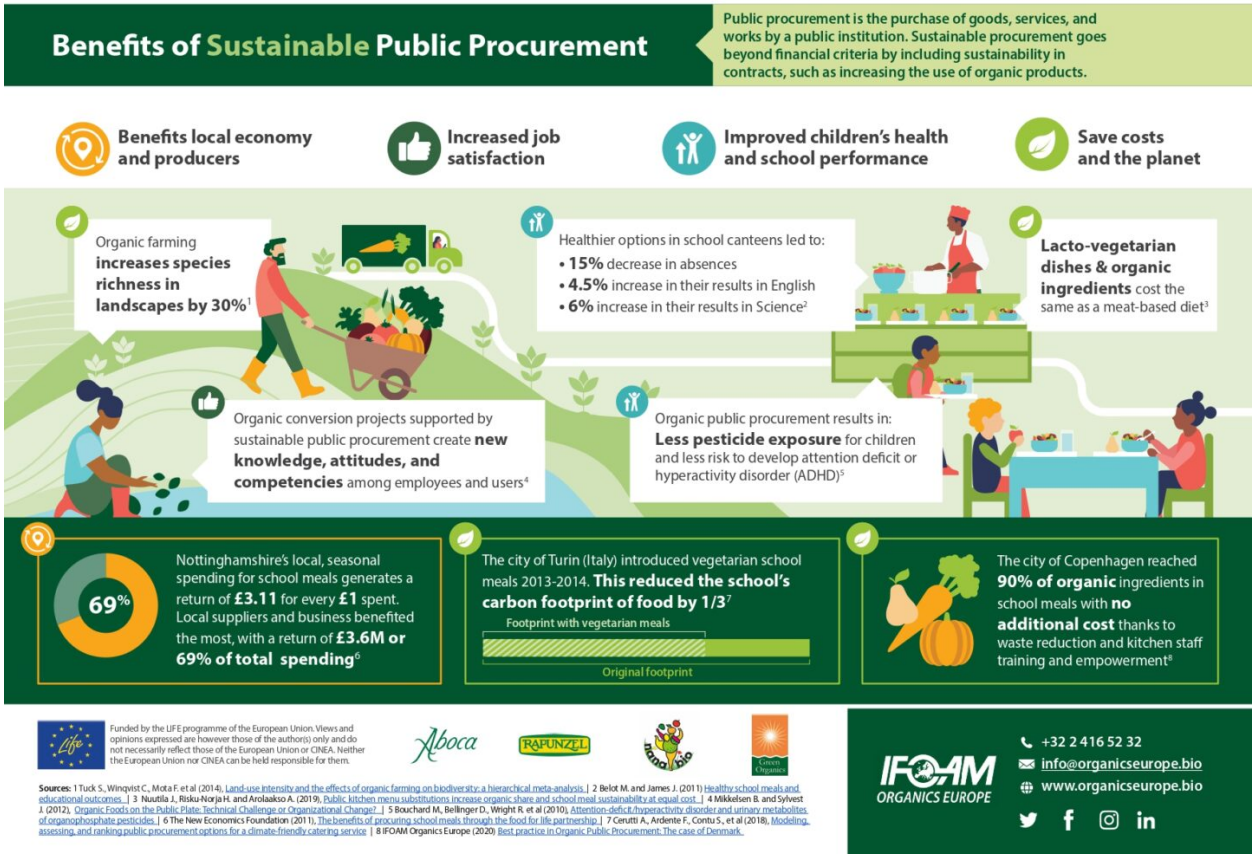
This distinction between adjusting single genes or traits of a plant and adopting a system-based approach is also at the centre of our briefing paper on sustainability in organic breeding. The paper refutes the idea that sustainability can be based on a single plan variety or gene since properties are based on the interaction of many genes, and are impacted by environmental and geophysical factors, including soil health, and relationships with other species. The briefing document further highlights the significant achievements of organic breeding programs, which are often socially innovative as well. The paper also underscores how NGTs tend to legitimise patents on plants contributing to the monopolisation and corporate control of genetic resources at the expense of farmers and SMEs. We further illustrated this point in our infographic on the dangers of pairing GMOs and patents on seeds – a combination that could lead to lower innovation and less genetic diversity. As the European Organics movement, we will continue to advocate for keeping GMOs, including new GMOs derived from NGTs, strictly regulated and for a holistic approach that considers all the complexities of our agro-ecosystem, rather than one based on technological quick-fixes and editing single traits. To raise awareness about this issue we have also created a video explaining what are NGTs and why we need to keep them regulated. Furthermore, in addition to communicating about this to the wider public and policymakers, we were involved in strong capacity-building efforts and outreach to our members through regular updates via mail, a "living article" on GMOs on our website, and two "Let's discuss organic" sessions where we update our members on important developments in organics.

