



Dear readers,

It was a challenging half a year for the humanity due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. However, Europe and the world are finding their way out of this crisis.

Now more than ever, the need for a resilient food system is urgent. Reconsidering climate, agriculture and health policies are among the first steps. Further, all food policy issues are going to be high on the agenda in the next few months. EU has prioritized those policies and they will be addressed via the EU Green Deal and the 'Farm to Fork' Strategy.

Organic Agriculture is on the spotlight. Farm to Fork strategy mentions organic as a key sector to achieve the European Green Deal's food ambitions. EU Commission wants to "reach the objective of at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 and a significant increase in organic aquaculture". Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Organic Action Plan are moving on this direction.

Everything starts from the seed. Supporting the concept 'Organic Food from Organic Seeds', the need to increase the use of open-pollinated organic and local varieties is vital so the farmers can become less dependent on multinationals and more competitive in the local markets. And of course, produce high quality nutritious food. In that direction, we decided to reduce the membership fee to 30 euros per year. We also have new membership advantages. For more information check the 'Invitation for membership' below!

In September will be back with more content and a new section at the newsletter 'What can we do to achieve a resilient human focused food system?'

Until then, keep in touch with us via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Our team wishes you to stay healthy and enjoy safely the summertime!

See you in September!

Best regards,

Lina Lasithiotaki

Invitation for membership with reduced fee

We are a non-profit organization focusing on funding and supporting research for organic and biodynamic plant breeding, especially in the Mediterranean region. Our activity supports the concept: 'Organic Food from Organic Seeds'.

Our association was established in 2016 in Darmstadt, Germany. Central and Northern Europe is importing many fruits and crops from Southern Europe but limited organic seed activities take place in the South. The Mediterranean region is rich in plants. In scientific words is rich in genetic material, i.e. rich in traditional varieties, full of taste and aromas which carry the culture, the fragrance, and the warmth of the South. You remember the taste of Mediterranean tomatoes awakening summer memories and the positive vibes of nutritious food. It is invaluable.

Facing the climate change, we need organic seeds adapted to the local and climate challenges of these days (increasing drought, heat waves, diseases but also improved taste and yield of open- and self-pollinated seeds).

Milestone: Since we were established and with the support of private foundations, organic plant breeding was established on the Iberian Peninsula. We already have partnerships with Sementes Vivas in Portugal/Spain/Morocco, ICARDA in Morocco, CTAEX in Spain and INIAV in Portugal. The training programme of 2018 focused on bringing together young breeders of southern Europe with senior breeders of central and northern Europe.

Goal: Finance organic and biodynamic plant breeding projects in the Mediterranean.

How do we do that? By collecting donations to support organic plant breeding projects, offering trainings, and disseminating information and raising awareness.

How can you support our work? Become a member of our organization and disseminate our work. The board is working without remuneration. The membership fee is € 30 / year.

→Click [here](#) to become member.

We offer to our members:

If there are any related news please let us know and we maybe publish it on our newsletter or/and social media

- In case seed-related topics, please write to us maybe we are able to support
- If you are interested in working with organic seeds and organic farming in the Mediterranean region, we will support to connect you with projects and companies
- In general, we would welcome to exchange ideas related to our common objective

Contact: Lina Lasithiotaki (lebendesamen@gmail.com) for comments or questions.

Embrace our values and join our efforts to empower the beautiful South of the Mediterranean!

ICARDA: International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas

INIAV: National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Research

CICYTEX: Centre for Scientific and Technological Research of Extremadura

CTAEX: Agrofood Technological Center of Extremadura

“Together for Europe’s recovery”: Germany takes over Council presidency

Since first of July, Germany took over the EU Council presidency prioritizing the economic and social recovery of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, a stronger, more innovative, secure, fair, and sustainable Europe in the world.

Further, German presidency aims to come to an agreement on the recovery fund and the EU's budget 2021-2027. Also, aspires to take further steps on climate protection, through the European [Green Deal](#), and economic and social [digitalisation](#). Other priorities are the relations with Africa China, and the EU – UK relations. More details to be found at the [briefing](#) ‘Priority dossiers under the German EU Council Presidency’.

More specifically, regarding the agri-food sector the German Agriculture Minister Julia Klöckner pointed out the focus areas: Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) negotiations, animal welfare labelling, an EU-wide nutritional label. Finally, she mentioned that digitalisation is the key to make rural areas “fit for the future”. Referring to the pandemic, she stressed out the necessity to make the EU food system more resilient. Read more at [EURACTIVE](#).

Organic Regulation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, since 7th July, the Commission is implementing the Regulation (EU) 2020/997 providing derogations on the Regulations (EC) No 889/2008 and (EC) No 1235/2008 as regards controls on the production of organic products.

This implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/997 applies for EU and Third Countries from 1 March 2020 until 30 September 2020 except for China, where it is applied since 1 January 2020. More information [here](#)

IFOAM Organic Europe Annual Report

The IFOAM Organic Europe Annual report of 2019 is released and it contains its main achievements of the last year [IFOAM website](#). Some of them include ongoing advocacy work on CAP and the organic regulation and on GMOs.

The focus is constantly on research and innovation for organic, ensuring that the legal texts of Horizon Europe mention Research & Innovation for organic and agroecology. Coordinating the Horizon 2020 project, LIVESEED aiming to improve transparency and competitiveness of organic seed and plant breeding. Further, they are several position papers and reports on the work of IFOAM at the website.

EU leaders 'far apart' on trillion-euro COVID-19 recovery package deal

The leaders of the 27 member states agree that a common response is needed. However, there were different opinions on the amount of money that they should be offered as help. The Commission has proposed a recovery fund of €750 billion. There is also the trillion-euro EU budget, also known as the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) at stake. Check more on [EURONEWS](#) website

The European Council and the Council of the EU have a central role in the process of establishing the EU's long-term budget, which usually covers a period of five to seven years. The formal process begins with the presentation of the so-called multiannual financial framework (MFF) package by the European Commission.