



ACTION PLAN

for the development of organic production



THE TARGET

GREEN DEAL – FARM TO FORK STRATEGY AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY:

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

IMPORTANT:

- Organic farming has positive environmental, climate, biodiversity, animal welfare, etc. effects
- Multiplier effects: increases in organic farming have immediate positive impacts on other FtF/BDS targets (fertilisers, pesticides, antimicrobials)

AMBITIOUS:

- Up to 10% higher than what would be reached extrapolating current trends
- Very different starting points for Member States (organic farming accounting for 0.5%-over 25% of agricultural land)



THE ASSETS AND CHALLENGES

ASSETS:

- Legal stability, critical for farmers considering conversion (2018/848 entering into application 1/1/22)
- Substantial financial incentives (CAP, Horizon Europe, agricultural promotion policy)
- Public trust in organics
- Public recognition of the organic logo
- Commission analysis and proposed actions widely supported by stakeholders and the broader public (stakeholder consultation – 840 replies)

CHALLENGES:

- Different starting points Member States
- Always present risk of fraud (consumer trust is everything in organics)



THE APPROACH (1)

- **Comprehensive** (consumption, production, sustainability)
- **Demand-driven** (consumption first, no conversion without growing demand)
- **Covering the complete value chain** (from farmers to restaurants)
- **Involving a wide range of stakeholders** (EU, Member States, private sector)
- **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)



THE APPROACH (2)

CLEAR STRUCTURE

- 3 axes
- 23 actions

FOCUSED ON PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Organics in the CAP national strategic plans
- National organic action plans (covering measures beyond the CAP)

FOCUSED ON DELIVERY:

- Comprehensive monitoring system (progress reports, mid-term review)



Institutional reception

Supportive:

- EP Resolution - 3 May 2022
- Council Conclusions - 19 July 2021
- EESC Opinion - 22 September 2021
- CoR Opinion - 2 December 2021



Cross-cutting initiatives

Creation of EU Organic Day (23 September) via joint EP, Council, Commission inter-institutional declaration – Celebrated 2021 and 2022

Creation of EU network of national organic ambassadors – 4 meetings so far



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



Cross-cutting initiatives

- All types of data on organic production have been collected and disseminated
 - [e.g. adoption of new regulation on ‘Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs’ (SAIO) enhancing the availability of organic statistics, publication of general market brief on organic production, of several market briefs on imports of organic products, of several short- and medium-term outlook reports, of continuously updated price information on different organic products, of meta-analyses on environmental and climate impacts of organic farming]
- The consumer awareness of organic production has been measured and raised
 - [e.g. regular Eurobarometer surveys, establishment of an annual EU Organic Day, establishment of annual EU Organic Awards]
- Organic products have been promoted to consumers, both inside and outside the EU
 - [e.g. EU marketing campaigns, media information and promotion campaigns and participation in fairs in third countries, negotiations with 13 countries on international agreements on trade in organic products¹]



Cross-cutting initiatives

- The Green Public Procurement of organic products has been promoted
 - [e.g. discussions with Member States within the context of the EU Network of National Organic Ambassadors, dedicated training for Member States, development of minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food public procurement, development of a pilot project on the extent of GPP of organic products, review of the EU school scheme]
- And several actions have been taken to maintain consumer trust
 - [e.g. audits in, and analysing annual reports of, Member States and third country control bodies/authorities and competent authorities; following up on suspected fraud cases with the European Anti-Fraud Office, the EU Agri-Food Fraud Network, etc.; discussing non-compliances with Member States; providing import control guidance; establishing a single database of operators; introducing the electronic signature in the TRACES database for the Certification of Inspection; etc.]



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




Cross-cutting initiatives

- Farmers converting to organic farming are being supported via the Common Agricultural Policy. Following the adoption of the legal framework, the Commission issued recommendations to Member States. Member States then submitted draft national strategic plans that also comprised the support they envisaged for organic farming. These plans were assessed by the Commission in terms of their overall ambition with respect to organic farming and the budgetary scale and consistency of the planned interventions and, after exchanges with the Member States and revisions, they were adopted. As a result, the CAP 2023-2027 constitutes clear progress compared to the previous programming period as it is estimated that the area of EU agricultural land supported by CAP measures targeting organic farming will increase from 5% under the previous CAP to 10% under the CAP 2023-2027.
- Production bottlenecks in organic farming are being addressed
 - [e.g. lack of protein feed (research and innovation projects, rules on insects being developed, algae initiative adopted), lack of seeds and yields and improving intercropping and weed management (1 projects), etc.]



