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ANNEX

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to the

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

ON AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTION

{SWD(2021) 65 final}

	Actions	Proposed Actors
AXIS 1. ORGANIC FOOD AND PRODUCTS FOR ALL: STIMULATE DEMAND AND ENSURE CONSUMER TRUST		
1	<i>Promoting organic farming and the EU logo</i> <i>As regards information and communication, the Commission will:</i>	
1.1.	<i>starting in 2021, give a greater focus to organics among the themes covered by the annual call for proposals on information measures on the CAP;</i>	COM
1.2.	<i>starting in 2022, collect continuously data about the environmental, economic and social benefits of organic farming and inform citizens, including farmers, about these benefits by enhancing the use of social media;</i>	COM
1.3.	<i>starting in 2022, measure consumers' awareness of the EU organic logo to monitor progress since the 2020 Eurobarometer. Continue conducting Eurobarometer surveys as a valuable tool to measure the effectiveness of the Commission's actions to promote the organic logo; and</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
1.4.	<i>identify main events to inform about organics, in particular in Member States where demand is below the average EU level, in cooperation with the European Parliament and other bodies such as the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, and Commission Representations in Member States.</i>	COM/EP/EESC/CoR/other EU bodies/MS/stakeholders
2	<i>Promoting organic farming and the EU logo</i> <i>As regards promotion, the Commission will continue to secure an ambitious budget in the EU promotion policy for boosting the consumption of organic products that are aligned with the ambition, policy and actions of the Farm to Fork strategy and Europe's beating cancer plan. The Commission will, starting in 2021:</i>	
2.1.	<i>allocate an enhanced budget in the framework of the annual work programmes of the agricultural promotion policy, with a view to raising consumer awareness of, and stimulating the demand for, organic products;</i>	COM
2.2.	<i>step up the promotion of EU organic products in targeted third country growth markets through, for instance, the participation in fairs in cooperation with Member States;</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
2.3.	<i>raise awareness of export opportunities for EU organic producers, to take advantage of our network of Free Trade Agreements and equivalency agreements; and</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
2.4.	<i>stimulate the sector's visibility through awards recognising excellence in the organic food chain in the EU.</i>	COM
3	<i>Promoting organic canteens and increasing the use of green public procurement</i> <i>To stimulate a greater uptake of organics in public canteens, the Commission will, together with stakeholders and Member States:</i>	
3.1.	<i>boost the awareness of the criteria for GPP issued in 2019, of the work on Public Procurement of Food for Health, and of the Joint Action BestREMAP;</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
3.2.	<i>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 by 2023;</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
3.3.	<i>analyse the current situation as regards the application of EU GPP. The Commission will use the national action plans on organic farming to monitor the application of GPP and call on Member States for an increase in the use of GPP by public authorities. It will also invite Member States to fix ambitious national targets for organics in GPP;</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
3.4.	<i>prepare, in close cooperation with the European Economic and Social</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders

	Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the Covenant of Mayors, specific events for public administrations in charge of public catering, to raise awareness of EU GPP by linking these initiatives to the European Climate Pact, starting in 2022.	
4	Reinforcing organic school schemes As part of the review of the EU school scheme framework planned for 2023 under the Farm to Fork strategy, and in accordance with the Europe's beating cancer plan, the Commission will:	
4.1.	engage with Member States to identify ways to increase further the distribution of organic products in the school schemes . The Commission will call on Member States to continue increasing this share, and those further behind will need to make extra efforts; and	COM/MS
4.2.	carry out a study on real price of food , including the role of taxation, with a view to developing recommendations.	COM
5	Preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust The Commission will, starting in 2021, strengthen the fight against fraudulent practices and in particular:	
5.1.	ensure a robust supervision of control systems in Member States and third countries; increase cooperation with Member State administrations and third countries recognised as equivalent, relying – inter alia - on their means and results of previous audits;	COM/MS/third countries
5.2.	assist Member States in developing and implementing an organic fraud prevention policy , through targeted workshops to share lessons learnt and best practices;	COM/MS
5.3.	cooperate with the EU Food Fraud Network and Europol in analysing the sector to prevent fraud and coordinate investigations; increase cooperation with competent authorities and law enforcement bodies in third countries to exchange information on the organic trade and fraud;	COM/EU Food Fraud Network/Europol/third countries
5.4.	support Member States with guidance on reinforced imports control at the border;	COM/MS
5.5.	promote stronger measures to tackle fraudulent practices through the sanctions catalogues ;	COM/MS
5.6.	put in place measures to inform consumers and/or to recall from the market products where fraud is identified ; and	COM/MS
5.7.	develop early warning systems , using artificial intelligence for data mining in EU (e.g. the Information Management System for Official Controls - IMSOC) and Member State databases.	COM/MS
6	Improving traceability The Commission will, as of 2021:	
6.1.	develop a database of certificates of all EU operators , and later also relevant third country operators , building on the analysis already started under the 2014 action plan, and as a follow-up to European Court of Auditors recommendations;	COM
6.2.	promote the enrolment of competent authorities and control bodies sign certificates of inspection in TRACES digitally . This paperless process will reduce the administrative burden and the risk of forgery of documents; and	COM/MS/stakeholders
6.3.	coordinate regular traceability exercises on organic products in cooperation with Member States, their control bodies and third countries, especially in cases of food fraud suspicion.	COM/MS/third countries
7	Improving traceability The Commission will, as of 2021:	
	in synergy with the work on digital product passports, assess to what extent the traceability of organic products could benefit from blockchain or other digital technologies and envisage, in a second step, a pilot project with stakeholders. These steps will be supplemented by actions under Horizon Europe on the use of blockchain technologies in the agri-food	COM/MS/stakeholders

	sector as well as other targeted research & innovation actions aimed at developing innovative solutions to trace organic food.	
8	The contribution of the private sector With the objective of reinforcing the role of retailers, wholesalers, catering services, restaurants and other businesses , the Commission will, starting in 2021:	
8.1.	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 ; and	COM/MS/stakeholders
8.2.	establish partnerships with businesses willing to promote the use of organic products as part of their corporate sustainability policy . These measures will be further discussed in the platform for Business and Biodiversity .	COM/MS/stakeholders
AXIS 2. ON THE WAY TO 2030: STIMULATING CONVERSION AND REINFORCING THE ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN		
9	Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices In the framework of the new CAP and CFP , the Commission will:	
9.1.	starting in 2023, assess the specific circumstances and needs of Member States regarding the growth of the organic sector, and ensure Member States make the best use of the possibilities offered by the new CAP to support their national organic sector. This support will include technical assistance, the exchange of best practices and innovations in organics, and the full use of relevant CAP instruments such as eco-schemes and rural development environmental management commitments , which include organic farming. Farm advisory services on specific topics will be strengthened, notably as part of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) , to promote relevant knowledge exchange;	COM/MS
9.2.	starting in 2022, promote the exchange of best practices (education and training curricula, courses, materials, etc.) at EU and national level allowing education providers (e.g. technical schools, universities) to develop courses on organic farming as part of the general curriculum and present innovative solutions targeting the organic sector (production, processing, retailing and consumption). EU demonstration farm networks will be set up on specific topics to promote a participatory approach (dissemination). Best practices and synergies with the EIP-AGRI projects will be promoted via the future CAP network; and	COM/MS/stakeholders
9.3.	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 EMFAF 2021-2027 for achieving this purpose. The Commission will also facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovation on organic aquaculture in the context of the Open Method of Coordination.	COM/MS/stakeholders
10	Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency To provide a comprehensive overview on the sector the Commission will, starting in 2021:	
10.1.	publish regular reports on organic production in the EU based on Eurostat data, containing, in particular, information on surfaces, holdings involved in organic production, and the main production sector; and	COM
10.2.	publish a yearly report on imports from third countries.	COM
11	Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency The Commission will, starting in 2022:	
	intensify the collection of market data in collaboration with Member	COM/MS/EU Market

