Natural&Organic Products
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BIOECO ACTUAL®
INDEPENDENT FREE NEWSPAPER ABOUT THE ORGANIC SECTOR

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Natural&Organic Products Europe 2018

UK's Leading Event for the Natural&Organic Products Industry

22-23 April 2018 | ExCel, London

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NATURAL&ORGANIC PRODUCTS EUROPE

Montse Mulé,
Editor, bio@bioecoactual.com

22-23 April 2018 ExCeL | London

Natural&Organic Products Europe 2018.

Europe's leading event for the natural&organic products industry

London April 22 and 23, 2018. London's ExCeL will host the Europe's favorite natural business event, which will welcome four economic sectors: natural and organic food, cosmetics and personal care, health, and natural cleaning products, in the so-called **The Natural Food Show; Natural Beauty & Spa Europe Show; Natural Living Show and Natural Health Show**.

Natural & Organic Products Europe is part of Diversified Communications' portfolio of natural products trade shows and publications.

This edition will have 15% more exhibition space, allowing for more than 700 food and beverage exhibitors and 250 cosmetic and beauty exhibitors. More than 10,500 visitors from around 76 countries are expected to attend. This will be a global meeting space for producers, processors, distributors and customers looking for a fair, sustainable, ethical, frefrom, vegetarian, vegan and healthy trade. While the industry will show the latest novelties in food, drink and health from all over the world (more than 1,000 new products will be presented), the most important challenges as well as the opportunities with the greatest potential impact on the market for next year will be discussed and shared at the many talks and debates that have been programmed.

> The show is renowned for showcasing the best choice of certified organic, GMO-free, vegan, vegetarian, and sustainable health and wellness innovations from around the world

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The rise in popularity of Natural & Organic Products Europe since its first edition in 1997 has been driven by the growing demand for cleaner and more natural products. The show is renowned for showcasing the best choice of certified organic, GMO-free, vegan, vegetarian, and sustainable health and wellness innovations from around the world.

Thousands of customers, retailers, caterers and foodservice managers from all over the world, in search of high quality natural and organic products, are expected to visit the fair. For a quarter of the exhibitors this will be their first edition. The fair will include pavilions dedicated to countries such as Austria, Peru, Ecuador, Italy, Greece, Thailand, Spain and Sri Lanka; as well as individual exhibitors from 60 countries, including Australia, China, Czech Republic, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Poland and Sweden.

The Soil Association's recent organic market report revealed that the 'UK organic market is now in its fifth year of strong growth and worth £2.09 billion. The organic beauty and wellbeing sector grew by 13% to be worth £61.2 million.'

The Natural Food Show

Thousands of tasty and nutritious food and drink products all under one roof. From hundreds of exciting start-ups as well as established brands.

Natural Beauty & Spa Europe

The very best natural, organic, cruelty-free, vegan, Fairtrade and ethical beauty products from across the globe.

Natural Health

The UK's biggest showcase for natural nutritional supplements, herbal remedies, natural healthcare and active health products.

Natural Living

Hundreds of eco-living products – from cleaning products to personal care – made with respect for the environment.

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NATURAL&ORGANIC PRODUCTS EUROPE

Innovation Pitch Live

All natural and organic brands will have the exclusive opportunity to explain in five minutes the quality and innovation of their products to an audience of potential buyers. **The Innovation Pitch Live** is open to all participating companies in all areas: **The Natural Food Show, Natural Health, Natural Living and Natural Beauty & Spa Show**.

"As a show, we've been supporting new start-ups in the health and wellbeing sector for over twenty years. We're delighted to be working closely with Holland & Barrett, once again, to offer our exhibitors an exclusive opportunity to fast track their way to meet their buyers and – potentially – win a listing," says Natural & Organic Products Europe's event director Carol Dunning.

> The Soil Association's recent organic market report revealed that the 'UK organic market is now in its fifth year of strong growth and worth £2.09 billion', whereas the organic beauty and wellbeing sector is worth £61.2 million

Natural Products Talks

Across three theatres, visitors will be able to see and hear from some of the industry's most respected names as they will reveal the latest trends, research and innovations to hit the market.

Natural Food Talks. Healthy eating trends hosted by celebrity chefs and nutrition experts. Sponsored by naturalproductsglobal.com.

Natural Beauty Talks. Featuring the latest research, ingredient innovations, consumer trends, legislation and regulation updates from natural beauty leading speakers. Sponsored by kinetic natural products distributor.

Natural Products Talks. Sponsored by Natural Balance Foods and delivered by a line-up of speakers with inspiring stories and great research to share.

Natural Health Talks. Held in conjunction with Natural Products News, the hottest trends and developments in the natural & organic world delivered by industry pioneers.

As in previous years, the **Soil Association** will also host several exclusive presentations in the Natural Products Talks Theatre discussing market trends and opportunities – including the latest consumer research and a comprehensive trade overview of the 2018 Organic Market Report.

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Natural & Organic Products Europe Awards 2018

Highlighting the very best products, individuals and stores throughout the country, this awards ceremony will take place on Sunday 22nd April at the end of the first day of Natural Products Europe.

Natural Beauty Retailer Awards

Designed to recognise and celebrate the importance that a great retail experience plays in growing the organic and natural beauty market, the revamped awards will now take place on Monday 23 April 2018.

Categories include: Best Department Store, Best Retail Chain, Best Supermarket, Best Branded Store, Best Online Retailer, and Best Independent Store.

Commenting on the move, Carol Dunning, event director of Natural & Organic Products Europe, says: "We're delighted to welcome the Natural Beauty Retail Awards to the show. The exhibition is the launch pad for so many fabulous new natural and organic beauty products. To celebrate the retailers who stock these products at the event where the industry truly comes together each year, is a perfect fit."

30 Under 30

This new initiative has been launched to acknowledge and reward young talent who are set to be the future movers and shakers.■

FOOD

INTERVIEW

Montse Mulé,
Editor, bio@bioecoactual.com

Carol Dunning, *Event Director* of Natural&Organic Products Europe

Carol Dunning | Event Director

"I have been working on Natural & Organic Products Europe since 2005 and as they say, when you do something you love it's not work. I am passionate about the natural & organic industry and the wonderful people I have been lucky enough to get to know over the years – I even go on holiday every year with a wonderful group of firm friends."

As a result of its growth, has the organic sector finally gained the trust and support of the UK government to promote the conversion from conventional to organic agriculture?

Earlier this year, the UK Government announced a striking change of direction of its agricultural policy that many see as being much more organic-friendly. As part of its new 25 year farming plan, the UK's farming ministry Defra is pledging to put 'natural capital' at the centre of farming policy. Soil protection and environmental stewardship have been identified as key priorities for the future. This would encourage more and more farmers to convert to organic and help the UK sector scale top to meet growing consumer demand.

Could Brexit impede the growth of the fair, which calls itself Natural & Organic Products Europe?

This year's show is the biggest yet, and business confidence – according to our own survey – is very high in the specialist natural and organic retail channel. The brands in our sector are also very outward facing and mission-led, they naturally look for opportunities to grow the market. London is one of the world's greatest trading hubs and Britain is Europe's third biggest economy, so it has huge appeal as a venue.

> I am passionate about the natural & organic industry and the wonderful people I have been lucky enough to get to know over the years

Do you think it is clear enough for the professional visitor where the boundary is between natural and organic?

The natural and organic industries span a broad spectrum of ideas and values, but in the UK the different segments have always co-existed pretty well – both in terms of how the trade and retail channels operate, and here at Natural & Organic Products Europe. Organic certifiers and other social and environment schemes such as Fairtrade, Vegan mark and Fairwild play a valuable role in guiding buyers to products that match specific requirements. At the end the exhibition is really a mirror of the diverse and thriving market.

With a 250% rise of veganism in the last decade, the opportunities for the industry are enormous. Has the presence of vegan products increased at the fair?

We have always been a vegan-friendly show as our health stores have, for many years, been the only access for consumers to purchase wholefoods, health and personal care products for a vegan lifestyle.

We have seen more and more innovative vegan products entering the market and offering convenience to this sector. In addition, the multi-label products which are vegan, organic, raw, free-from - as well as the introduction of the 'healthy gourmet' – are a world away from the products available just a few years ago.

We work closely with the Vegan Society and have hosted a dedicated Vegan Society pavilion for many years now. As consumer demand for vegan products shows no signs of slowing down, and the number of buyers for vegan products ever-increasing, we launched 'Vegan World' in 2017. Supported by the Vegan Society and open to all vegan companies from around the world, this year's Vegan World has seen a 46% growth which is phenomenal.

It is no surprise that we are seeing great growth in the health and wellbeing sector of the industry as consumer awareness to a 'whole vegan lifestyle' increases. Natural beauty brands (of which we have 44 that are new from the UK and around the world), have always been 'cruelty-free' and the terms 'cruelty-free' and 'vegan' are interchangeable.■

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UK organic industry prepares for its breakthrough moment

After six consecutive years of retail sales growth, is the UK's organic sector poised for a breakthrough moment? Jim Manson reports.

While the UK's organic sector hasn't been achieving the double-digit growth of some of its European neighbours, it remains the world's fifth biggest organic market (with retail sales worth £2.2 billion) and has clocked up six consecutive years of sales growth.

Now, with the prospect of more organic-friendly food and farming policy on the horizon – if the British Government stays true to its 'Green Brexit' pledge – some believe that the UK industry has an opportunity to finally break out of its niche status (organic currently accounts for around 1.5% of the UK's £100 billion food and drink industry).

Not that the UK organic industry thinks like a niche sector. It has a special talent for punching above its weight and commands consistently high levels of media attention, bolstered in recent years by enthusiastic support from high profile food bloggers. In this way, organic has successfully placed itself at the heart of a national debate on food and farming.

