

## QLIF workshops

### 4th QLIF congress

Thursday and Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>



### What is QLIF?

QLIF—or QualityLowInputFood—is an Integrated Project under the European Commission’s Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) that started in 2004 and brings together European research on a wide range of low input and organic farming research, from consumer perceptions of quality to individual activities on the farm. QLIF aims to improve the quality and safety of organic and “low-input” food, while reducing its cost to the consumer. The project consortium includes 34 partners from 15 countries. Details about QLIF can be found at [www.qlif.org](http://www.qlif.org).

### Purpose of the workshops

Many results generated in QLIF will be presented within the 2nd ISOFAR Scientific Conference “Cultivating the future based on Science” (in the frame of the Scientific Research Track). But, after four years of intense research work, it is now time to review results and put the findings back into the background of organic and low input farming and the current research landscape. For that purpose, we will organize five interdisciplinary workshops. These workshops will spark discussions across disciplines, emphasize how the results are linked together, and join forces to distill ideas for future research.

At the beginning of each workshop, a synthesis paper will be presented and two or three speakers will be invited to comment on it. Then, workshop participants will discuss the synthesis paper focused on a set of questions and aims that will be specific to each workshop. The workshops are open to all conference participants and the synthesis papers will be available online at [www.qlif.org](http://www.qlif.org) prior to the workshops.

### The workshops

#### **Workshop 1:** Product quality in organic and low input farming systems

QLIF researchers have quantified effects on food quality and health of products such as wheat, forage, apples, milk, and meat. The workshop identifies factors that cause variation of the product quality for different commodities. Experimental findings on quality of organic and low input foods will be compared with consumer expectations and attitudes. For selected quality-improving measures, their economic impact will be analyzed. Furthermore, the role of processing in maintaining or improving specific “organic” qualities will be examined.

#### **Workshop 2:** Safety of foods from organic and low input farming systems

In this workshop, we will summarize the results of the QLIF project on food safety issues. The participants discuss safety problems related to organic and low input standards and techniques for both animal and plant products. They will relate the findings to consumers’ perception and concern. Improved production and processing techniques will be suggested.

**Workshop 3:** Performance of organic and low input crop production systems

A large number of results on optimizing organic and low input production of crops for commodities such as wheat, apples, tomatoes, and lettuce have been generated. However, the gap between the productivity of organic and conventional production systems persists as one of the main issues. In this workshop, we want to analyze this gap, assess the impact of the QLIF results on yields and costs, and spark a discussion on further approaches on how to increase productivity and yield stability.

**Workshop 4:** Performance of organic and low input livestock systems: A matter of sound design?

The QLIF project has targeted a variety of issues to make organic animal production (dairy cattle, pig, poultry) more safe, develop alternative methods to promote animal health, and improve product quality. This workshop will analyze the gap between the productivity of organic and that of conventional livestock systems. The possible impact of the QLIF results on yields and costs will be evaluated and further approaches to improve organic and low input animal production systems will be discussed.

**Workshop 5:** Resource efficiency of organic and low input systems in comparison to intensive agriculture

QLIF researchers have collected data on the environmental and economic impact of a series of production measures. This will be the basis for this workshop, which aims to analyze the efficiency of organic and low input systems concerning the use of land, nutrients, water energy, and climate-change scenarios. Economic efficiency of different production systems with implications for markets and prices will be analyzed., We will also explore the extent to which consumers value environmental benefits.