Increasing demand for organic by promoting public procurement

In 2023, IFOAM Organic Europe continued to proactively advocate for sustainable public procurement during meetings with policymakers and stakeholders and at events, with a focus on the legislative framework for Sustainable Food Systems (SFS), one of the flagship initiatives of the F2F Strategy. We believe that public procurement serves as a catalyst for food system transformation and that it can lead to healthier and more sustainable food being consumed in Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe is part of the Food Policy Coalition (FPC), a coalition of civil society organizations aiming at policy integration and alignment at the EU level to facilitate the transition to sustainable food systems – IFOAM Organics Europe co-leads the FPC Task Force on public procurement, together with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Furthermore, we are also part of the European project SchoolFood4Change, which aims to shift school meals and schools into a new paradigm by addressing public health, and social and environmental resilience. In this project, cities and schools get the tools to serve healthier meals, cook more sustainably, and procure more organic, local, and seasonal food.

On March 22-23, at the 'Small Farm to Fork Procurement' conference in Brussels, IFOAM Organics Europe co-hosted a session on sustainable school meals for the SchoolFood4Change project. During the conference, policymakers, food procurers, experts, and NGOs discussed best practices, mandatory procurement criteria, and the Sustainable Food Systems Law. Moreover, the event started with the handover of the Sustainable Food Procurement Manifesto to MEP Karin Karlsbro. This manifesto, to which realisation we collaborated, aims 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. We also translated the manifesto into five languages and actively disseminated it – finding 13 local government endorsers. On 25 April, IFOAM Organics Europe and all other members of the FPC launched the report "Sustainable Food Systems Law: policy recommendations for a meaningful transition". The report urged the need for a new SFS legal framework that looks at the whole food system from production to processing, distribution, and consumption. In addition, it presented a list of priorities that are essential building blocks to enable the transformation of our food systems. On 10 October, we co-organised the event "Promoting Social Innovation through public canteens" attended by local and national government representatives, as well as European policymakers, during which the SFP manifesto was handed out to Members of the European Parliament. The event also featured a presentation of the petition **A healthy school meal for every child in every school** signed by more than 50,000 Europeans and started by the Buy Better Food campaign – a coalition of which IFOAM Organics Europe is a member advocating for better food procurement in Europe.

IFOAM Organics Europe expressed regret that the European Commission decided to delay the publication of the sustainable food systems law until a future non-defined date. In order to push the Commission to still publish this law, IFOAM Organics Europe signed several joint letters, the most impactful of which was sent to Commission President von der Leyen herself and signed by nearly 300 NGOs and scientists. In October, we co-signed another open letter to President Von der Leyen on the SFS and the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of agriculture together with 25 scientists, academics, and NGOs. The letter reminded the Commission that the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture should stay on course to transition to sustainable food systems – adapting to and mitigating climate change and biodiversity loss.



BUILDING A THRIVING ORGANIC MARKET BY MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAP, ORGANIC REGULATION, AND EU PROMOTION POLICIES

In 2023 we continued to closely monitor the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-2027. IFOAM Organics Europe is committed to ensuring that the national CAP Strategic Plans unveiled in 2022 are as ambitious as possible for the development of organic agriculture. Securing sufficient support for organic in these strategic plans is essential to reach the targets laid out by the EU F2F and Biodiversity Strategies of at least 25% organic farmland and a significant increase of organic aquaculture by 2030. In order to ensure that these targets will be achieved, IFOAM Organics Europe has been leading the Horizon Europe project "OrganicTargets4EU". This project works 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. Within this project, all national CAP Strategic Plans were analysed and a report was published in April providing an assessment. The analysis shows that, compared to figures from 2018, Member States aim to almost double the area supported by 2027, and they set targets for organic land, either in their CAP Strategic Plans or in their national organic action plans. Furthermore, in 2023 IFOAM Organics Europe and its interest group of organic farmers started discussing the next step for the new CAP taking place after 2027. To involve different stakeholders in the technical topics currently discussed for the next CAP, the Commission launched a series of technical workshops and it specifically requested the presence of Organics Europe's farmer representatives. Within IFOAM Organics Europe, we are discussing the CAP with our Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF) to make sure organic farmers' voice is heard at the EU level.