The UK organic movement has a long and distinctive history, reaching back to the 1940s. Even today, the UK organic market differs in a number of ways from its counterparts in continental Europe. Two of these differences are worth highlighting.

> **It has been the independent sector that has reported the strongest growth in organic sales in recent years**

The first is that UK consumers' reasons for buying organic are generally tilted more towards personal health benefits. Values such a 'health', 'better for you' and 'no pesticides' frequently appear at the top of surveys of organic purchasing motivations, while environmental concerns (which typically top surveys in countries such Germany, France, and across Scandinavia) are ranked lower. This has a bearing on the way that products and brands are marketed in the UK. But UK consumers also strongly associate organic with quality and 'premium' values. The most successful organic brands are those that successfully convey a combination of these key values.

Another important difference is the retail landscape. Although Britain has long tradition of specialist health food and wholefoods retailing, mass-market retailers continue to account for around 70% of organic retail sales. And while there are a number of specialist organic supermarket chains (Planet Organic, Whole Foods Market and As Nature Intended among them), their collective store estate adds up to around 20 bricks and mortar outlets . It means that the UK retail mix lacks the presence of larger specialist organic chains such as France's Bio c'Bon and Italy's NaturaSi. Interestingly though, it has been the independent sector that has reported the strongest growth in organic sales in recent years – a feature both of changing shopping habits (people buying smaller amounts more frequently) and a growing interest in localism.

Competing claims

As elsewhere, the organic label in the UK competes with an increasing number of value claims. These include social schemes such as Fairtrade and environmental initiatives like the Fairwild Mark. But it has been the free-from and vegan categories that have been making the biggest impact in recent years – to the extent that the UK's biggest health food chain, Holland & Barrett, has repositioned itself in everything but name as a free-from retailer. Then there is the wider issue of 'natural' and 'all natural' claims. To some extent, the surge in the use of 'natural' claims is a product of the organic industry's influence on the wider food industry. By highlighting ingredients that organic rules prohibit – artificial flavours, colours and preservatives, for example – mainstream brands have been pressured into cleaning up their own ingredients.

Rather than damaging the organic market, the popularity of free-from and vegan lifestyles have created an opportunity for the organic sector. Many organic brands have been able to expand their appeal by offering gluten-free, dairy-free or vegan ranges or variants. Some would argue that an 'organic+' offer – organic certification plus one or more additional ethical or health claims – is a vital asset when it comes to securing shelf-space.

Edward Hands©Creative Commons. King Street, Hammersmith

UK organic at a glance – 2018

- Organic food and drink sales in the UK grew +6% to be worth £2.09 billion
- 39% of UK shoppers buy organic food on a weekly basis
  - Supermarket sales of organic grew 4.2%
  - Independent retailers increased sales of organic by 9.7%
  - Sales of organic products through home delivery grew by 9.5%
  - Sales of organic into the foodservice market grew by 10.2 % to be worth £66.4 million
  - The organic beauty and wellbeing sector grew by 24% to be worth £75.9 million
- Soil Association textile licensees increased organic sales by 25% to £35 million

Source: Soil Association Organic Market Report 2018

Organic food and drink % share

Dairy	29%
Fresh produce	23.5%
Canned/Packaged	15.2%
Baby food	10.3%
Meat, fish	10.1%
Confectionery/soft drinks	3.9%
Chilled/deli	1.9%
Beers/spirits	2.2%
Bakery/cakes	1.4%
Frozen	0.7%

Source: Soil Association Organic Market Report 2018

Brexit – threat or opportunity?

The UK organic industry expressed early concern at the outcome of Britain's EU Referendum. The Soil Association said it was "very disappointed" about the vote, adding that it was "very likely" that the UK would continue to be bound by the EU Organic Regulation. Amid fears that the Brexit vote might lead to a roll back of environmental regulations, the organic charity was one of 80 organizations that wrote a letter to the British Prime Minister, Theresa May, urging her Government to travel in the opposite direction – seizing an opportunity to place the public good at the heart of future UK food and farming policy.

Rather than damaging the organic market, the popularity of free-from and vegan lifestyles have created an opportunity for the organic sector

Earlier this year, in a major speech by the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, came a strong signal that ministers had been listening. In his address to the annual Oxford Farming Conference, Gove pledged a "Green Brexit" which would prioritize conserving 'natural capital'. Calling for a "break from destructive unsustainable practices", he urged all farmers to embrace change.

The speech was welcomed by leading figures from the organic sector. Organic farmer and founder of the Sustainable Food Trust, Patrick Holden, called it "an exciting and potentially transformative moment in British agricultural history".

It's too early to say whether Brexit really will usher in a more organic-friendly approach politically. If it does, it would have the potential to be genuinely transformative for 'brand organic'. So, expect the organic sector to keep up the pressure on ministers to deliver on their pledge of a Green Brexit. In particular, the industry will want to see Government acknowledging publicly that organic offers a proven, existing solution to many of the environmental problems it has recently highlighted.

Philafrenzy©Creative Commons. Planet Organic, Muswell Hill

In the meantime, Britain's adaptable and distinctive organic brands will soon be reaping the benefits of a major new £10 million organic consumer advertising campaign that has been part-funded by the European Union (you may, or may not, see irony in this).■

ORGANIC IN THE UK

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Organic growing strongly as people look for 'food as it should be'

2017 marked our sixth year of solid growth in the UK organic market, up 6% on the previous year. At £2.2 billion, the market is worth more than it ever has been – and that's something we are proud of. Even more so as organic sales are growing faster than non-organic, accounting for around 1.5% of the total UK food and drink market. This also means that there is so much opportunity in the UK as we consider the penetration of organic in other European countries such as Denmark at almost 10%.

Increasingly we are seeing 'organic' being associated with 'healthy', and our recent consumer research has shown health to be a key motivator for the organic shopper. With the upward trend for free-from food and with more people choosing to eat less but better meat, or opting for a fully vegetarian or vegan diet, organic fresh produce is becoming ever-more popular and we are also seeing substantial growth in sales in the organic chilled and deli aisles.

Trust is a hugely important factor, with people becoming increasingly interested in where their food has come from and how it has been produced. 'Provenance' has been a buzzword for organic lately and, as shoppers become more concerned about the integrity of their food, organic provides a positive story of traceability and principles to tell. Organic is the only farming system which is independently verified and backed up by EU regulations, and all organic food is independently inspected and certified. Making that story accessible to the consumer will be the key to accelerating market growth, as more people start to understand just what organic means for the plate and the planet.

> Shoppers are looking for simple ways of making choices and view organic as a clear signpost to health

Today's Consumer

Shoppers today are changing as too is the shopping environment and the approach to buying and choosing food. Huge choice and multiple messages both in store and through media are confusing consumers and can make shopping seem like a frustrating experience.

Shoppers are looking for simple ways of making choices and view organic as a clear signpost to health. Yet consumers interpret health differently, it is a personal thing as they know what is right for themselves.

Top up shopping is still very important and the move away from out of town superstores continues. More people are buying smaller amounts more often and being much more selective about where they choose to shop. In fact, many consumers are omni-channel shopping - mixing online purchases with shopping in a number of different retailers such as Waitrose for fresh food and Aldi or Lidl for basic packaging grocery items.

This does challenge organic as the need for product availability in all store sizes is greater than ever. Maintaining a fresh organic range in a smaller high street store can be difficult, however with the right inviting displays and in store information, organic can prove it will sell.

Recent research among 25-55 year old consumers in England revealed six key beliefs influencing food choices today and five broader external factors that influence food shopping and where organic fits in. Within the beliefs, healthiness, taste and inspiration and pleasure were strong motivators for purchase alongside consumer's need for convenience, getting good value and making a statement with their choice.

Current external influences are very interesting and have changed dramatically in the last 12 months as the growth in vegetarians, vegans and flexitarians shows no signs of abating. Research confirmed that there is a marked increase in the amount of organic meat that consumers are eating, with an increase in red meat in particular – suggesting that consumers are opting for eating less but better quality meat. Alongside this trend, others are switching to vegetable based diets. Milk alternatives, too, are being tried and often purchased alongside milk as part of a portfolio. These trends are even stronger within organic consumers who see dual labelling of organic alongside 'free-from' as the best choice for health.

Concerns about food production increase and packaging waste is driving a new agenda for many producers. Organic, with its audited assurance and high integrity of standards, answers consumer needs for trust in the supply chain. British provenance plays an increasingly important role on what people buy, especially with the uncertainty of Brexit.

Although food culture is changing, organic is well placed to make the most of these trends as the healthy and assured choice. Organic labelling on pack is a positive extra and can give confused shoppers the kind of reassurance that they are looking for, while bewildered by the amount of choice and the amount of communication with which they are bombarded.

A bright future

We're advancing ever-closer to Brexit – and while this still presents some uncertainty, it also brings opportunities. Encouragingly, shoppers are remaining loyal to UK organic in the face of Brexit, buoyed by the assurance and benefits the organic label and Soil Association symbol brings. Post- Brexit this assurance will likely become all

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the more important in view of potential new international trade. For example: the growing likelihood of US imports has raised concerns for many, with the media bringing to light some key differences in the production methods and standards of US produce; and the high standards guaranteed by UK organic will help the market further flourish on our own soil.

But there are also big opportunities for UK organic outside of Britain: figures suggest as much as 9% of organic sales are export, and now is the ideal moment to secure our position in the global market. Rising demand for organic is an international trend; and UK organic has a strong global reputation for high integrity. Overall we expect the trend for organic market growth to continue, both at home and abroad. The consumer demand for trust, traceability and high welfare standards – all of which organic delivers – is not going anywhere; and growing demand leads to growing supply.

