

Avalon conference: Greening the CAP, 12-14 Nov 2010, Bled, Slovenia

“The organic system approach as strategy to meet the CAP challenges”



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Antje Kölling,
Policy coordinator
IFOAM EU Group
Brussels

IFOAM EU - Mission

- IFOAM EU Group: European working level within the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements; more than 300 organisations, associations and enterprises from EU-27, EFTA and candidate countries.
- IFOAM 's goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of Organic Agriculture
- IFOAM EU Group demands to ***mainstream sustainability in the CAP***

Challenges outlined in the leaked CAP Communication

- Long term food security
 - *incl. economic viability of farms*
 - *incl. high quality and local products*
- Environment and climate change
 - *carbon sequestration*
 - *soil, water, air, biodiversity*
- Territorial balance
 - *dynamic farming sector, linked economic activities, traditions*



More challenges to our food system

- Animal welfare
- Healthy diets
- Reduction/abandonment of pesticide use
- Reduced global footprint (e.g. feed imports)
- Resilient, less input dependent food systems (e.g. peak phosphorus and oil)
- Sustainable jobs
- Smart innovation



Organic farming benefits

- IAASTD emphasizes role of knowledge based, ecological food systems for *food security*
- Increased soil organic matter = better erosion control and higher carbon sequestration (benefit of 0.25 tons/year/hectare found in CH)
- Less external inputs = less GHG emissions + resilient systems in times of scarcity in natural resources
- On average 30% higher species richness than conventional farming systems
- Income opportunities through direct marketing, local processing, manual work, tourism



Photo: FibL, Alfoeldi

Benefits of organic food and farming

- Enhanced animal welfare standards
- Significantly lower (to zero) residues of pesticides in food, higher contents of secondary metabolics, omega3...
- System in progress, pioneer in sustainable practices

But:

- *Wide range of farms on both sides → average comparison*
- *A decathlon winner may not be the best in every single discipline.*




Single measures or system approach?

- **System approach** – consistent and cost efficient
 - one measure to meet several targets (transaction costs lower)
 - prevent inconsistencies, e.g. CC mitigation measures that would harm other objectives
 - organic certification system EU wide in place, pioneer function of private organic standards
- **Single measures** – target local particularities
 - e.g. landscape features with high natural values
 - e.g. erosion control



External costs

An aerial photograph of a green agricultural field with a tractor and a long implement (likely a harrow or similar) moving across it, leaving tracks in the soil. The tractor is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame.

The currently predominant agricultural practices continue to cause environmental harm, which places a considerable economic burden on society, whereas sustainable farming practices are neither supported consequently, nor remunerated for the public goods they deliver.

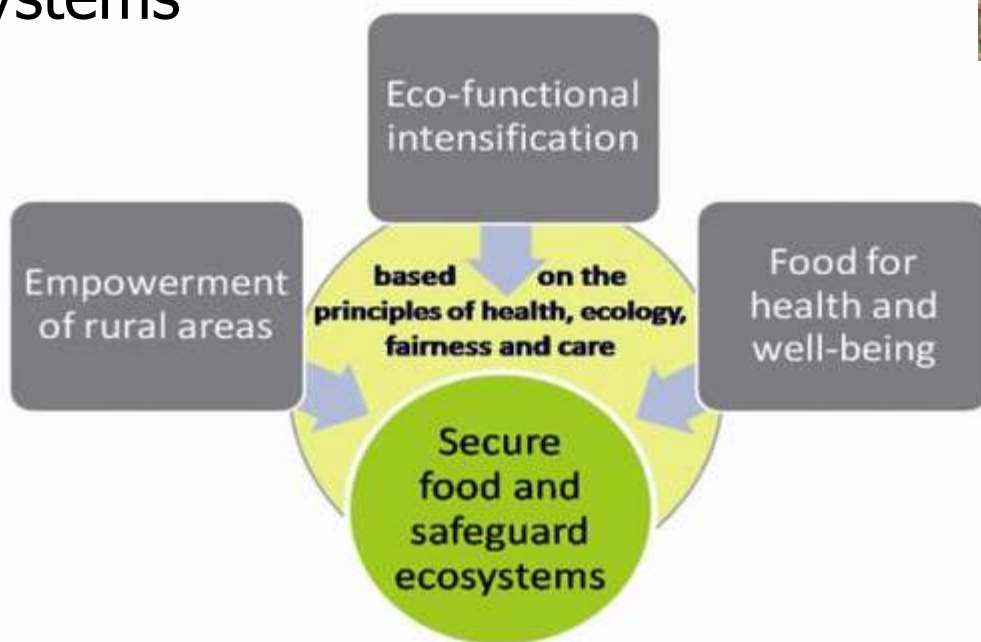
IFOAM EU demand: Organic farming as priority measure in the future CAP

IFOAM EU demands regarding the role of organic farming in the CAP post 2013:

- EU wide support for organic farming
- Organic farming as a priority in all measures and axes (e.g. Bonus for organic farms under investment support and diversification schemes)
- *Organic farming* and *High nature value farming* as leading measure under agro-environmental programmes, combination possible
- End discrimination between 1st pillar and 2nd pillar measures

Unlocking untapped potential for future generations

- Research and knowledge transfer
- Platform to outline research needs
- Scientists, industries, NGOs
- Organic farming as focus, transferability to conventional systems



www.tporganics.eu

CAP - The IFOAM EU Group in Alliances

The Organic sector working with environmental organisations

- Common Proposal for a new CAP with Birdlife, EEB, WWF and EFNP

ARC 2020 - the voice of people to shape rural areas of tomorrow www.arc2020.eu

- civil society platform
- communication to be launched 17 November 2010



Photo: Kölling

CAP – Publications IFOAM EU Group

- Study: How do European rural development programmes support organic farming? (current CAP) (Pohl)
- CAP 2013 – 2020: Analysis and recommendations for an ecological orientation of agricultural policies (Ribbe)
- Position paper „Smart change or business as usual“
- **„The strategic role of organic food and farming“**
- *Planned:* Reaction to Commission Communication 18 November 2010
- *Planned:* Study Organic as system approach



Literature



- Organic farming support payments in the EU, Schwarz, Nieberg and Sanders, 2010
- The effects of organic agriculture on biodiversity and abundance: a meta-analysis Bengtsson et. al, 2005
- Dabbert, S. 2006. Measuring and communicating the environmental benefits of organic food production. Online. Crop Management doi:10.1094/CM-2006-0921-13-RV
- Stolze, M., Piorr, Häring and Dabbert: The Environmental Impacts of Organic Farming in Europe, Stuttgart-Hohenheim: 2000

IFOAM EU website on Common Agricultural Policy:

www.ifoam-eu.org/workareas/policy/php/CAP.php

and factsheets www.ifoam-eu.org/positions/factsheets/index.php

Research: www.tporganics.eu

Thank you for your attention!



Contact:

Antje Kölling

Policy Coordinator

IFOAM EU Group

Rue du Commerce 124

BE- 1000 Brussels

Phone: + 32 2 2806850

Email: [antje.koelling @ ifoam- eu. org](mailto:antje.koelling@ifoam-eu.org)