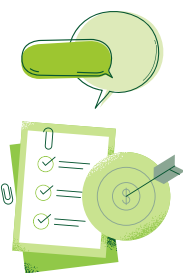


A NEW EU ORGANIC ACTION PLAN TO REACH 25% ORGANIC LAND IN EUROPE BY 2030

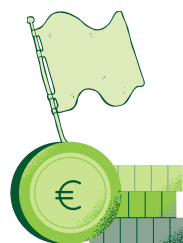
This document lists the European organic movement's ten key priorities to boost both organic demand and production through the European Action Plan for organic farming. A coherent combination of push and pull measures is necessary to reach the target of 25% organic land in the EU by 2030, as put forward in the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.



Organise a high-level EU conference to monitor progress at all levels and encourage Member States to develop national and regional organic action plans

Actions at EU, national and regional level should be addressed in the EU Action Plan as they are all crucial in achieving the 25% target for organic land. Progress should be periodically monitored.

How? The Commission should include a stocktaking mechanism to review progress on the different initiatives of the Organic Action Plan, in the form of a biennial conference gathering European, national and regional authorities. It would provide an opportunity to ensure ownership of the OAP by public authorities and organic stakeholders, constant progress towards the 25% target, visibility on the achievements and exchange of best practices.



Build national organic NGO's capacity for market development

National and regional organic associations, including organic farmers organisations, should have the means to negotiate and partner up with market operators to ensure an increased share of organic products in supermarket shelves and to build a positive commercial and political ecosystem within which the organic sector can thrive, in respect of the principle of fairness.

How? Allocate funds for projects that enable the sharing of best practices, training schemes, structuration of supply chains, partnerships with governments, retail, processing companies and food service leaders, contributing to stronger consumer awareness and capacity-building of interprofessional organisations and national and regional organic associations.



Boost demand for organic products

Improve uptake and use of the EU guidelines on Green Public Procurement so that at least 60% of food in public canteens is organic by 2030, and ringfence adequate budget for the promotion of organic products.

How? Open a dialogue with Member States and regional and local authorities to discuss a mandatory target for organic products in GPP. All EU schools, kindergartens and public canteens need mandatory, progressive, sustainable food procurement with at least 20% of organic products by 2022, increasing annually to 60% by 2030. Promotion policies as per Regulation (EU) No 1144/2014 should include an annual ring-fenced budget for organic products.



Reflect the true cost of food in its price

Internalise externalities and uphold the 'polluter pays principle' in agriculture and food production.

How? Introduce a reduced VAT for organic products and introduce a tax for pesticides. Use the income generated by the latter policy to fund the development of the organic sector. Also, further inform consumers about negative and positive externalities linked to food production, about the EU organic logo and the benefits of organic production for the environment and animal welfare.



Give organic actors access to research & innovation funds

Commit to ringfencing 25% of research & innovation (R&I) budget for organic farming approaches in Horizon Europe and relevant R&I programmes at national level. Since research will only yield results in 6-7 years, investments in organic R&I should be done now and get higher priority to contribute to progress towards the target before 2030.

How? Link the percentage of funding for research and innovation in organic to the goal of the share of land. A target of 25% land in the EU means that 25% of the EU's R&I budget should go to organic innovation.



Provide organic farmers with accessible and available knowledge: Farm Advisory Services

Organic farming is knowledge-intensive and organic farmers, farmers converting to organic and processors, traders, and retailers producing or selling organic products must have easy access to knowledge about organic practices and rules.

How? Set a dedicated budget and measures to ensure availability and preparation of organic advisers; demonstrate best practices in organic farming; collaborate on knowledge sharing and market development, including for young organic farmers. Support a European network of organic advisory services, strongly embedded in national or regional agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) and as part of the CAP Strategic Plans (article 13 and 72).



Equip organic farmers with the right tools: natural substances

All the necessary inputs, such as natural substances for plant protection, should be available in sufficient organic quality and quantity to reach the 25% target. Organic seeks to reduce external inputs through preventive strategies, and only uses natural substances as plant protection products when needed, but the EU registration process is not well-designed for natural substances.

How? Ensure appropriate, proportionate and specific procedures are in place to evaluate and authorise natural substances by amending the registration procedure in the EU Regulation on Plant Protection Products (EC) No 1107/2009. Promote further harmonisation of handling pesticide residues findings.



Equip organic farmers with the right tools: seeds

Seeds should also be available in sufficient organic quantity to be able to effectively contribute to the 25% organic target. Further efforts to increase the production of organic seeds and the development of organic plant breeding are needed.

How? Ensure a gradual phase out of derogations for seeds at national level.



Ensure CAP strategic plans include national targets & adequate support

Member States should design national CAP strategic plans that contribute to the objectives of the EU Green Deal, the Farm to Fork and EU Biodiversity strategies by setting national targets for organic land and introducing adequate support measures.

How? Member States should assess their organic sector and integrate a support strategy when designing their CAP strategic plan – including a national target for organic land, which contributes fairly to the EU target and considers each Member States' starting point. They should also provide an adequate budget for conversion and maintenance of organic farming – through Rural Development measures (pillar 2), Eco-schemes (pillar 1) or a combination of both. To make conversion to organic attractive to farmers, organic farming should have a “comparative advantage” in the budget for the national CAP strategic plans. Incentives for conversion and maintenance of organic should be higher than what farmers could get for less ambitious measures like pesticides reduction. Consider ‘Green by definition’ status for organic farming, like in the current CAP.



Bring new generations into organic

Prioritize and facilitate generational renewal in organic agriculture

How? Increase access to organic farmland. For example, by establishing a legal and fiscal framework incentivizing maintenance of farmland in organic – especially when organic farmers retire and pass their farms onto a young farmer. Ensure that young farmers starting in organic are not stopped by a lack of funding by prioritizing them for CAP ‘Complementary income support for young farmers’ (art 27).



More details are available in ‘IFOAM Organics Europe’s suggestions for the [new Organic Action plan](#)’ on our website.