All in all this paints an exciting and positive picture for the future of British organic. The solid growth of the last 6 years is set to continue and with organic seen as a signpost to health, careful sourcing and attentive animal welfare, we are confident that this growth will ramp up even further.

Soil Association Organic Market Report 2018 is available to purchase at a cost of £100.

Link: https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/market-research-and-data/download-the-organic-market-report/.■

Leading Certification

Soil Association Certification is the UK's largest organic certification body, licensing over 70% of the organic food on sale in the UK, from chocolate to carrots and from wine to yoghurts. We work with licensees to grow the organic market, supporting businesses from large processors to individual farms. We do this by providing exclusive market information, consumer insights alongside marketing and business development support

Rising demand for organic is an international trend; and UK organic has a strong global reputation for high integrity

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Organic continues to boom: Global market grew by double digits in 2016, the highest increase ever – 14 facts on organic agriculture worldwide

The latest data on organic agriculture worldwide (2016) indicate that exceptional growth continues. Data show a double-digit increase in 2016 for the three key indicators: farmland area, retail sales and producers. It is also notable that for the first time in recent years the organic farmland grew faster than the market. In the following article, the key data from the latest statistical yearbook, "The World of Organic Agriculture" are presented.

Almost 58 million hectares of organic farmland – another all-time high

There were 57.8 million hectares of organic agricultural land in 2016, which constitutes an all-time high. This area corresponds approximately to that of the total country area of France. The regions with the largest areas of organic agricultural land were Oceania (27.3 million hectares, which is almost half the world's organic agricultural land) and Europe (13.5 million hectares, 23 percent).

Australia has the largest organic farmland area in the world

The countries with the largest organic agricultural land are Australia (27.1 million hectares), which, with a growth of 5 million hectares, recorded the highest farmland growth, followed by Argentina (3.0 million hectares), China (2.3 million hectares), and Spain (2.0 million hectares).

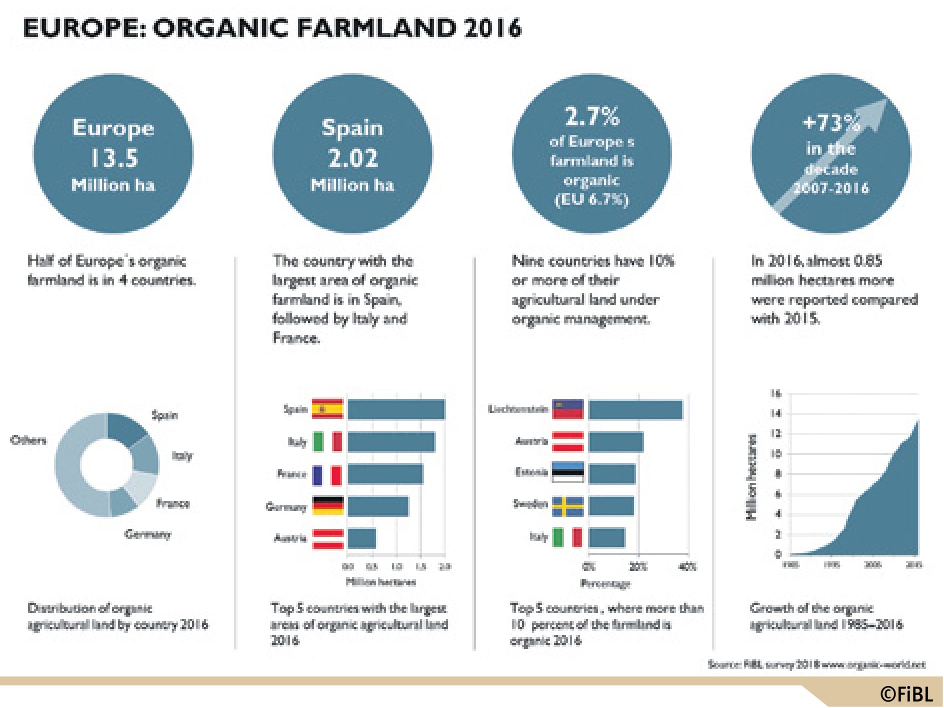
Globally, 1.2% of the farmland is organic and Liechtenstein has the highest organic share of all farmland (37.7%)

Currently, 1.2% of the world's agricultural land is organic. The highest organic shares of the total agricultural land, by region, are in Oceania (6.5%) and in Europe (2.7%; European Union 6.7%).

In fifteen countries at least 10 percent of the agricultural land is organic – another record. The highest organic shares of the total farmland area are in Liechtenstein (37.7%) and French Polynesia (31.3%).

Organic farmland increased by 7.5 million hectares or 15% globally

Organic farmland showed the highest increase ever recorded: It increased by 7.5 million hectares (or 15%) in 2016. This is mainly because 5 million additional hectares were reported from Australia. However, many other countries reported an important increase too and thus contributed to the global growth, such as China (42% increase; over 0.67 million hectares more) Uruguay (27% increase; more than 0.3 million hectares more), and India and Italy, both with an additional 0.3 million hectares.



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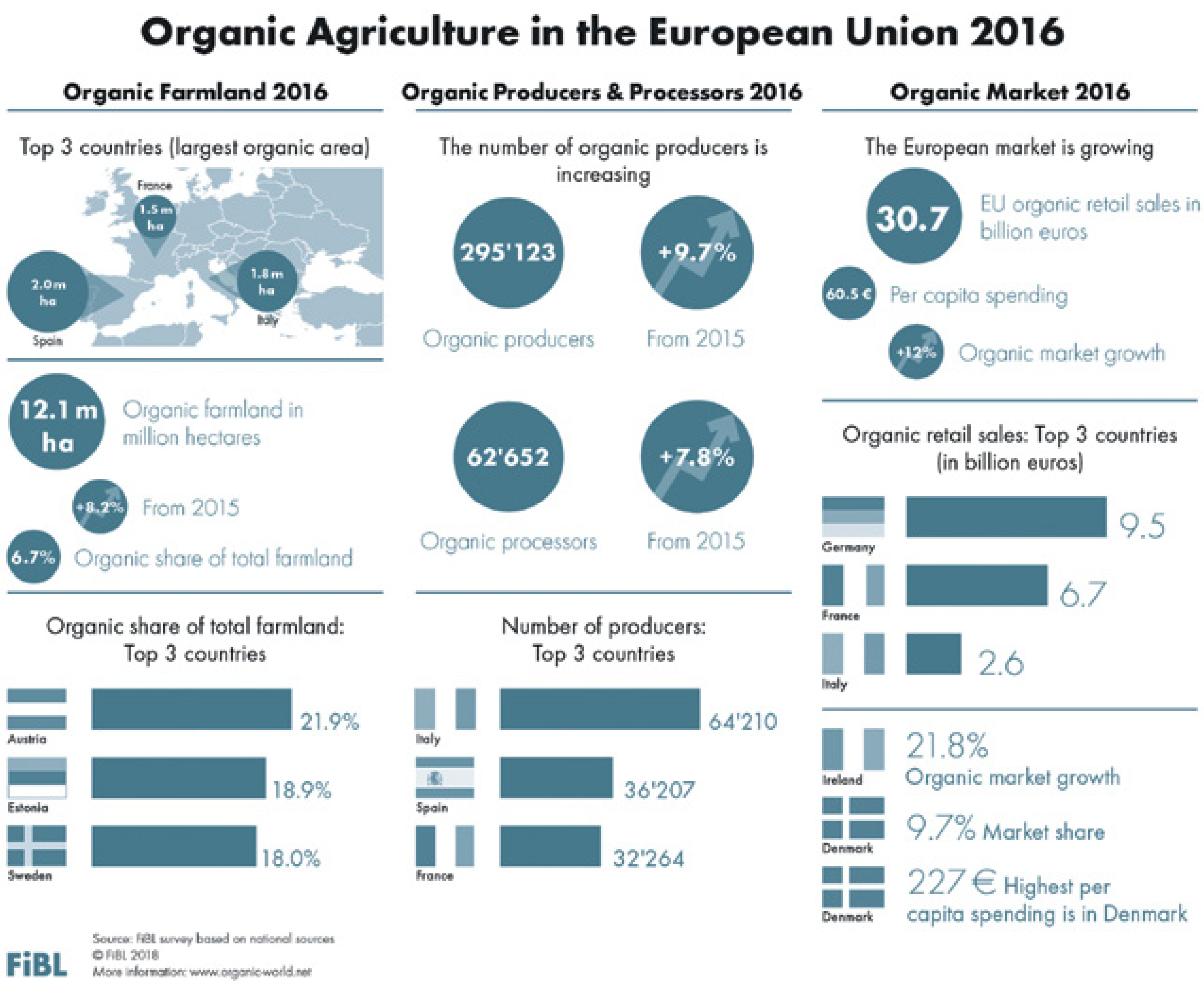
Organic farmland grew in all regions

There was an increase in organic agricultural land not only in Oceania, but all over the world. In Asia, a very dynamic region, it grew by a stunning 34% or an additional 0.9 million hectares; in Europe, organic areas grew by almost 0.9 million hectares, and thus recorded a much higher growth than in recent years (6.7% increase). Organic farmland grew by 7%, or over 0.1 million hectares, in Africa, by almost 6%, or 0.4 million hectares, in Latin America (after several years of drops), and by more than 5%, or 0.2 million additional hectares, in North America.

Non-agricultural organic areas reached almost 40 million hectares

In addition to the organic agricultural land, there is organic land dedicated to other activities, mostly wild collection and beekeeping; but also aquaculture, forests, and grazing areas on non-agricultural land. Areas of non-agricultural land constituted more than 39.7 million hectares.



