



How can we improve the position of farmers within the organic agri-food supply chain

Action plan for the development of organic production



European
Commission



Policy Context

GREEN DEAL (2019) – FARM TO FORK AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES (2020)

- “At least 25% of the EU’s agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 and a significant increase in organic aquaculture”

ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION (2021)

- Comprehensive (3 axes addressing: consumption, production, sustainability) but demand-driven (consumption first, no conversion without growing demand)
- Covering the complete private value chain (from farmers to restaurants)
- Involving a wide range of public stakeholders (EU institutions/bodies, Member States/regions/cities)
- Assigning prime importance to research and innovation (30% of the budget for R&I on agriculture, forestry and rural areas for topics specific to/relevant for the organic sector)
- Mobilising the CAP but also other programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe, agricultural promotion policy) and tools (e.g. Green Public Procurement)



Measures in a nutshell

More narrowly:

- Exploring dedicated producer organisations
- Fighting unfair trading practices
- Promoting group certification

More broadly:

- Ensuring growing demand for organic products (via actions centred on education, information, promotion (budget, EU organic day, EU organic awards), green public procurement, the EU school scheme, collaboration with retailers, and maintaining consumer trust)
- Supporting conversion and maintenance (financially, advisory services, cooperation measures)
- Promoting short supply chains/bio-districts
- Enhancing market transparency via statistics and price information
- Addressing production bottlenecks (yields, plant protection, animal protein feed)



AXIS 1:
ORGANIC FOOD AND PRODUCTS FOR ALL:
STIMULATE DEMAND AND ENSURE CONSUMER
TRUST



Promoting organic farming and the EU logo (1)

Action 1: Information and communication

- Give greater focus to organics in the information measures on the CAP
- Collect data on - and inform about - the environmental, economic and social benefits of organic farming
- Measure consumers' awareness of the EU organic logo through Eurobarometer surveys
- Identify events to inform about organics, in particular in Member States where demand is below the average EU level



Promoting organic farming and the EU logo (2)

Action 2: Promotion

- Allocate a larger share of the budget of the agricultural promotion policy to raising the consumer awareness of - and stimulating the demand for - organic products
- Step up the promotion of EU organic products in targeted third country growth markets
- Raise awareness of export opportunities for EU organic producers
- Stimulate the sector's visibility through awards



Promoting organic canteens and increasing the use of green public procurement

Action 3: Stimulate a greater uptake of organics in public canteens

- Boost awareness of the criteria for Green Public Procurement (GPP) issued in 2019
- Integrate organic products into the minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food public procurement to be developed as part of the legislative framework for sustainable food systems
- Analyse and monitor the application of EU GPP, and invite Member States to fix ambitious national targets for organics in GPP
- Prepare events for public administrations in charge of public catering to raise awareness of EU GPP



Reinforcing organic school schemes

Action 4: Review the EU school scheme framework in accordance with the Farm to Fork strategy and the beating cancer plan

- Engage with Member States to identify ways to increase further the distribution of organic products in the school schemes
- Carry out a study on real price of food, including the role of taxation, with a view to developing recommendations



Preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust

Action 5: Strengthen the fight against fraudulent practices:

- Robust supervision of control systems in Member States and third countries
- Fraud prevention policies, and cooperation with the EU Food Fraud Network and Europol and with competent authorities and law enforcement bodies in third countries
- Guidance on reinforced imports control at the border
- Stronger measures to tackle fraudulent practices through the sanctions catalogues
- Measures to inform consumers and/or to recall from the market products where fraud is identified
- Early warning systems, using artificial intelligence for data mining in EU and Member State databases



Improving traceability

Action 6: Improve traceability

- Develop a database of certificates of all EU operators, and later also relevant third country operators, building on earlier work
- Promote the enrolment of competent authorities and ensure that control bodies sign certificates of inspection in TRACES digitally
- Coordinate regular traceability exercises on organic products in cooperation with Member States, their control bodies and third countries

Action 7: Improve traceability

- Assess to what extent the traceability of organic products could benefit from blockchain or other digital technologies and envisage pilot projects



The contribution of the private sector

Action 8: Reinforce the role of retailers, wholesalers, catering services, restaurants and other businesses

- Aim at obtaining clear commitments from relevant stakeholders to support and increase the distribution and sale of organic products, in the context of the Farm to Fork strategy's code of conduct for responsible business and marketing practices, and disseminate best practices in relevant platforms like the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform
- Establish partnerships with businesses willing to promote the use of organic products as part of their corporate sustainability policy



AXIS 2: ON THE WAY TO 2030: STIMULATING CONVERSION AND REINFORCING THE ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN



Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices (1)

