





Organic - part of the solution!

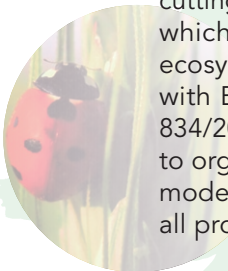
FACTSHEET SERIES: Organic's contribution to tackling EU policy challenges



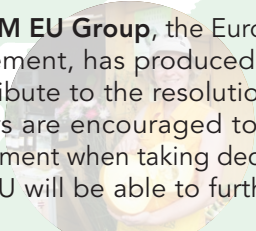
Food and farming need re-thinking. A growing world population is facing climate change, progressive loss of biodiversity, depletion of natural resources and the destruction of ecosystems whose services mankind needs for survival. Current thinking on agricultural production does not effectively address food and environmental crises; as evidence of this, the increasing area of degraded soils and agriculture's oil-dependency have recently been highlighted as deeply problematic in the report of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). The report advocates nothing less than a fundamental re-think of the food system as the only way to achieve sustainable food security worldwide.



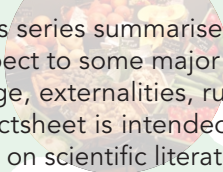
The organic sector can guide the re-think. Organic production deals with the environmental, social and economic challenges of agriculture and multiple studies have proven its beneficial effects, environmental and socio-economic.



Organic farming is a knowledge-intensive production system. The sector has gathered a vast pool of agronomic resources which incorporate both traditional knowledge and cutting-edge technologies. They describe practical, tried-and-tested farming approaches which take into account the whole production system to enable resource-efficient ecosystem management. Organic is by now the only system of sustainable agriculture with Europe-wide standards and certification as established by EU Regulation (EC) 834/2007. Further, organic producers are innovative and have pioneered new approaches to organising producer, industry and consumer interrelationships in improved business models. Society, food and farming industries at large and policy makers can therefore all profit from the rich experience of the organic sector.



IFOAM EU Group, the European umbrella organisation of the organic food and farming movement, has produced this factsheet series to present what organic farming can contribute to the resolution of major policy challenges in the EU. Policy makers and others are encouraged to draw on the experiences and knowledge of the organic movement when taking decisions. By supporting organic farming and research activities, the EU will be able to further progress on some of the burning political issues of our time.



The nine **fact sheets** in this series summarise and explain the main benefits of organic food and farming with respect to some major EU challenges: biodiversity, water, animal welfare, soil, climate change, externalities, rural development, food security and food safety and quality. Each factsheet is intended only as a brief introduction to the topic concerned. They are based on scientific literature, which can be accessed in a dedicated section of the IFOAM EU website:

<http://www.ifoam-eu.org/positions/factsheets>



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You can find further information on authors, scientific advisors and sources of pictures on the IFOAM EU Group website:

<http://www.ifoam-eu.org/positions/factsheets>

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