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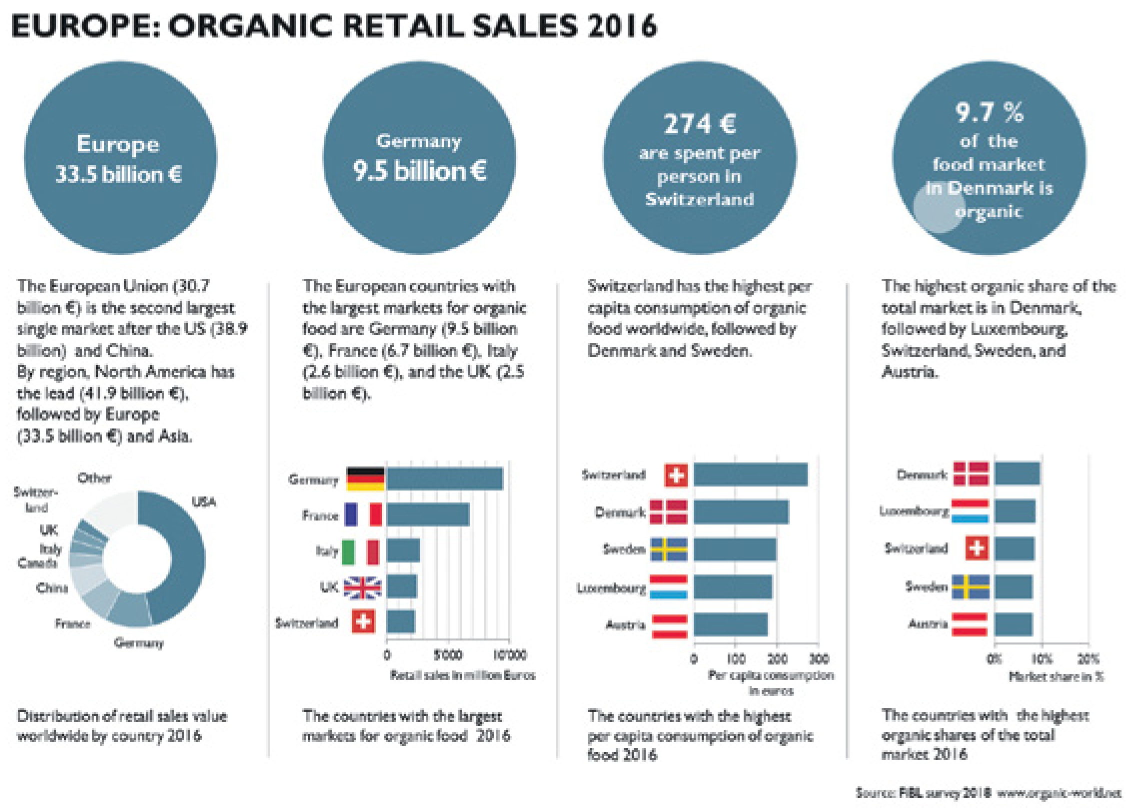

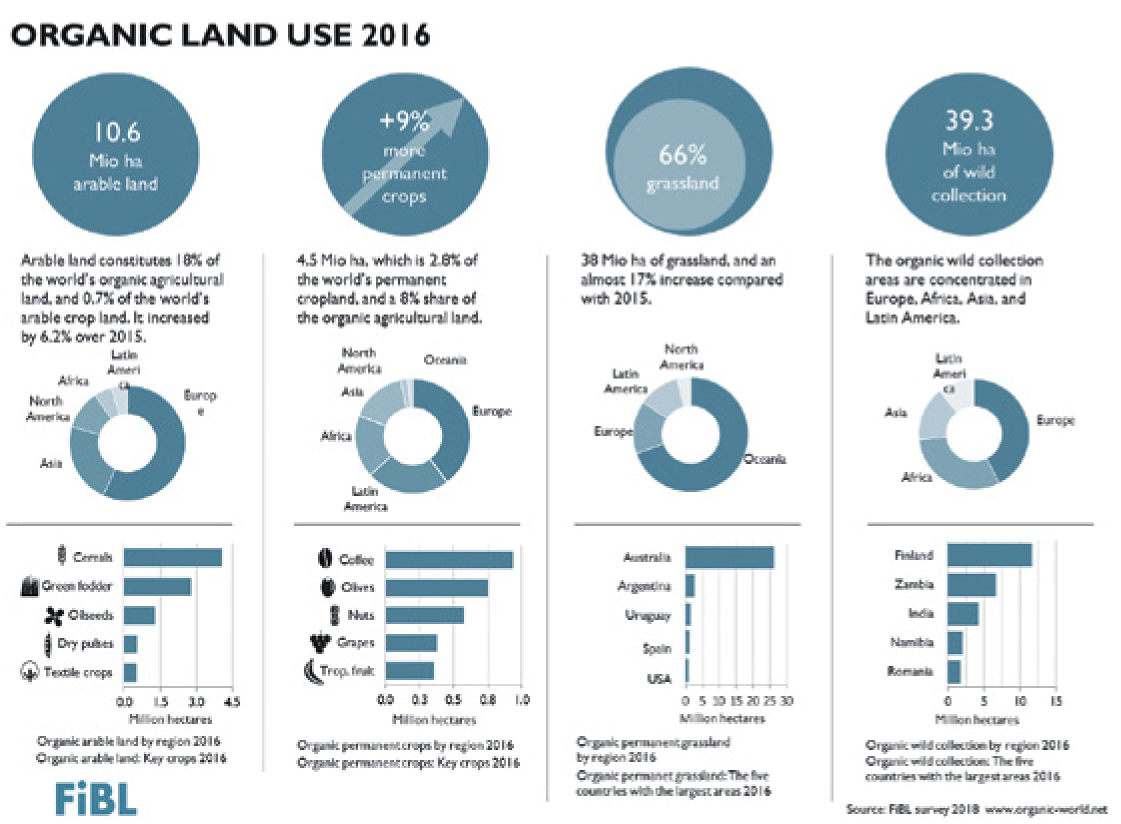

Organic producers on the rise – 2.7 million producers in 2016 globally and 0.8 million in India

There were at least 2.7 million organic producers in 2016. Forty percent of the world's organic producers are in Asia, followed by Africa (27%) and Latin America (17%). The countries with the highest number of producers are India (835,000), Uganda (210,352), and Mexico (210,000).There has been an increase in the number of producers of over 300,000, or over 13%, compared to 2015.

Growth of all land use types

Over two-thirds of the agricultural land was grassland/grazing areas (almost 38 million hectares, an increase of 16.5% compared to 2015).

With a total of almost 10.6 million hectares, arable land constitutes 18% of the organic agricultural land. An increase in almost 6.3% since 2015 was reported. Most of this category of land was used for cereals including rice (4.1 million hectares), followed by green fodder from arable land (2.8 million hectares), oilseeds (1.3 million hectares), dry pulses and textile crops (0.5 million hectares each).

Permanent crops account for 8% of the organic agricultural land, amounting to 4.5 million hectares. Compared with the previous survey, an increase of more than 126,000 hectares, or 9%, was reported. The most important permanent crop is coffee (with more than 0.9 million hectares, constituting over 20% of the organic permanent cropland), followed by olives (almost 0.7 million hectares), nuts (almost 0.6 million hectares), grapes (almost 0.4 million hectares), and tropical and subtropical fruits (over 0.3 million hectares).

Global market surpassed €80 billion

Organic food & drink sales increased to €84.6 billion according to FiBL. The continent with the largest retail sales was North America with €41.9 billion, followed by Europe with €33.5 billion.

With almost €40 billion, United States is the biggest single organic market

In 2016, the countries with the largest organic markets were the United States (€38.9 billion), Germany (€9.7 billion), and France (€6.7 billion). Also as a single market, the United States (47% of the global market) has the lead, followed by the European Union (€30.7 billion, 37%), and China (€5.9 billion, 6%).

Double-digit growth rates of retail sales in 2016

Globally, organic retail sales achieved an estimated 10% growth. While the world's largest organic market, the United States, achieved 8.4%, the European market recorded a growth rate of 11% (European Union: 12%), which is the second time retail sales had a double-digit growth rate since the financial crisis. Among the global five top markets, the highest growth was observed in France (22%).

Organic market shares now approaching the 10% mark in some countries – Denmark leading

Globally, European countries account for the highest shares of organic food sales as a percentage of their respective food markets. The highest organic market shares in 2016 were reached in Denmark (9.7%), Luxembourg (8.6%), and Switzerland (8.4%). Denmark surpassed the 10% mark in 2017.

Individual products and product groups hold even higher shares. Organic eggs, for instance, constituted more than 20% of the value of all eggs sold in several countries.

European consumers are spending more on organic food – Switzerland has the highest per capita consumption (almost €300)

While the organic per capita consumption globally was only €11, it was €117 in North America and €41 in Europe (European Union: €61). In Europe, per capita consumer spending on organic food has doubled in the last decade. The Swiss spent the most money on organic food (€274 per capita).

Among key Voluntary Sustainability Standards organic continues to be the leader

Looking at other voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), a recent survey among 14 major standards (organic and non-organic) showed that although strong growth continues to be the norm, organic stands out (2015 data). All standards surveyed experienced growth in their areas since 2011. The most successful commodity is coffee; at least 25% of the global coffee area is certified and 8.5% of the global coffee area is organic.

Conclusion

2016 was another very successful year for the organic sector. On a global level, all key indicators showed double-digit growth. However, growth is not occurring in all countries. In order to be better able to monitor and analyse the development of the sector more accurate data are needed. ■

About FiBL

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL is one of the world's leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL's strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and rapid knowledge transfer. FiBL employs some 280 staff at its various locations.