Alongside the CAP, in 2023 we closely monitored the implementation of the EU Organic regulation. As part of this, we focused particularly on the handling of pesticide residues. Organic operators face significant administrative and economic burdens caused by unavoidable pesticide contamination. IFOAM Organics Europe is looking for a way for organic operators to avoid being unfairly penalized by pesticide residues. In this regard, In May we published a position paper detailing how organic production is performed in a contaminated world with the omnipresence of pesticides. The paper was the final outcome of our Pesticide Use & Contamination project, the main objective of which was to agree on a common approach of the organic sector on how to deal with pesticide residue findings. The project also delivered a scientific article published in the scientific journal Environmental Pollution, a policy brief, two reports, and a pilot study. The study found that due to the variability in pesticide contamination influenced by factors such as substances, agricultural practices, and environmental conditions, uncertainties persist regarding pesticide contamination and its risks for the organic food chain. On this topic, we also organised a webinar with IFOAM International in November.

Another significant development we followed in 2023 was the budget allocated for promoting organic products under the EU Promotion Policies. Specifically, the European Commission earmarked a big share of the 2023 EU promotion budget for sustainable agriculture and about 40 million EUR were explicitly targeted toward promoting organic production and products. We had the opportunity to discuss the EU promotion policies with our members during one of our 'Let's Discuss Organic' sessions. This webinar provided guidance and concrete tips on submitting successful applications and representatives from the European Commission attended it. The EU promotion policies provide a great opportunity to promote organic products in Europe and abroad.

IMPROVE – INSPIRE – DELIVER

The roadmap's second pillar to achieve our vision for 2030 is Improve – Inspire – deliver and it aims to make the organic sector more competitive and resilient. IFOAM Organic Europe is committed to demonstrating the solutions organic food and farming can provide to the challenges facing our food systems and advocate for key issues at the intersection of environmental and agricultural policies.

In line with our dedication to delivering added value to our stakeholders and ensuring they stay abreast of the most important information concerning the organic sector, we proudly launched our first special edition newsletter in 2023. Within this newsletter, we offer insights into the latest policy developments in agri-food, and we underscore the actions IFOAM Organics Europe has taken to support organic food and farming at the EU level.

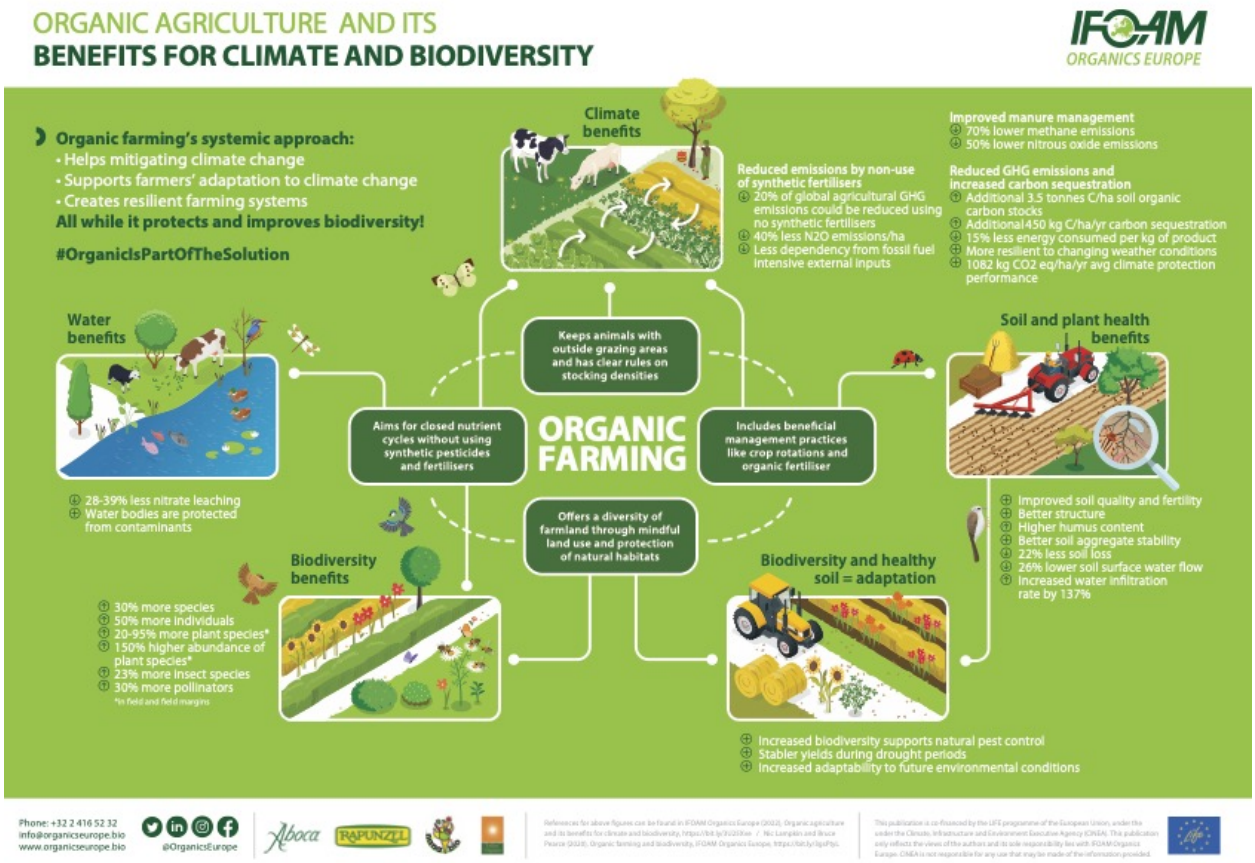
Positioning organic as part of the solution to climate, soil & biodiversity crises

