



Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

Climate challenge stresses need for sustainable food strategy research – organic offers model

Brussels, 13/07/2009 - The EU agriculture Ministers are discussing today research strategies and the Commission's White paper on strategies to adapt to climate change.

On this occasion, Christopher Stopes, President of the IFOAM EU group (1), states: "Organic farming has a high potential to adapt to the consequences of and to mitigate the risk of climate change, as well as to produce food in a sustainable manner, which is also recognized in the Commission's paper (2). Climate change and loss in soil quality are serious threats to future food production; therefore we call on the Swedish presidency and the Council to take steps to help to tackle these challenges using organic farming as an example of best practice. Organic delivers a model for the future of food and farming systems. This opportunity must be taken into consideration, further developed and extended by European policy makers."

Otto Schmid, Vice-President of the IFOAM EU group, adds: "Research is a crucial tool to improve agricultural practices in order to adapt to and mitigate climate change and to secure food security on a sustainable basis. The platform TP organics does already provide a vision for an organic food and farming research agenda to 2025 (3). Tomorrow, researchers, farmers and representatives of organic enterprises from all EU member states will come together for a stakeholder meeting in Brussels (4) in order to further discuss research needs and a strategic research agenda."

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NOTES:

- (1) 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.
- (2) 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."*
<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/09/st08/st08526-ad05.en09.pdf>
- (3) http://www.tporganics.eu/upload/TPOrganics_VisionResearchAgenda.pdf
- (4) Meeting agenda:
http://www.tporganics.eu/upload/TPOrganics_stakeholderforum_programme-map.pdf