About the FiBL Survey on organic agriculture worldwide

The survey on organic farming worldwide is carried out by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL in Switzerland, together with partners. Data collection started in 1999. The Swiss State Secretariat supports data collection activities for Economic Affairs (SECO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), NürnbergMesse, and IFOAM – Organics International. The next global organic survey will start in mid-2018; data will be published in February 2019 and presented at the Biofach Organic Trade Fair in Nuremberg, Germany. The data can be downloaded at statistics.fibl.org; the yearbook is available at www.organic-world.net

Download, infographics and online databases:

Download "The World of Organic Agriculture 2018":
www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018/pdf.html

FiBL statistics on organic agriculture worldwide: *www.statistics.fibl.org*

Interactive infographics and the latest market and area data:
www.ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe

Infographics:
http://www.organic-world.net/yearbook/yearbook-2018/infographics.html

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

Isidre Martínez, *Agricultural Engineer, bio@bioecoactual.com*

Inputs in Organic Agriculture

Compared to conventional agri-food production, the use of inputs in organic agriculture is restricted due to concerns about food security and their potential environmental impact.

123rf Limited©Pavel Ignatov

What are inputs?

Generally speaking, inputs are all those substances, materials and resources used to create a final product or service. Inputs should not be mistaken for raw materials; on the contrary they are finished products, and are frequently used in the production area. Raw materials on the other hand are the basic components of a finished product; and are usually extracted from natural sources.

Specifically, agricultural inputs are those agricultural products and materials designed mainly for the health and feeding of crops and animals. Among them are: pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, plant propagation material, agents and products for the control of pests, and veterinary products, among others. In this article we will also refer to the inputs used in the processing of food, such as food additives.

Inputs in organic production

Organic foods and products should be obtained through processes that do not harm human health, animal health or welfare, plant health, or the environment. This means that both the methods and techniques and the inputs used in organic production should comply with this general purpose.

One of the principles of organic production is the limitation in the use of external resources, as far as possible. But when these are necessary, they should be either of organic origin, or natural substances and mineral fertilizers of low solubility.

Likewise, the production of processed organic food is based on the principle of limiting as much as possible the use of food additives, non-organic ingredients, and technological adjuvants. Thus food processing should be done carefully, and preferably using biological, mechanical and physical methods.

The regulations that control organic production prohibit explicitly the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products obtained from them. Similarly, the use of ionizing radiation to treat organic products is prohibited.

Problems associated with the use of inputs in organic production

One of the main problems is the lack of definition in the regulations of some inputs, for instance, fertilizers. Lists of allowed fertilizers usually include generic products, such as farm manure and slurry, which can be used on a limited basis as long as they do not come from intensive farms. However it is not well established what type of farms should be considered intensive, and different European countries may have different interpretations about it.

In other cases, the problem is to determine whether the commercial fertilizers or phytosanitary products sold in the market are made of one or more of the substances included in these lists. This can also lead to different interpretations that may put some producers at a disadvantage.

Organic producers must minimize the use of non-renewable resources and non-organic methods and techniques

In the case of additives and other inputs used in the processing of organic foods, the lists are much more specific and there is much less space for interpretation.

The conclusion is quite obvious: we should always eat minimally processed foods. By buying local, seasonal and unprocessed organic products with the minimum packaging, and by cooking them ourselves, we will ensure the maximum quality of our food.■

FAIRS


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product
Little Buddha!
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BANAPPLE BREAKFAST
MAGIC BLUEBERRY BREAKFAST
Watch the colour change before your eyes!
WITH NO ADDED SUGAR*
A natural source of Magnesium, Iron & fibre
Suitable for children 3+ years
Little Buddha's provides a complete and delicious breakfast
Nutritious and filling
Easy to digest
for children 3 years and above
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ORGANIC
INSTANT
GLUTEN FREE
NO ADDED SUGAR*
Vegan
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iswari.irelanduk
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*Contains naturally occurring sugars. Magic Blueberry uses coconut sugar
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ISWARI

VEGAN IN THE UK

Dominika Piasecka, *Media and PR Officer, Vegan Society*
dominika.piasecka@vegansociety.com, www.vegansociety.com

The changing face of the UK vegan market

123rf Limited©Cienpies Design

The Vegan Society
One world. Many lives. Our choice.

The number of vegans has grown by 250% in the last decade and there are now more vegan products available than ever before. Dominika Piasecka from The Vegan Society analyses what this means for retailers.

The image of veganism is undergoing the most radical change in its history, while shedding some tired old stereotypes. People now closely associate it with health, fitness and wellbeing. It's no longer an extreme lifestyle, it's easy and accessible - you can walk into any supermarket and be greeted by a huge range of dairy-free milks and many more other vegan-friendly products. It's a great time to be vegan.

There are three and a half times as many vegans in Britain now than 10 years ago – over half a million of us – and going vegan is predicted to be the biggest food trend in 2018. This, naturally, also means that the vegan consumer market has a growing potential. Companies like Danone invest in the dairy-free market, Ben & Jerry's vegan ice cream is now available in the UK, and even McDonald's is trialling a vegan burger.

Contrary to public belief, veganism is far from being a fad diet – it's a lifestyle choice that people make for very important ethical reasons; it's a statement made against using and exploiting animals. The Vegan Society was founded in 1944, so the word 'vegan' is over 70 years old!

Our place within the movement is an important one. The Vegan Society is the leading evidence-based charity that promotes veganism in a strictly scientifically sound way. We stick to the facts, we don't sensationalise and we're annoyingly careful with any claims we make.

These precautions allow us to work with respected organisations that may not want to work with other vegan charities. For example, we have a memorandum of understanding with the British Dietetic Association to confirm that well-planned vegan diets can support healthy living. It's important for the vegan movement to have independent, authoritative voices speaking in its favour; otherwise we may be dismissed as being biased.

It's a great time to be vegan

At The Vegan Society, we commission and publish important studies, such as the aforementioned survey that answered the question on everyone's lips: how many vegans there are. We also found that over half (56%) of Brits adopt vegan buying behaviours and a quarter (26%) thought public sector food outlets should provide a vegan option by law, important findings for those in the food and drink sectors.

People choose the vegan lifestyle for a number of reasons but the main motivation is animal rights. Many also go vegan because they are concerned about the huge impact that animal agriculture has on the environment, and others choose to follow this lifestyle to improve their health. Whether it's for ethical, environmental or health reasons, veganism is a great choice for all of us who care about these issues.

The Vegan Society's key project is our 30 Day Vegan Pledge that helps people ease into vegan living – it's free to sign up at www.vegansociety.com/pledge and participants receive daily emails packed with in-

MINERALOGY

formation, advice and recipe ideas. We have seen a constant growth in the number of sign-ups; we jumped from only 3656 people in 2014 to 11,255 in 2015 and 17,411 in 2016. A whopping 82% participants remained vegan beyond the 30 days.

Veganism offers a tremendous opportunity for the retail industry precisely because it's a new and exciting concept that's slowly but surely making its way into the mainstream. Offering vegan options makes clear commercial sense – it opens up the potential market not only to half a million vegans in Britain, but also to a million more vegetarians, the huge number of meat and dairy reducers, the lactose intolerant, followers of certain religious groups, the health-conscious, and others who simply enjoy vegan food from time to time.

Veganism is an exciting yet underexplored market with a huge growth potential that's already happening. This year we've already seen many exciting news in terms of new vegan products hitting the market. Just in the first two weeks of January, three major retailers - Tesco, Boots and Asda – came out with new, entirely vegan lunch ranges. Ben & Jerry's are developing more dairy-free flavours on top of the three already available in the UK, which will result in an impressive 20% of the company's products being vegan.

Pizza Hut now has vegan cheese available and Zizzi are offering a new vegan pizza, on top of the extensive vegan menu they already had. Goodfella's, a frozen pizza giant, launched the UK's first mainstream vegan pizza to be sold in supermarkets. Waitrose started selling vegan meat alternatives last month, while Marks and Spencer have a vegetarian meal alternatives range that includes vegan chicken-style chunks – an absolute gem. Quorn is also stepping up the game by launching new vegan deli products.

The loyalty of vegan customers must not go unnoticed either. We like to reward anyone offering vegan options by recommending it to our friends and sharing it on social media. We do appreciate someone going the extra mile and making their business more animal-friendly at the same time.

123rf Limited©Svetlana Kolpakova. Gluten free vegan sandwiches with beet hummus, raw vegetables and sprouts

Whether it's for ethical, environmental or health reasons, veganism is a great choice for all of us who care about these issues

It's incredible that the word 'vegan' didn't even exist until 1944 when The Vegan Society co-founders coined it, but can now be seen on menus and products around the world. The future of veganism is bright and we hope to continue leading the movement forward to become a core part of the mainstream culture. Will retailers and businesses help us make the world more vegan-friendly for the growing population of vegans and those who reduce their consumption of animal products?. ■

FOOD

THE WORLD OF SEEDS

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NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

Patents on conventional breeding have to be prohibited without any exemptions

At present, in Europe, an increasing number of patent applications are being filed on plants and animals. More than 3000 patents on plants have already been granted – most of them covering genetic engineering. In the last 10 to 15 years, there has also been a steady increase in the number of patent applications being filed on plants derived from conventional breeding, i.e. not genetically engineered. More than 1500 such applications have been filed and more than 200 patents have been granted to date. Such patents abuse patent law, using it as a tool to misappropriate of biological resources needed for our daily food production. This development must be seen in the context of growing concentration in seed markets, food production and agriculture, globally and in Europe.

123rf Limited©Igor Stevanovic

In 2018, the coalition NO PATENTS ON SEEDS! published a report giving an overview of the current legal situation and examples of patents already granted. The international coalition is demanding that patents on conventional breeding are prohibited without any exemptions. The report shows that the European Patent Office (EPO) continues to grant patents on plants derived from conventional breeding.