In 2023, we continued to highlight organic's positive contribution to protecting our soil, water, and biodiversity, and simultaneously making our farming systems more resilient to the effects of climate change. We are committed to making sure that organic's benefits for climate and biodiversity are recognized by policymakers and the wider public in the EU, and that organic farming is seen as one of the best solutions to curtailing agricultural emissions. It is fundamental for us to demonstrate that organic practices deliver more resilient systems with many benefits to soil health, water quality, biodiversity protection, reduction of GHG emissions and increased carbon sequestration and climate adaptation.

In 2023, the European Union introduced a series of legislative measures aimed at environmental protection and climate change mitigation. IFOAM Organics Europe played a pivotal role in advocating for these initiatives. One such legislation we closely monitored was the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF), proposing a voluntary EU-wide framework to certify carbon removals and carbon farming activities. While IFOAM Organics Europe clearly recognizes the need to increase carbon sequestration, the legislation is not always in line with the organic approach. A too-narrow focus on carbon might have potential adverse effects on biodiversity, animal welfare, soil, and water quality and additionality requirements penalize first movers, such as organic farmers, who have already invested in soil health and carbon sequestration in the past through beneficial management practices. Additionally, we kept a close eye on the Nature Restoration Law and the Soil Monitoring Legislation. IFOAM Organics Europe clearly supported the heavily contested Nature Restoration Law, since an intact nature is the very basis of food production and it resonates with IFOAM Organics Europe's mission of promoting agricultural practices that preserve nature and uphold biodiversity, soil health, and water conservation.

We proactively engaged by publishing press releasesand sending letters to members of the ENVI Committee and the European Parliament, urging their support. In these communications, we highlighted that organic farming proves that nature restoration can go hand in hand with productive farming systems and we underscored the law's potential in safeguarding biodiversity, enhancing soil quality, combating climate change, and fostering sustainable farming methods and its importance to ensure food security in the long run. We also advocated in favour of the Soil Monitoring and Resilience Law as healthy soils are the cornerstone of organic farming and the proposal's soil management principles closely align with those of organic farming. However, the legislation did not live up to the expectations of a Soil Health Law with binding targets to achieve healthy soils but rather focusses on setting up a soil monitoring system across the EU. With respect to the Soil Monitoring Law, we produced a leaflet highlighting the benefits of organic farming for soil health where we emphasised the importance of healthy soil and organic's potential as a sustainable soil management practice. Furthermore, in our feedback to the consultation on the legislation, we called for the recognition of organic farming practices' efficacy in soil management and for the establishment of legally binding targets to ensure the directive's objectives are met. We also highlighted the omission of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers from the proposal, despite their significant impact on soil health, advocating for their explicit inclusion and regulation.

