

Eat smart – think of the climate - eat organic!

IFOAM EU comments EU conference on Climate Smart Food

Lund, 24/11/2009 – The Swedish Presidency closes today its conference on Climate smart food (1). On this occasion, **Christopher Stopes**, President of the IFOAM EU Group (2), emphasises the need to consider the climate in food decisions:

“The way we produce food and the choices we make for the food we eat both have an impact on the climate. Organic farming offers great potential regarding climate change mitigation (3) due to increased rates of soil carbon sequestration through mixed farming, pasture-based livestock systems and the prohibition of the use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer. Fertilizer production requires high inputs of fossil fuels and is responsible for large emissions of greenhouse gases. Organic delivers good results across a wide range of sustainability aspects. We must effectively communicate this high sustainability of organic food and farming to consumers, encouraging organic choices for an environmentally friendly and tasty diet, with less but higher quality meat”.

As farming will also have to adapt to climate change to feed the world in the future and to secure rural livelihoods, **Marco Schlüter**, Director of the IFOAM EU Group, adds:

“Organic farming applies knowledge based crop rotations and uses a wider range of species and varieties; this leads to a high potential to react to changing conditions. Moreover, due to improved soil structures, organic fields are less vulnerable to drought and heavy rain. Organic farms, with their almost closed nutrient circles and often a higher diversification of economic activity, are well equipped to face future challenges. European policies should therefore encourage conversion to organic farming and its maintenance.”

End (characters 1800)

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Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

NOTES:

(1) Climate Smart Food – conference programme and proceedings - http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/11/23/climate_smart_food

(2) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.

(3) As also outlined in the EU Commission staff working document accompanying the White Paper "Adapting to Climate Change: the challenge for European agriculture and rural areas": "*Organic farming has potential for mitigation through its efficient nutrient cycles and soil management, and as it usually implies higher diversity and high level of knowledge of the functioning of the farm ecosystem, it is also likely to be more resilient to climate change.*"

More at: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st08/st08526-ad05.en09.pdf>