In 2017, after protests from the public and criticism from EU institutions, the EPO adopted new rules for the interpretation of the European Patent Convention. For the first time, the EPO acknowledged that both the processes for breeding and the resulting plants and animals are excluded from patentability if the processes are considered to be "essentially biological". However, the way in which the EPO applies these rules makes them mostly ineffective: according to the new rules, plants and animals are still patentable if they are identified as inheriting genetic variations or random mutations that are relevant for breeding.

Furthermore, there are no provisions in place to limit the scope of patents. Under the EPO's current approach, if plants or animals with specific breeding characteristics are patented, then all plants or animals with such traits will be covered by the patent, regardless of whether they are derived from methods of genetic engineering, from conventional breeding, or whether they naturally show those traits. This allows the widespread privatisation of a large range of genetic resources in one single patent. Around 25 patents were approved last year, despite the EPO officially claiming that it no longer grants such patents. The patents cover crops such as lettuce, onions, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumber, grapes, sunflower, sorghum and soybeans.

In response, there is growing opposition to EPO practice. But despite that, the seed giants are still trying to push their agenda of misappropriation of natural resources: In the context of an appeal regarding a patent on the breeding of higher-yield maize plants (EP2121982), Syngenta had asked the EPO to abolish existing restrictions in the field of plant and animal breeding that

The international coalition is demanding that patents on conventional breeding are prohibited without any exemptions

WATER TREATMENT

THE WORLD OF SEEDS

no patents on seeds

have only recently been put in place. The appeal was rejected by the EPO at a public hearing in January 2018. While NO PATENTS ON SEEDS! very much appreciates this EPO decision, it will still be possible to grant patents on plants and animals derived from conventional breeding.

2018 may be decisive for further developments. Apart from Syngenta's appeal, there are oppositions pending against patents on barley and beer granted to the big international breweries Carlsberg and Heineken. The companies were granted patents on barley plants that produce kernels by using random mutations often used by conventional breeders. The patent covers the barley, the brewing process and the beer brewed with the barley. After many civil society organisations filed oppositions against these patents in 2017, the EPO confirmed that, based on the new regulations, it was unlikely that such patents based on random mutations, will be revoked.

> Agro-biodiversity is one of the most important preconditions for the future of breeding, environmentally-friendly agriculture and the adaptability of our food production to changing conditions, such as climate change

Patents on conventional breeding will dramatically change the situation for farmers, growers and breeders. In future, farmers, growers or breeders who do not sign contracts with the patent holder will have no access to the patented seeds – neither for growing or propagation, nor for further breeding. In addition, developing countries might be forced to allow patents on seeds through free trade agreements. Vegetable growers and farmers will become dependent on just a very few companies. Consumers, food producers and retailers will find themselves in a situation where prices and choice in food products are decided by companies such as Monsanto. As a consequence, agro-biodiversity will also decline if only a few companies are able to determine which patented "super seeds" will be grown in the fields. Agro-biodiversity is one of the most important preconditions for the future of breeding, environmentally-friendly agriculture and the adaptability of our food production to changing conditions, such as climate change. Seen from this angle, it is a development that is problematic not only for specific sectors or regions, but one that can threaten agro-biodiversity, ecosystems and the adaptability of our food production systems to meet challenges such as climate change. This makes it a huge risk for global food security and regional food sovereignty.

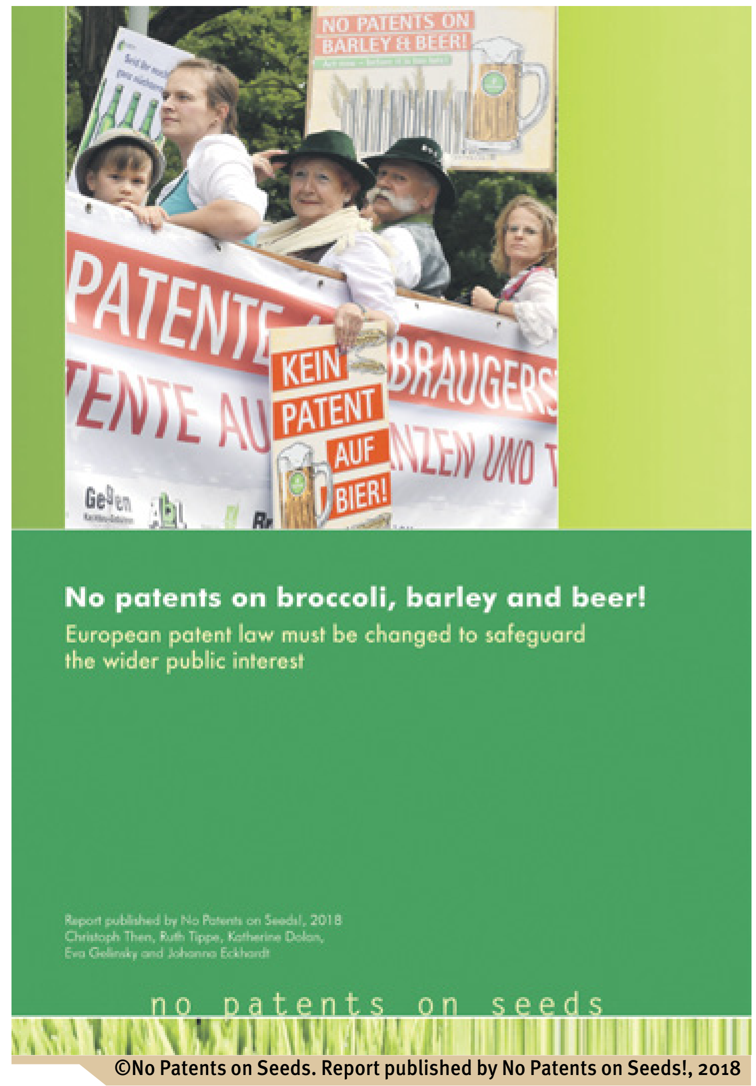
Regardless of how the EPO decides upon the individual pending patent applications, further political initiative will be needed to stop the big corporates taking even more control of our food plants and farm animals.

Further info and the report 2018: http://no-patents-on-seeds.org/en

Updates:

- Twitter.com/NoPatentsOnSeed

- Facebook.com/nopatentsonseeds.■



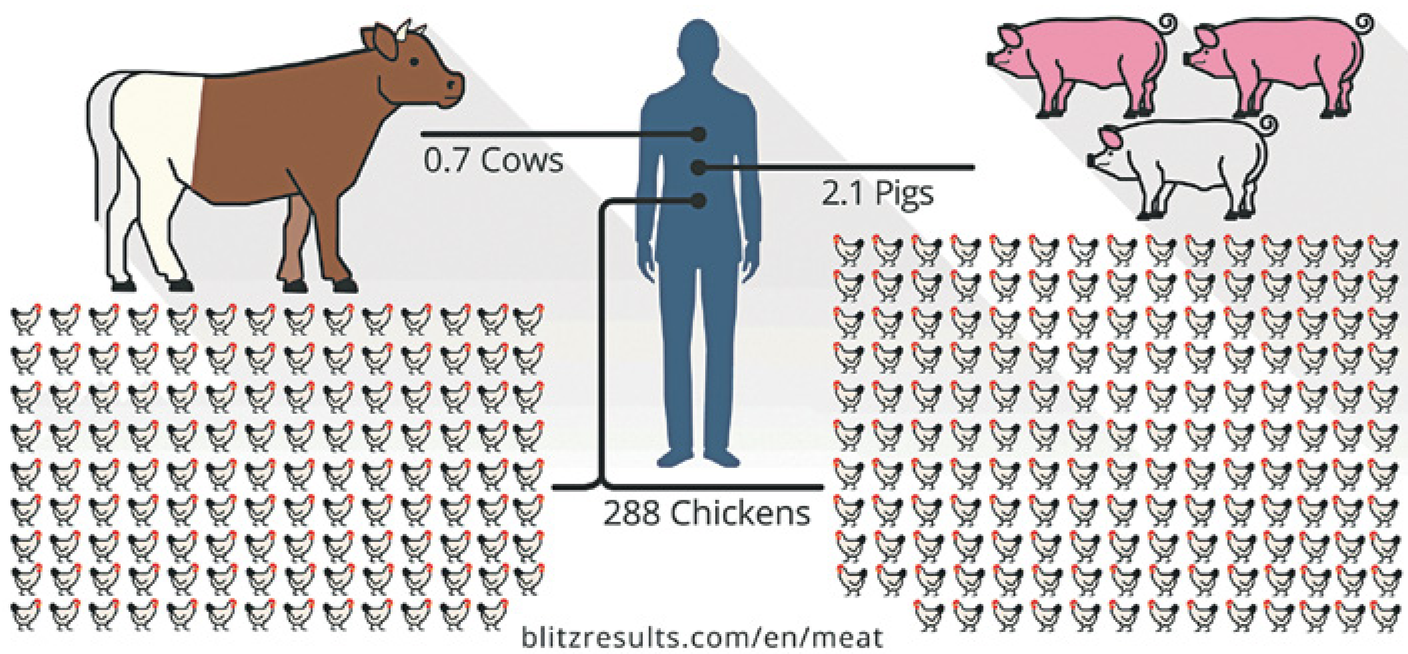
©No Patents on Seeds. Report published by No Patents on Seeds!, 2018

FOOD

ENVIRONMENT

Joaquim Elcacho,
Journalist specialising in Environment and Science jelcacho@gmail.com

Meat-Calculator. Calculate the impact of meat consumption



How many animals could continue living if you switched to a vegetarian diet? How would the environment benefit if we stopped eating meat? These are the two questions -certainly provocative- that serve as introduction for the Meat-Calculator, the computer application developed by the internet site blitzresults.com

This interesting calculator gives us a global perception of the impact of meat consumption. In the first version available online, the Meat-Calculator was designed for consumers in the United States, the largest consumer of meat in the world (and the second in meat consumption per capita – 120 kg per person per year); and shows data on the most consumed types of meat (beef, chicken and pork) as well as **the relationship between livestock farming and water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions (a leading cause of climate change) and use of antibiotics**. We hope this calculation system will soon be available in other languages and adapted to the average meat consumption of other countries.