In 2023, IFOAM Organics Europe was active in addressing the negative impacts of agriculture on the environment by collaborating with various stakeholders in different projects and initiatives. IFOAM Organics Europe participated in the projects Climate Farm Demo and ClienFarms, which are testing and demonstrating practical solutions for climate-neutral farms and climate-smart farming practices. In addition, we continued to work together with our members in the Task Force on Climate Change and Biodiversity to keep members informed about the EU policy developments on climate and biodiversity, as well as to bundle expertise to provide guidance to IFOAM Organics Europe on the direction for further action. We also assisted our members by collecting messages, arguments, and visuals on organic and biodiversity for them to use in their advocacy and communication efforts and we discussed EU climate legislation in one of our "Let's Discuss Organics" sessions. Furthermore, to increase awareness of the positive environmental impact of organic we created an infographic illustrating the organic benefits for climate, soil, water, and biodiversity. This infographic was also reshared by the social media account of the UN Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Innovating farming beyond just 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. Farmers and other operators in the organic sector need access to sound knowledge enabling them to continue improving their practices. IFOAM Organics Europe represents and engages all these actors within the projects in which it takes part. Our mission involves bridging the gap between research and practice by delivering the latest research findings to practitioners and ensuring that research aligns with their needs and expectations. Additionally, we play a pivotal role in boosting innovation within the organic sector and possess extensive experience in facilitating dialogues among science, practice, and policy.

In 2023, we participated in several projects aimed at promoting the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and innovations in agriculture and organic farming. These initiatives focused on establishing platforms, networks, and methodologies to facilitate collaboration, learning, and the adoption of innovative techniques among agricultural practitioners. By fostering organic innovation, we contribute significantly to the sustainability and competitiveness of the organic sector.

Here are the most notable highlights and achievements from our R&I projects in 2023:

- As part of the ECO—Ready project an open call was launched selecting 10 Living Labs from different geographical zones. Additionally, IFOAM has been involved in the co-creation of the scenario development methodology, and in the promotion of the first round of a Delphi study to identify local challenges and interests around food security, biodiversity, and climate change.
- For the IntercropVALUES project, we facilitated the process of defining the topics of 4 policy briefs and 32 practice abstracts.
- As part of the EUFarmBook project, we helped develop a platform for practice-oriented information on all topics related to agriculture and forestry
- The FoodSHIFT project ended in December 2023 after producing the successful establishment of 9 FoodSHIFT Accelerator Labs (FALs), each one of which in turn gave birth to several FoodSHIFT Enabler Labs. In addition, the project delivered a transition toolkit for food system actors and a policy brief, entitled "Long-term Living Lab Support towards Food System Transformation.
- Within the IPMworks IFOAM organised and hosted 2 webinars on topics related to integrated pest management in organic farming,

For a more detailed overview of our project consult the "Projects we organised" chapter within this publication.

Rewarding excellence in the organic value chain

In 2023 we co-organised the second edition of the European Organic Awards together with the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, and COPA-COGECA. The annual European Organic Awards reward the most excellent and innovative actors in the organic value chain and aim to stimulate organic production by sharing the inspiring stories of people who achieved excellence in this field. We are hopeful that these awards will encourage many practitioners to transition to organic farming and become part of the solution to the many crises we face, including food security, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

In 2023 the awards were given to 8 winners in 8 different categories at a ceremony on 25 September:

- **Best organic farmer (female):** Clara Benito Pacheco (Entrelobas) – Serrada de la Fuente, Spain
- **Best organic farmer (male):** Thomas Moschos (Moschos Farm) – Kastoria, Greece
- **Best organic region:** Burgenland, Austria
- **Best organic city:** Stadt Wien, Austria
- **Best organic "bio-district":** Idanha-a-Nova, Beira Baixa, Portugal
- **Best organic food processing SME:** The Merry Mill – Vicarstown, County Laois, Ireland
- **Best organic food retailer:** Gut Wulksfelde– Tangstedt, Hamburg, Germany
- **Best organic restaurant/food service:** Luftburg – Kolariks Freizeitbetriebe GmbH – Vienna, Austria