Action 9: In the framework of the new CAP and CFP

- Ensure Member States make the best use of the possibilities offered by the new CAP to support their national organic sector:
 - The full use of relevant CAP instruments such as eco-schemes and rural development environmental management commitments
 - The strengthening of farm advisory services, notably as part of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)
- Promote the exchange of best practices at EU and national level on education and training (curricula, courses, materials)



Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices (2)

- Set up EU demonstration farm networks on specific topics to promote a participatory approach (dissemination)
- Promote best practices and synergies with the EIP-AGRI projects via the future CAP network
- Encourage Member States to include the increase of organic aquaculture in their reviewed Multi-annual National Strategic plans for aquaculture, and to make the best use of possibilities offered by the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027



Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency

Action 10: Provide a comprehensive overview of the sector:

- Publish regular reports on organic production in the EU
- Publish a yearly report on imports of organic products from third countries

Action 11: Developing sector analysis:

- Intensify the collection of market data in collaboration with Member States and extend the EU Market Observatories' analysis to organic products



Supporting the organization of the food chain (1)

Action 12: Supporting the organization of the food chain

- Carry out an analysis of the degree of organisation in organic sector supply chains
- Identify ways to improve it in consultation with producer organisation representatives and other concerned stakeholders
- Investigate the legal possibility of forming or joining specific organic producer organisations and, where possible, encourage Member States to allocate funds for this purpose
- If there is sufficient evidence that unfair trading practices penalising organic producers occur, the Commission shall address them by using all the tools at its disposal



Supporting the organization of the food chain (2)

Action 13: Supporting the organization of the food chain:

- Raise awareness and provide better information about 'group certification', allowing small holding farmers to share the cost and administrative burden of certification, in line with Regulation 2018/848 on organic production
 - Group certification means that a group of farmers joins forces to obtain one certificate for the entire group, instead of each farmstead applying for individual certification



Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuits

Action 14: Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuits

- Engage with Member States and stakeholders to foster local and small-scale processing
- Encourage Member States to support the development and the implementation of 'Bio districts'

Action 15: As organic farming can enhance social inclusion in rural areas while promoting decent working and living conditions

- Assist Member States in designing measures for organic farming in rural areas that promote gender equality and youth farmers/employment



Improving animal nutrition in accordance with organic rules

Action 16: Improving animal nutrition

- Support research and innovation under Horizon Europe on alternative sources of organic vitamins and other substances that might turn out to be necessary, and on alternative sources of protein keeping in mind their technical and economic feasibility
- Explore means to support the application for feed additives produced without genetically modified micro-organisms (GMM), feed based on insects as well as marine feed stocks
- Adopt an algae initiative to support EU algae production and support the EU algae industry to ensure the supply of algae as alternative feed material for organic animal farming



Reinforcing organic aquaculture

Action 17: Reinforcing organic aquaculture

- Support research and innovation on alternative sources of nutrients, breeding and animal welfare in aquaculture; the promotion of investments on adapted polyculture and multi-trophic aquaculture systems; and the promotion of hatcheries and nurseries activities for organic juveniles
- Identify and address as appropriate any specific obstacles to the growth of EU organic aquaculture



AXIS 3: ORGANICS LEADING BY EXAMPLE: IMPROVING THE CONTRIBUTION OF ORGANIC FARMING TO SUSTAINABILITY



Reducing climate and environmental footprint

Action 18: Reducing climate and environmental footprint

- Take steps to set up a pilot network of climate positive organic holdings to share best practices
 - A proposed mission in the area of Soil Health and Food could contribute to the pilot network in particular through the deployment of living labs and lighthouses and other activities supporting carbon farming





Enhancing genetic biodiversity and increasing yields

Action 19: Enhance biodiversity and increase yields

- Earmark funding under Horizon Europe to support the preservation and use of genetic resources, pre-breeding and breeding activities, and the availability of organic seeds, and to contribute to the development of organic heterogeneous plant reproductive material and plant varieties suitable for organic production
- Set up EU demonstration farms networks
- Strengthen farm advisory services
- Support research and innovation on improving organic yields



Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products

Action 20: Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products

- Earmark funding under Horizon Europe for research and innovation projects on alternative approaches to contentious inputs, paying particular attention to copper and other substances as assessed by the European Food Safety Authority
- Foster where appropriate the use of alternative plant protection products, such as those containing biological active substances



Enhancing animal welfare

Action 21: In the context of the Animal Welfare Platform

- Continue working with Member States and civil society to find concrete and operational ways to further improve animal welfare in organic production





Making more efficient use of resources

Action 22: Making more efficient use of resources:

- Adopt a Framework on bio-based, compostable and biodegradable plastic , which will include principles and criteria under which the use of sustainable bio-based materials that are easily bio-degradable in natural conditions is beneficial to the environment

Action 23: Making more efficient use of resources:

- Promote the more efficient and sustainable use of water, the increased use of renewable energy and clean transport, and the reduction of nutrient release



Thank you



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