To get an idea of the results obtained with this calculator, using the average consumption of meat in the United States, each person eats in ten years the equivalent of 288 chickens, 2 pigs and 0.7 cows. If an average US citizen decided to halve their consumption of meat for the next ten years, more than 4.5 million litres of water would be saved and 4,088 kilos of CO2 would not be released into the atmosphere. In addition, that person would indirectly avoid the ingestion of about 200 grams of antibiotics that, on average, would have been administered over that period to the farm animals.

The Meat-Calculator's creators explain that this application aims to increase citizens' awareness of the many consequences that meat consumption has on people's health, animal welfare and the environment.

What if you are already a vegetarian? In that case the calculator will only ask you how long you have been following a meat-free diet. With this number, global savings in antibiotics, CO2 emissions and water for that period of time will be calculated. This calculation is also based on the US average meat consumption.

> **The Meat-Calculator application aims to raise our awareness of the many consequences that meat consumption has on people's health, animal welfare and the environment**

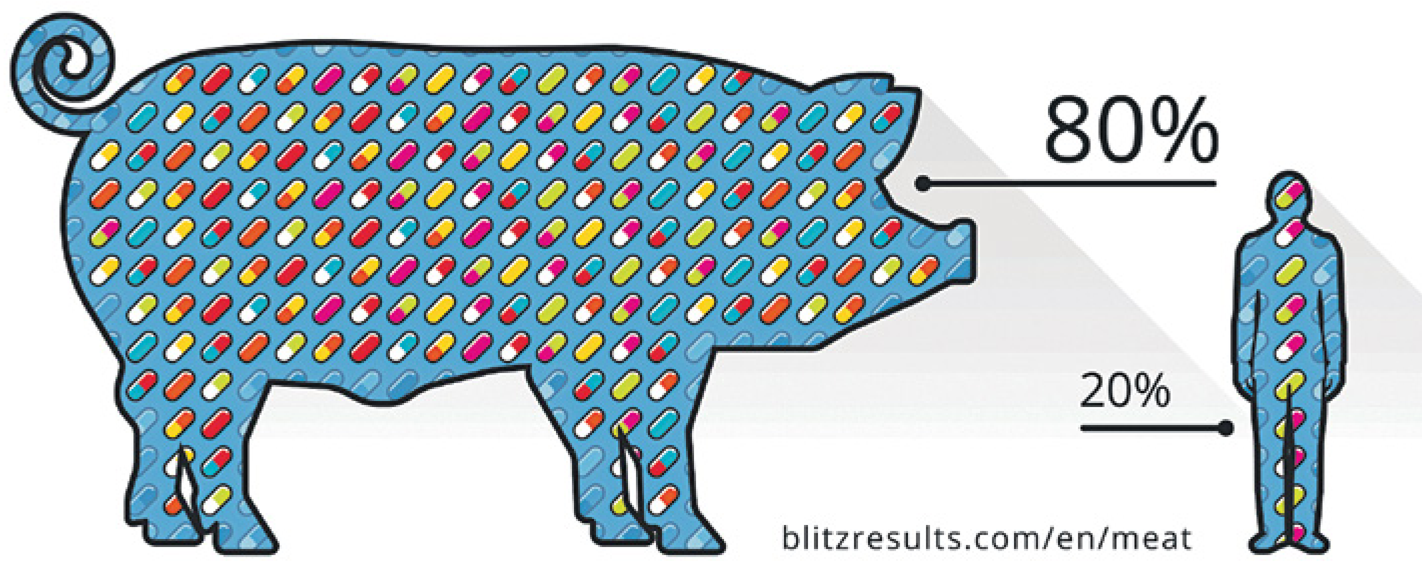
In addition to showing these numbers the Meat-Calculator's developers propose replacing at least part of our meat meals with a vegetarian alternative such as tofu, "probably the best-known and most widespread meat substitute".

"However, tofu is only used as an example for vegetarian nutrition. It serves as symbolization and as a vehicle for a "thought experiment",

ENVIRONMENT

Average meat consumption in the UK is 84 kg per person per year

Animals in factory farming are prone to illness.
This is the reason why 80% of all antibiotics prescribed in the States are consumed by farm animals and only 20% by humans.



Meat Calculator's designers clarify. Instead of tofu, other common foods such as grains or pulses or other vegetables could also have been used for the calculations.

The website also warns of the significant amount of "hidden meat" in many of the processed foods that can be bought in stores and supermarkets. Meat is usually found in a large number of pizzas, sauces, ready-to-eat salads and soups. Not to mention all the additives of animal origin, such as gelatine, casein, lactose or whey that are becoming increasingly frequent in hundreds of products.

As mentioned above, the Meat-Calculator system is based on US consumption data; it would be desirable to have a version based on European consumption data. However there is a wide range of variability in terms of meat consumption between different European countries.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Luxembourg, with an average meat consumption of 108 kg per person per year is the largest meat consumer in Europe and fifth in the world. Other European countries follow closely: Austria (102 kg / person / year), Spain (97 kg), Denmark (95 kg) and Portugal (93.5 kg). Meat consumption in Ireland (88 kg) and in the United Kingdom (84 kg) is lower, but still high compared to non-European countries. The countries that eat the least meat are Bangladesh (4 kg) and India (4.5 kg), followed by many other Asian and African countries.

Despite the popularity of meat in the UK there are many signs suggesting that Britons are cutting back their meat consumption. And while animal welfare has traditionally been the main reason why people become vegetarian or vegan, environmental benefits are now the leading factor for an increasing number of people, particularly for those under 25.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) reported in 2017 a slight but stable decline in the purchase of meat, especially red meat, over the past decade. And early this year the consumer research group Kantar Worldpanel reported that almost a third (29%) of British evening meals now contain no meat or fish.

The UK is not the only country where this trend has been documented. In Denmark, the nation that used to be the world's biggest consumer of meat, meat consumption fell from 145.9 kg per person in 2002 to 95 kg in 2009. Other examples are Luxembourg (from 141.7 to 108 kg) and New Zealand (from 142 to 106.7). Even in the US, a drop, albeit more modest, was observed in the same period of time: from 124.8 kg per person to 120 kg.

Calculate the impact of your meat consumption here:

www.blitzresults.com/en/meat.■

Meat Consumption by Country

Country	Kg / Person
Australia	111.5
Spain	97
Israel	96
Canada	94.3
Ireland	87.9
United Kingdom	84.2
Russia	69.2
China	58.2
Philippines	33.6
Indonesia	11.6

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAOSTAT online statistical service.

There are many signs suggesting that Britons are cutting back their meat consumption