Advancing organic research with TP Organics

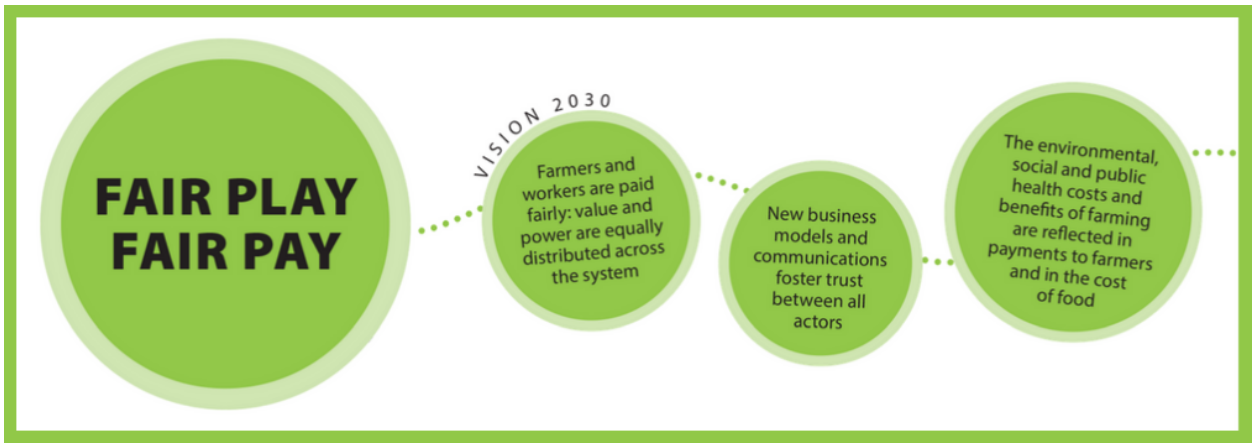
TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for Research & Innovation into Organics and Agroecology hosted by IFOAM Organics Europe, is advocating for public R&I funding benefiting the organic sector and leveraging its potential to lead the transformation of the wider agri-food system in Europe and beyond. In 2023, the second Work Programme of Horizon Europe, the EU´s main funding programme for research & innovation was published with 7 calls for projects specifically addressing organic research needs such as improving yields in organic cropping systems, organic advisory networks, increased availability and use of non-contentious inputs in organic farming, and a selective breeding programme for organic aquaculture. The sharing of knowledge ready for practice, which is crucial for the uptake and maintenance of organic farming, will be addressed as well by future research (and should build on already existing initiatives such as Organic Farm Knowledge). In addition, 23 further calls in the current Work Programme mention “organic” and a new European R&I Partnership, to be launched officially in early 2024, will build on the scientific evidence base and concrete practices of organic farming. The partnership called “AGROECOLOGY” will put farmers in the centre, with living labs and research infrastructures as the main instruments to unlock and accelerate the broad transition to agroecological farming in Europe. TP Organics has contributed to the development of the partnership and is part of AGROECOLOGY and the Work Package on science-policy dialogue, with IFOAM Organics Europe as an official partner, making sure that the organic sector plays a strong role and that results are taken up by policy and practice, while also building the capacity of the TP Organics and IFOAM Organics Europe members to apply for calls.

hosted the final policy conference of FoodSHIFT 2030
system towards a low-carbon, circular future, includir

Find out more about TP Organics and get involved.

FAIR PLAY – FAIR PAY

The roadmap's third pillar to achieve our vision for 2030 is 'Fair play – Fair pay'. 2023 witnessed various challenges for the organic sector in Europe. Most notably, high inflation in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine created difficulties for both consumers and producers. As IFOAM organics we are committed to ensuring a resilient organic supply chain that works for the benefit of everyone. To guarantee sufficient availability of organic food for European citizens we need to ensure that organic farmers are adequately remunerated for their hard work and that organic retailers are incentivized to preserve their ethical and fair business model – a model that values consumers' health and environmental sustainability. IFOAM Organic Europe believes that those who contribute the most to making our food system more sustainable should be recognised and rewarded for their efforts.



Avoid greenwashing and ensure labels don't deceive

IFOAM Organics Europe was deeply involved in the advocacy work surrounding the Green Claims Directive – a proposal published by the European Commission in March 2023. While the proposal was initially meant to be called "Proposal for a Directive on Green Claims Based on the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF)", IFOAM Organics Europe's work contributed to ensuring that the directive would allow for green claims to be substantiated by other methodologies than the PEF. Indeed, while the PEF works well for manufactured products, it is ill-suited to assess the environmental impact of agri-food products, including textiles. The PEF can differentiate the environmental impact between product categories but does a poor job of distinguishing the environmental impact within product categories. This means that the PEF will show that an apple is more environmentally friendly than beef, but all types of beef would score equally poorly, even though some methods of beef production have fewer impacts on the environment than others. Another example is that all fruits and vegetables score A with the PEF, irrespective of the farming practice used, seasonality, greenhouse use, or transport time, or that eggs from caged hens come out as being more environmentally friendly compared to free-range or organic eggs.

During the remainder of 2023, we ensured that the Parliament would keep the same position as the Commission in terms of allowing for other methodologies than only the PEF. We distributed a briefing on PEF limitations widely both through media channels as well as to policymakers.
Notably, to raise awareness about the issue of green claims in the Parliament, we held an event on green claims and greenwashing in November 2023, organised by 3 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) that had important roles in this file. Our position on the Green Claims Directive was also explained in a video interview with our Director Eduardo Cuoco occasion of the 2023 Natexpo trade show.

