



Latest Developments on Organic Agriculture

New food policy to triple amount of agricultural land farmed organically by 2030

Great news for the development of organic farming in the EU! The EU's Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy has set a target of 25% of agricultural land in the EU being farmed organically by 2030, a three-fold increase. It focuses on the importance of seed security, highlighting that farmers need to have access to a "range of quality seeds for plant varieties adapted to the pressures of climate change." This is really promising for the organic plant breeding sector, because the organic varieties are adapted to climate challenges.

Also, it will put forward an action plan on organic farming, aiming to help member states to increase both supply and demand for organic products.

More information can be found [here](#) (article from EURACTIVE)

Farm 2 Fork and Biodiversity Strategies Hold Firm on Real Targets

These now confirmed targets are:

- Reduce by 50% the overall use of – and risk from – chemical pesticides by 2030 and reduce by 50% the use of more hazardous pesticides by 2030.
- The reduction of use of fertilisers by at least 20%.
- At least 10% of agricultural area is under high-diversity landscape features.
- At least 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming management, and the uptake of agro-ecological practices is significantly increased.

It will be implemented via CAP with eco-schemes and other tools. The increase in organic agriculture concerns the organic certified land in the EU. However, it does not concern the certified end products.

Read more [here](#) (article from ARC2020)

[Here](#) you can download the 'EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives' (released 20/05/2020 by the European Commission)

World Bee Day

The United Nations in order to raise awareness on the importance of pollinators and specifically the bees announced that the world bee day is always May 20th and the following years.

Bees play a particularly important role in the food chain as they are pollinators of several crops. Nowadays they are under threat facing extinction globally. Intensive farming and land use, monocultures, pesticide use and higher temperatures due to climate change are responsible for this situation

More information [here](#)

World Biodynamic Day: Celebrating almost 100 years of Biodynamic Agriculture on Whitsun Weekend.

The World Biodynamic Day was on Saturday 30 May 2020 and invited everyone from around the world to be for a few hours part of the biodynamic movement.

What to know about biodynamic agriculture? Biodynamic farming is the oldest organic certified farming system (certified by Demeter). It was founded in 1924 by Rudolf Steiner through the inquisition of a handful of German farmers who were back then concerned about the degrading soil fertility (around that time, the first artificial fertilizers appeared). Steiner gave on Whitsun 1924 the introductory lecture of a weeklong lecture series, where he introduced the totally new and unconventional way to farm – until today.

More information [here](#)

Nyéléni Food Sovereignty Movement in Europe and Central Asia releases access to land handbook

Land access, a particularly important topic connected with farm succession, is not regulated on the EU level. Luckily there NGOs working on that and empowering the farmers with knowledge such as Terre-en-vue and Nyéléni Food Sovereignty Movement in Europe and Central Asia. The latest, launched a practical tool to support and strengthen land struggles for small and medium-scale food producers and local communities.

More information [here](#) (IFOAM EU press release). You can download the handbook for free

Organic Farm Knowledge

The Organic Farm Knowledge platform will provide access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help farmers to improve the production. Recently, information on organic seeds were included! More specifically, on the regulation and economics of organic seeds and organic plant breeding and several documents from the EU LIVESEED project.

The platform will promote the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists, with the aim of increasing productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe. Also, aims to serve a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning.

Visit the platform [here](#).

Events

European Organic Congress 2020

It is organized by IFOAM EU and it will take place online on 1 -3 July. Registration is needed for the attendance. Among the topics which will be discussed are: The New EU Organic Regulation, the Farm to Fork Strategy, CAP, the Organic Action Plan and the post COVID-19 European Agriculture.

More information and registration [here](#)

Upcoming LIVESEED cross-visit webinar!

Mr. Michael Friedli (FiBL-Switzerland). 10 June 2020, 14-16.00 PM CET

More information [here](#)