Cross-cutting initiatives

- The position of the organic farmer in the supply chain is being strengthened
 - [e.g. CAP support for organic farming in producer organisations, discussions, monitoring unfair trading practices]
- And the complete organic supply chain, going beyond the farm gate, is being developed
 - [e.g. Code of conduct for responsible food business and marketing practices, promotion of short supply chains and bio-districts]

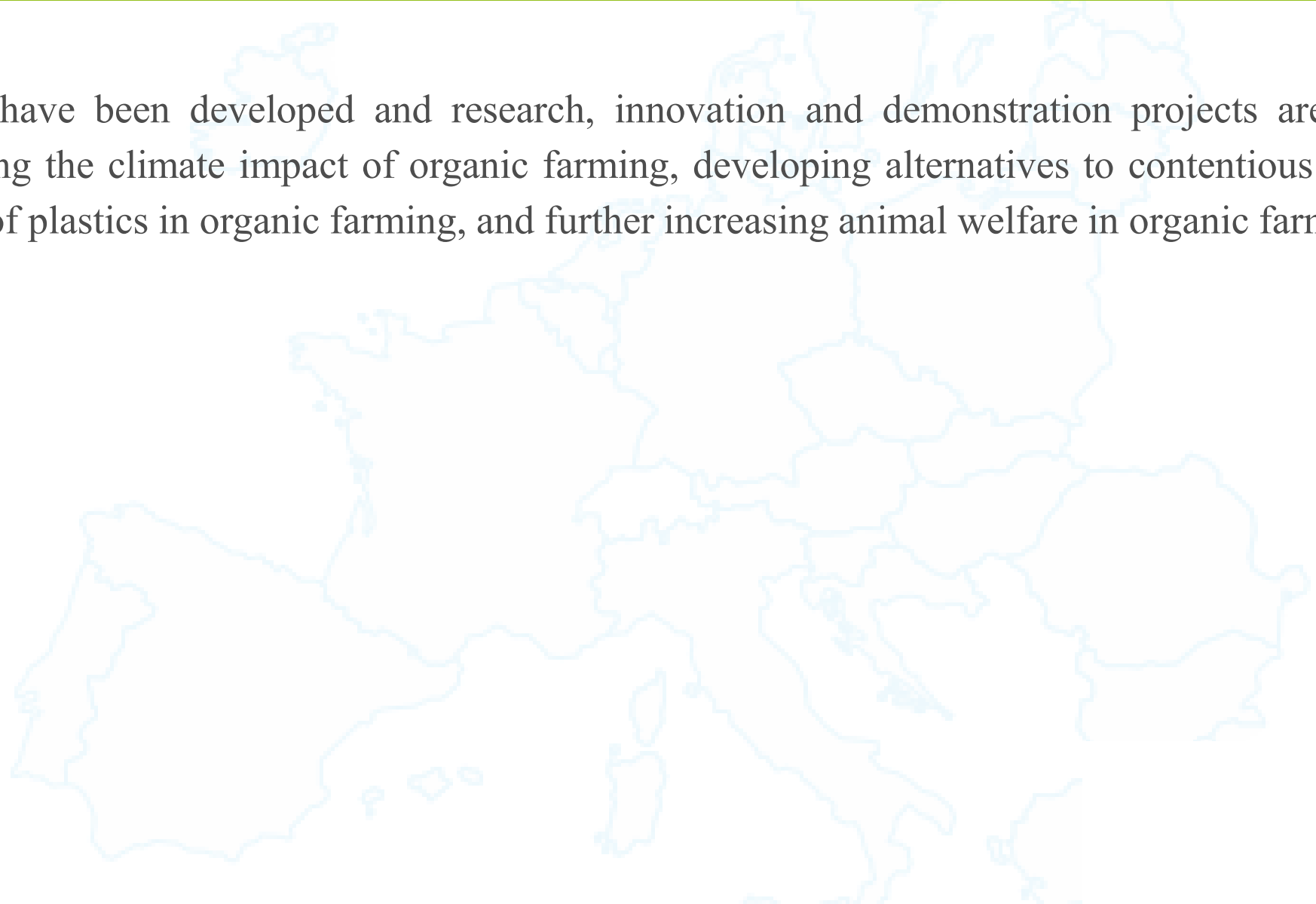
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AXIS 3: ORGANICS LEADING BY EXAMPLE: IMPROVING THE CONTRIBUTION OF ORGANIC FARMING TO SUSTAINABILITY



Cross-cutting initiatives

- Political initiatives have been developed and research, innovation and demonstration projects are being funded on minimising the climate impact of organic farming, developing alternatives to contentious inputs, minimising the use of plastics in organic farming, and further increasing animal welfare in organic farming





Thank you



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