FOOD

ORGANIC CALENDAR

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April	NATURAL&ORGANIC PRODUCTS EUROPE	UK	22.04.2018	WWW.NATURALPRODUCTS.CO.UK
	BIOOST	GERMANY	22.04.2018	WWW.BIOOST.INFO
	VEGGIEWORLD LISBOA	PORTUGAL	28.04.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
	BIOWEST	GERMANY	29.04.2018	WWW.BIOWEST.INFO
	NATURALLY GOOD	AUSTRALIA	29.04.2018	NATURALLYGOOD.COM.AU
May	SIAL CANADÁ	CANADA	02.05.2018	SIALCANADA.COM
	BIOCULTURA BARCELONA	SPAIN	03.05.2018	WWW.BIOCULTURA.ORG
	EKOLOGI ISMIR	TURKEY	09.05.2018	EKOLOJIIZMIR.IZFAS.COM.TR
	BALANCE FESTIVAL	UK	11.05.2018	WWW.BALANCE-FESTIVAL.COM
	FOIRE ECOLOGIQUE SUISSE	SWITZERLAND	11.05.2018	WWW.BIOVAUD.CH
	VITAFOOD INTERNATIONAL	SWITZERLAND	15.05.2018	WWW.VITAFOODS.EU.COM
	SIAL CHINA	CHINA	16.05.2018	WWW.SIALCHINA.COM
	FREE FROM FUNCTIONAL FOOD EXPO	SWEDEN	16.05.2018	WWW.FREEFROMFOODEXPO.COM
	VEGAN LIFE LIVE	UK	18.05.2018	LONDON.VEGANLIFELIVE.COM
	EXPOECOSALUD MADRID	SPAIN	18.05.2018	WWW.EXPOECOSALUD.ES
	SALON BIO & CO ESTRASBOURG	FRANCE	18.05.2018	WWW.SALONBIOECO.COM
	BIOFACH CHINA	CHINA	24.05.2018	WWW.BIOFACHCHINA.COM
	VEGFEST BRISTOL	UK	26.05.2018	BRISTOL.VEGFEST.CO.UK
June	BIOTERRA	SPAIN	01.06.2018	BIOTERRA.FICOBA.ORG
	BIOFACH AMÉRICA LATINA / BIO BRAZIL FAIR	BRAZIL	06.06.2018	BIOBRAZILFAIR.COM.BR
	THE ORGANIC FARMERS FAIR	NETHERLANDS	12.06.2018	WWW.GREENTECH.NL
	1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF WHEAT LANDRACES FOR HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS	ITALY	13.06.2018	WHEAT-LANDRACES.IFOAM.BIO
	BIO MARCHÉ	SWITZERLAND	22.06.2018	WWW.BIOMARCHE.CH
August	ORGANIC FOOD INDUSTRY EXPO – SHANGAI	CHINA	15.08.2018	EN.GNFEXPO.COM
	ORGANIC & NATURAL COREA	SOUTH KOREA	16.08.2018	WWW.ORGANICSHOW.CO.KR
	BIORITME FESTIVAL	SPAIN	23.08.2018	BIORITMEFESTIVAL.ORG
	NATURAL & ORGANIC PRODUCTS ASIA	HONG KONG	29.08.2018	NATURALPRODUCTS.COM.HK
September	O SOLE BIO	SWITZERLAND	01.09.2018	WWW.AIFBEXPO.COM
	SPECIALITY AND FINE FOOD FAIR	UK	02.09.2018	WWW.SPECIALITYANDFINEFOODFAIRS.CO.UK
	SANA	ITALY	07.09.2018	SANA.IT
	GO ORGANIC FESTIVAL	UK	08.09.2018	GOORGANICFESTIVAL.CO.UK
	NATURAL PRODUCTS EXPO EAST BALTIMORE	USA	12.09.2018	WWW.EXPOEAST.COM
	CHFA EXPO EAST TORONTO	CANADA	13.09.2018	CHFA.CA/EN
	BIOFACH AMERICA BALTIMORE	USA	13.09.2018	WWW.BIOFACH-AMERICA.COM
	BIOBERNAI	FRANCE	14.09.2018	WWW.BIOBERNAI.COM
	IOF	CHINA	14.09.2018	WWW.IOFEXPO.COM
	VEGGIEWORLD MUNICH	GERMANY	15.09.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
	BIOSUED	GERMANY	23.09.2018	WWW.BIOSUED.DE
	NATEXPO LYON	FRANCE	23.09.2018	NATEXPO.COM
	BIOCULTURA BILBAO	SPAIN	28.09.2018	WWW.BIOCULTURA.ORG
	VEGGIEWORLD ZURICH	SWITZERLAND	28.09.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
October	BIOSTYL	SLOVAKIA	04.10.2018	WWW.INCHEBA.SK
	VEGGIEWORLD HANNOVER	GERMANY	06.10.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
	FIRA MEDI AMBIENT DE TÀRREGA	SPAIN	06.10.2018	WWW.TARREGA.CAT
	BIONORD	GERMANY	09.10.2018	WWW.BIONORD.DE
	NATURA FOOD & BE ECO	POLAND	12.10.2018	WWW.TARGI.LODZ.PL
	BIONAT EXPO	BRAZIL	12.10.2018	BIONATEXPO.COM.BR
	ECOCULTURA ZAMORA	SPAIN	12.10.2018	ECOCULTURA.ORG
	VEGGIEWORLD PARÍS	FRANCE	13.10.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
	VEGGIEWORLD DÜSSELDORF	GERMANY	20.10.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
	SETMANA BIO	SPAIN	20.10.2018	PAE.GENCAT.CAT
	SIAL PARÍS	FRANCE	21.10.2018	WWW.SIALPARIS.FR
	BIOFACH INDIA	INDIA	25.10.2018	BIOFACH-INDIA.COM
	SALON BIO & CO ESTRASBOURG	FRANCE	26.10.2018	WWW.SALONBIOECO.COM
	VEGGIEWORLD BARCELONA	SPAIN	27.10.2018	VEGGIEWORLD.DE
	FIRA D'ALIMENTACIÓ I SALUT BALAGUER	SPAIN	27.10.2018	ALIMENTACIOISALUT.COM
November	BIOCULTURA MADRID	SPAIN	01.11.2018	WWW.BIOCULTURA.ORG
	BIOSTYL – ECOWORLD	CZECH REPUBLIC	02.11.2018	WWW.INCHEBA.CZ
	THE GREEN LIVING SHOW	NEW ZELAND	03.11.2018	WWW.ORGANICEXPO.CO.NZ
	BIOARABA	SPAIN	09.11.2018	WWW.BIOARABA.COM
	NORDIC ORGANIC FOOD FAIR – NPS	SWEDEN	14.11.2018	WWW.NORDICORGANICEXPO.COM
	BIONATURA ANDALUCÍA	SPAIN	16.11.2018	FERMASA.ORG/BIONATURA2018
	BIO OESTERREICH	AUSTRIA	18.11.2018	WWW.MESSEWIESELBURG.AT
	MIDDLE EAST ORGANIC AND NATURAL EXPO	DUBAI (U.A.E.)	18.11.2018	WWW.NATURALPRODUCTME.COM
	ECOCITYEXPO AUTUMN	RUSSIA	23.11.2018	WWW.ECOGOROD-EXPO.RU
	NATURABIO	FRANCE	23.11.2018	WWW.SALON-NATURABIO.COM
	NATURE HEALTH FAIR	SERBIA	29.11.2018	WWW.NATURE-HEALTH.SI

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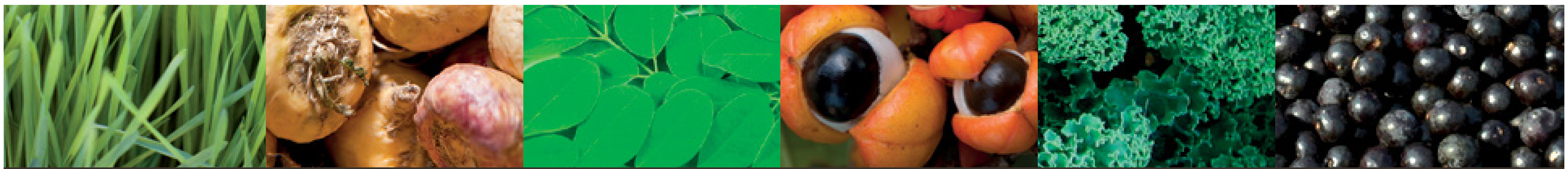

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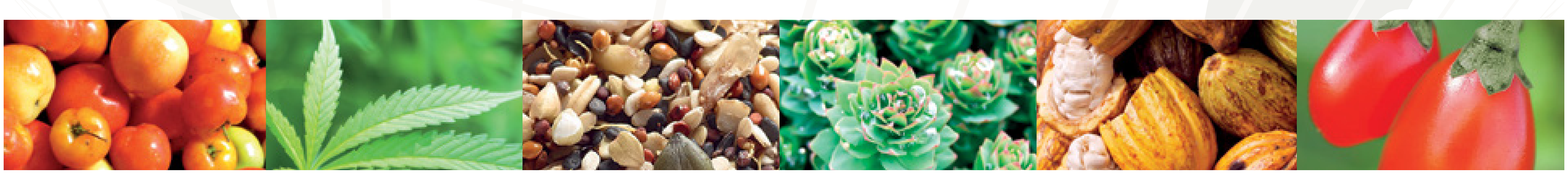

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The impact of brexit on organic agriculture in the UK

The ‘Brexit bill’ – why this is important for EU spending on agriculture

The UK’s decision to leave the European Union has many consequences. One of these consequences that will be felt by farmers in the Member States of the European Union (EU) is the loss of the UK’s contribution to the EU budget – the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework. The main source of funding for agriculture in the EU – the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) – is financed by this budget. Farmers are the beneficiaries of the CAP and often need its support to make their businesses profitable.

Negotiations about the financial settlement – the so-called ‘Brexit bill’ – will determine the extent to which the UK will pay its share of the financial obligations jointly undertaken by EU countries during the UK’s membership of the EU. Estimates show that Brexit will leave a permanent shortfall of €10.2 billion per year in the EU budget. Expenditure on CAP by the UK is approximately €3 billion annually. Although the share of the CAP in the EU budget has decreased over time, 37.8% of the total EU expenditure is spent on the CAP. 70% of this 37.8% is allocated to direct payments (or more than a quarter of the EU budget).

Reforming agriculture policy

While the CAP has played a role in the development of organic farming in Europe, investments in organic farming account for a mere 1.5% of the current EU agricultural spending. Despite improvements over the past decades, sustainability is still not at the core of the CAP’s architecture, making the policy ill-equipped to address the challenges facing the agri-food sector, from food security to environmental degradation and climate change. IFOAM EU believes that the next CAP reform must guarantee strong investment in the EU agriculture sector Post-2020 and create explicit links between farm income support and reaching common EU environmental and socio-economic objectives for sustainable agriculture.

The absence of CAP payments is expected to have a significant impact on the future of farm payments and rural development schemes granted in across Scotland, Wales, England and Northern Ireland if the gap is not closed by the UK Treasury. The development of the UK’s ever-growing organic market – valued at €2,461 million in 2016 – and the supply base of 490,000 hectares of organic land with its 3,400 farmers and 2,970 processors should not be jeopardised.

Opportunities for the UK’s organic sector

Whereas the debate of the future for CAP Post-2020 is starting to heat up in Brussels, with the European Commission suggesting that the next CAP needs to move away from compliance and towards a more results-oriented policy driven by Member States, the British government is also exploring what UK agricultural policy could look like after Brexit. Michael Gove (Defra Minister) has said: “*we must be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it*”. As a result, there is the opportunity for the UK to position itself as a proactive international player, driving sustainability in the agri-food sector through organic food and farming.

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The consultation on future post-Brexit agricultural policy recently published by Defra (“*Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit*”) must be carefully assessed by the UK organic sector. There is the possibility that the UK could rethink how financial support, independent from European funds, could lead to simpler and more effective support schemes, better targeted at delivering public goods for public benefit. It could lead the way in linking health and agricultural policy, it could facilitate access to land and new entrants to organic farming and it could promote more localised organic food supply chains with a focus on UK organic products. To this end, the entire European organic movement will continue to innovate and cooperate to ensure that the opportunities Brexit might generate are seized and the threats eliminated. ■

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