Furthermore, given the rise of the term "regenerative" and its (mis)use, IFOAM Organics Europe published a position paper on organic and regenerative agriculture stating that "The European organic movement believes that organic should continue to be at the core of regenerative agriculture and that "regenerative" certification and corporate branding using "regenerative" should be compatible with some key legislative requirements of the organic standard as minimum requirements upon which additional regenerative organic practices are built". To provide more clarity on this issue, we created an easy-to-understand visual illustrating the differences between organic and regenerative and why the latter term can be deceiving.

In December we published a position paper on animal welfare practices and labelling in which we emphasise the importance of a European labelling scheme focused on elevating animal welfare standards. To achieve this, the organisation favours implementing mandatory method of production labelling for all animal species within the EU. The organic movement is concerned about the spread of such labelling schemes in several EU countries. IFOAM Organics Europe believes consumers must be informed about the environmental value of their food choices. However, this must be done in compliance with the European legislation on organic farming as regards the terms used, and on the basis of methodologies that take into account all the externalities linked to different modes of agricultural production, particularly on biodiversity.

Building bridges in the organic supply chain

IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MEETS BUSINESS

The 2023 edition of IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business was organised on 30 November 2023 in Brussels, Belgium. The event served as a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in the organic supply chain.

The event focused on engaging discussions regarding current prominent topics and trends in the organic industry. Attendees included members of IFOAM Organics Europe, their respective members, and companies with an interest or involvement in organic products.

Participants joined for a day of enriching conversations, networking opportunities, and knowledge-sharing with well-esteemed speakers and industry experts.


Farm to Fork Objectives
IFOAM MEETS BUSINESS
BRINGING THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY TOGETHER

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**, so an IFOAM Organics Europe position is one voice speaking on behalf of organic to 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.

Thank you to all our members for their hard work and commitment to making Europe more ~~O~~organic!

Are you interested in becoming a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to ensure your voice is heard? Check out our website or email for more information on how you can become a member. To learn more about how our organisation functions, have a look at our website.

Governance

To ensure our organisation is truly representative, we operate using a democratic structure with a Board (first chamber), Council (second chamber and national representatives) and organise an annual General Assembly (GA) where members can provide direct input into the organisation.

IFOAM Organics Europe's Board acts as a first chamber, directs our affairs and develops detailed budgets and work programmes in line with the organic movement's vision and internal strategy. Every three years, our members elect the Board during the annual General Assembly, according to sector-related and regional criteria. Once the Board is elected, it votes for a President, Treasurer, and sector representatives during their first meeting.

To represent national interests and build bridges between what happens nationally and at EU level, each national organic sector elects their Council representatives at national assemblies (every three years). IFOAM Organics Europe's Council acts as a second chamber to board and shares national interests and specificities to the European level and the other way around. Every one of the EU organic movement's positions is approved by the Council. IFOAM Organics Europe's Council consists of one Council member and two Deputy Council members from each EU Member State and EFTA country (at most). Following the General Assembly, the Council elects its Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Council's Chair observes the Board meetings.

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 five meetings throughout the year, to discuss topics such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the state of the organic market.
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 2023.
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 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. Recycled Fertilisers
5. Sustainable Food Systems

OUR STAFF

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 into 8 units:

- Leadership
- Communications
- Events and memberships
- Finance and office operations
- Policy
- Projects and partnerships
- Regulation
- Research and innovation

PROJECTS WE ORGANISED

BIOFRUITNET is a thematic network Horizon 2020 project on organic stone, pome, and citrus fruit production. About 100 materials collecting knowledge on organic fruit production were produced and made available on the Organic Farm Knowledge platform. Materials include practice abstracts, videos, podcasts, and e-learning courses relevant to practitioners across Europe.

ECO-READY aims to identify climate-change drivers affecting food security and biodiversity across Europe. The comprehensive understanding of the EU food system vulnerabilities will enable the development of resilient scenarios, which will be tested by a network of 10 Living Labs for a two-year period. The produced knowledge will be made available frequently and consistently through an e-platform and a mobile application, the ECO-READY Observatory. In 2023, a Living Lab open call was launched and 10 Living Labs from different geographical zones were selected to ensure a fair representation of all European agro-climatic zones and the full spectrum of stakeholders. Additionally, IFOAM has been involved in the co-creation of the scenario development methodology, and in the promotion of the first round of a Delphi study to identify local challenges and interests around food security, biodiversity, and climate change.