	States and extend the EU Market Observatories' analysis to organic products.	Observatories
12	Supporting the organisation of the food chain The Commission will, starting in 2021:	
12.1.	carry out an analysis of the degree of organisation in organic sector supply chains and identify ways to improve it in consultation with producer organisation representatives and other concerned stakeholders; and	COM/MS/stakeholders
12.2.	investigate the legal possibility of forming or joining specific organic producer organisations and, where possible, encourage Member States to allocate funds for this purpose. Producer organisations have greater market power and can generally help strengthen the position of organic farmers in the agri-food supply chain, particularly when faced with unfair trading practices . 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.	COM/MS/stakeholders
13	Supporting the organisation of the food chain The Commission will, starting in 2022:	
	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.	COM/MS/stakeholders
14	Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuit The Commission will, starting in 2023:	
14.1.	engage with Member States and stakeholders to foster local and small-scale processing , in line with the objective of Regulation 2018/848 on organic production to move towards ' shorter organic supply chains, providing environmental and social benefits ' as part of its efforts to support trade for organic products within the EU single market . This action will be reinforced by targeted research & innovation under Horizon Europe, including support for the use of digital technologies; and	COM/MS/stakeholders
14.2.	encourage Member States to support the development and the implementation of ' Bio districts '.	COM/MS/stakeholders
15	Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuit As organic farming can enhance social inclusion in rural areas while promoting decent working and living conditions , the Commission will, starting in 2022:	
	assist Member States in designing measures for organic farming in rural areas that promote gender equality and youth farmers/employment which could include the sharing of best practices .	COM/MS/stakeholders
16	Improving animal nutrition in accordance with organic rules The Commission intends to:	
16.1.	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;	COM/MS/stakeholders
16.2.	explore means to support the application for feed additives produced without GMM, feed based on insects as well as marine feed stocks ; and	COM/MS/stakeholders
16.3.	adopt an algae initiative in 2022 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.	COM/MS/stakeholders
17	Reinforcing organic aquaculture Starting in 2022, the Commission intends to:	
17.1.	support research and innovation on alternative sources of nutrients, breeding and animal welfare in aquaculture ; the promotion of	COM/MS/stakeholders

	<i>investments on adapted polyculture and multi-trophic aquaculture systems; and the promotion of hatcheries and nurseries activities for juveniles; and</i>	
17.2.	<i>identify and address as appropriate any specific obstacles to the growth of EU organic aquaculture.</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
AXIS 3.		
ORGANICS LEADING BY EXAMPLE: IMPROVING THE CONTRIBUTION OF ORGANIC FARMING TO SUSTAINABILITY		
18	Reducing climate and environmental footprint <i>The Commission will, starting in 2022:</i>	
	<i>take steps, to set up, in cooperation with stakeholders, 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.</i>	COM/stakeholders
19	Enhancing genetic biodiversity and increasing yields <i>In order to enhance biodiversity and increase yields, the Commission intends to:</i>	
19.1.	<i>starting in 2022, 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;</i>	COM
19.2.	<i>set up EU demonstration farms networks to promote a participatory approach (dissemination). Best practices and synergies with the EIP-AGRI projects will be promoted via the future CAP network;</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
19.3.	<i>strengthen farm advisory services, notably as part of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), to promote knowledge exchange of material suitable for the organic farming; and</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
19.4.	<i>support research and innovation on improving organic yields.</i>	COM
20	Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products <i>The Commission:</i>	
20.1.	<i>starting in 2023, intends to 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; and</i>	COM
20.2.	<i>starting in 2022, will, building on the forthcoming regulation on biopesticides, and via the strengthened farm advisory services, notably AKIS, foster where appropriate the use of alternative plant protection products, such as those containing biological active substances.</i>	COM
21	Enhancing animal welfare <i>In the context of the Animal Welfare Platform, the Commission will:</i>	
	<i>continue working with Member States and civil society to find concrete and operational ways to further improve animal welfare in organic production.</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders
22	Making more efficient use of resources <i>The Commission intends to:</i>	
	<i>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. The Framework will cover all plastics, including for uses in all types of agriculture, and will therefore also be highly relevant for organic farming leading the way in terms of sustainability.</i>	COM/MS/stakeholders

23	<i>Making more efficient use of resources</i> <i>The Commission will:</i>	
	<i>promote the more efficient and sustainable use of water, the increased use of renewable energy and clean transport, and the reduction of nutrient release, in all types of farming, with organic farming leading the way, and with the involvement of the Member States through their CAP Strategic Plans, as well as with the new Strategic Guidelines for aquaculture and EMFAF.</i>	COM/MS