

# Update on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production

# Implementation of the Action Plan – General

- Very well received institutionally (Council Conclusions, Parliament own initiative report, EESC opinion, CoR opinion)
  - E.g. vote on supportive Parliament own initiative report: 611 votes in favour, 14 against, and 5 abstentions
- Annual EU Organic Day (23 September) formally established, together with Council and Parliament via inter-institutional declaration; to be celebrated annually from now on
- EU network of national organic ambassadors established:
  - National champions of organic production and contact points for exchange of best practices at EU level
  - Met for the first time in February 2022 (GPP, bio-districts, group certification)
  - Will meet again in June 2022

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Demand

- Organics a priority in the annual information measures on the CAP (IMCAP) 2022 (Action 1.1 of the Action Plan)
- Data on organics being collected (e.g. project "Introduction of organic farming into the CAPRI supply model"; presentations/sessions on organics at 2021 Agricultural Outlook Spring Workshop, 2021 Agricultural Outlook Autumn Workshop, 2021 EU Agricultural Outlook Conference)
- Eurobarometer survey including questions on organics carried out in 2022 (Action 1.3)
- Organics a priority in the annual work program of the agricultural promotion policy 2022 (Actions 2.1 and 2.2.)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Demand

- EU organic awards created (Action 2.4):
  - Organised for the first time in 2022
  - Recognize excellence along the organic value chain
  - Application period opened on 25 March
  - Awards for Best organic farmer (female) and Best organic farmer (male), Best organic region, Best organic city, Best organic bio-district, Best organic SME, Best organic food retailer and Best organic restaurant
  - All stakeholders encouraged to apply by 8 June

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Demand

- Green public procurement – with objective of increasing share of organic products in public canteens - discussed at first meeting of EU network of national organic ambassadors; will be discussed again at next meeting (Action 3)
- Review of EU school scheme - with objective of increasing share of organic products in the scheme - ongoing (Action 4)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Demand

- Much progress made on actions relating to preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust (Actions 5, 6 and 7):
  - Working Group with Member States on non-compliances established
  - Member States regularly briefed on countries and products involved in OFIS notifications
  - AGRI Working Document on additional official controls with global scope developed
  - Collaboration with Food Fraud Network, Europol, OLAF, EPPO strengthened
  - Progress made on single database of operator certificates in TRACES
  - Progress made on digital signature in TRACES (eSeal)
  - Potential of block-chain being assessed

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Demand

- First code of conduct for responsible business and marketing practices published (July) (Action 8):
  - Contains clear references to organics
  - Sets as an aspirational target to “Provide/promote more sustainably-produced food products/meals (e.g. sustainably-produced organic food; higher animal welfare standards; sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and algae products)”. In next versions, the place of organics can surely be strengthened.

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Supply

- National Strategic Plans for the next Common Agricultural Policy (Action 9):
  - Plans analyzed:
    - Level of ambition of the national value for the 25% Green Deal target
    - Level of ambition of the target for Result Indicator 29
    - Planned interventions in the field of organics
    - Overall coherence
  - Observation letters issued
  - Member State replies received
  - Exchanges with MS on-going
- EIP Workshop on conversion to organics prepared organic farming workshop 22-23 June, Florence (Action 9)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Supply

- Input delivered into development of SAIO Regulation (Action 10)
- General brief on organics being prepared (Action 10)
- Annual brief on organic imports being prepared (Action 10)
- Price statistics regularly published (milk prices, egg prices, etc.) (Action 11)
- Producer organisations (Action 12)
  - Inclusion of “organic or integrated production” in Articles 41b(1) and 52(1) of the new CAP Strategic Plans Regulation, i.e. Member States can choose in their CAP Strategic Plans to intervene in organic production to pursue objectives in line with the Regulation.
- Unfair trading practices (Action 12)
  - UTPs Directive monitoring and follow-up ongoing

# Implementation of the Action Plan – Supply

- Group certification discussed at first meeting of EU network of national organic ambassadors (Action 13)
- Short supply chains to be discussed at June meeting of EU network of national organic ambassadors (Action 14)
- Bio-districts discussed at first meeting of EU network of national organic ambassadors; will be discussed again at next meeting (Action 14)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – R&I

- Cross-cutting – Research and innovation actions – Horizon Europe:
  - Calls comprising a number of topics relevant for organics launched under Work Programme 2021-2022 of Horizon Europe
  - Work Programme 2023-2024 being prepared
- Action 7 (Traceability):
  - Topic ‘Research & innovation roadmap for blockchain technologies in the agri-food sector’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)
  - Topic ‘Innovative solutions to prevent adulteration of food bearing quality labels: focus on organic food and geographical indications’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – R&I

- Action 14 (Short supply chains):
  - Topic “Developing EU advisory networks on consumer-producer chains” was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)
- Action 16 (Protein feed):
  - Topic ‘Developing sustainable and competitive land-based protein crop systems and value chains’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)
  - Topic ‘Resilient livestock farming systems under climate change’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – R&I

- Action 18 (Climate footprint):
  - Topic ‘Demonstration network on climate-smart farming – linking pilot farms’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)
  - Topic ‘Demonstration network on climate-smart farming – boosting the role of advisory services’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – R&I

- Action 19 (Genetic diversity and yields):
  - Topic ‘Fostering organic crop breeding’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)
- Action 20 (Plant protection, contentious inputs):
  - Topic ‘Risk assessment of new low risk pesticides’ was included in the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)
- Action 21 (Animal welfare):
  - Topic ‘Animal welfare 2.0’ was included in first Work Programme of Horizon Europe (2021-2022)

# Implementation of the Action Plan – R&I

- Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’:
  - Soil mgt highly relevant for organics
  - Several topics in first work programme ask explicitly that project results benefit both the organic and the conventional sector
  - Purpose of the mission is to set up a large network of living labs and lighthouses; provides unique opportunity to organic sector; looking forward to active participation

# Implementation of the Action Plan – R&I

- Partnership ‘Accelerating farming systems transition: Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures’:
  - Concept published, preparation SRIA on-going
  - COM has asked MS and associated countries to pledge commitments, now on-going
  - Eventually, this partnership will leverage unprecedented financial investments in R&I focusing on agroecological approaches, including organic farming

# Thank you



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