IPMWORKS: An EU-wide farm network demonstrating and promoting cost-effective integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. A variety of materials were produced, including practice abstracts, fact sheets per farming type, and a resource toolbox, which is an interactive, online library of IPM resources designed for farmers and advisors. Besides, different types of events such as cross-visits and farm demos took place within and across EU countries. IFOAM organised and hosted 2 webinars on topics related to IPM in organic farming, produced a fact sheet for the organic sector, and disseminated the project's results.

FOODSHIFT launched an ambitious citizen-driven transition of the European food system towards a low-carbon circular future, including a shift to less meat and more plant-based diets. The project ended in December 2023 and its key outcomes were: the successful establishment of 9 FoodSHIFT Accelerator Labs (FALs) in European cities, each one of which in turn gave birth to several FoodSHIFT Enabler Labs, thus multiplying the impact of the project. In addition, the project delivered a transition toolkit for food system actors and a policy brief, entitled "Long-term Living Lab Support towards Food System Transformation". Finally, IFOAM hosted the project's final policy conference, which took place on 26 October at the Herman Teirlinck building in Brussels.

EUFarmBook aims to create an online platform becoming the main knowledge repository and go-to source for practice-oriented information on all topics related to agriculture and forestry. In 2023, the platform was developed with its first features, and the project ambassadors, IFOAM among others, have started to reflect on the different pathways to engage with platform contributors and users and collaboration opportunities with other knowledge reservoirs and AKIS actors. On the 8th of February 2024, the platform will be officially launched and ready to receive valuable outcomes from EU-funded projects.

LiveSeeding aims to accelerate organic farming and the transition towards sustainable food systems by boosting organic plant breeding, cultivar testing, and seed production resulting in improved availability of vigorous organic seeds of resilient, stable performing cultivars suited for organic production of a large range of crops and strengthening the organic seed sector taking into account the fast-growing demand, regulatory settings, different level of development, governance models and scales of initiatives and enterprises in their local context. The project coordinated by FiBL Europe, consists of 37 partners and is funded by Horizon Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe is responsible for stakeholder management.

CORE Organic Pleiades network: Within the OrganicTargets4EU project, the existing CORE Organic network was extended into the new CORE Organic Pleiades network with the aim to include public/private funders from all Member States and additional associated countries. The CORE Organic Pleiades network has currently a good geographical coverage encompassing 43 network partners (21 funders, 12 stakeholders, 9 observers, 1 coordinator) across 27 European countries/regions and beyond. Nevertheless, still, 8 of the EU Member states remain unrepresented.

IntercropVALUES aims to exploit the benefits of intercropping to design and manage productive, diversified, resilient, profitable, environmentally friendly cropping systems acceptable to farmers and actors in the agri-food chain. As a multi-disciplinary and multi-actor project, it brings together scientists and local actors representing the food value chain. It includes 27 participants from 15 countries (3 continents) from a wide diversity of organisations and stakeholders. In 2023, IFOAM organized two workshops about policy briefs and practice abstract writing and facilitated the process of defining the 4 policy briefs and 32 practice abstract topics.

EVENTS WE ORGANISED AND CONTRIBUTED TO

BIOFACH 2023

- **What?** Leading Trade Fair for Organic Food, to discuss relevant topics, engage with field experts, and learn about the recent policy developments. At the fair, organic operators from across the supply chain, organic association representatives and decision-makers, and many more meet, exchange, and learn. IFOAM Organics Europe contributed to BIOFACH's congress programme with several sessions zooming in on policy, regulation, and research.

  When & where? 14-17 February 2023, Nürnberg Germany.

European Organic Congress 2023

- **What?** The Organic Congress brings together European leaders and stakeholders in the organic sector to discuss key topics such as market trends, challenges, and strategies for increasing organic consumption. It covers areas like the new Common Agricultural Policy, organic regulations, certification innovations, and sustainable farming practices. The event provides a platform for networking and collaboration among farmers, traders, retailers, policymakers, and researchers.
  When & where? 26-28 September 2023, Córdoba, Spain.

Organic innovation Days 2023

- **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. The title of the 2023 edition was: 'Citizen-driven transformation of European food systems'.
  When & where? 25-26 October 2023, Brussels, Belgium.

IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2023

- **What?** This event serves as a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in the organic supply chain.
  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.

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.

COLOPHON

GREEN ORGANICS

RAPUNZEL

ABOCA

NANA BIO

CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)

YEAR OF ORGANICS

YEAR OF ORGANICS


Naturland


YEAR OF ORGANICS
Organic
Plant Protein
YEAR OF ORGANICS
Thise
DAIRY WITH PASSION