



Organic farming - Optimising arable yields

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<https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/focus-groups/organic-farming-optimising-arable-yields>

Why do yields vary so much between organic farms; how can this yield gap be minimised?

The [final report \[1\]](#) of this Focus Group has been published.

Get all the information at a glance in the [Organic Farming factsheet \[2\]](#).

Tasks:

- **Identifying** yield levels in organic farming, comparing best practices between farmers.
 - **Determining** the reasons for these differences and making a list of the key findings.
 - **Considering** how to optimise yields in organic low input arable rotations and narrow the organic arable yield gaps.
 - **Mapping** causes (disease and weed control, nutrient -in particular nitrogen, phosphate-availability, varieties that are adapted to organic conditions, soil quality).
 - **Summarising** how to address the limiting factors and identifying remaining research and innovation needs.
 - **Distinguishing** the productivity of single crops, entire crop rotations (including intercropping) and different farm and sector models (e.g. stockless versus mixed farms). Considering cross-fertilisation with other existing systems: low input farming and [TP organics \[3\]](#) (Technology Platform for organic food and farming research). Addressing the needs regarding genetic resources for organic farming (varieties and breeds that are more adapted to local conditions and to resist diseases). Exploring the potential of making better use of soil microorganisms (incl. rhizobia, mycorrhizae and free-living microbes) for nutrient uptake and disease control.
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Results:

- [Starting paper \[4\]](#)
- [Final report & report summary \[1\]](#)
- [Factsheet \[2\]](#)
- [Brochure 'optimising arable yields' \[5\]](#)

Other information:

- [Discussion paper for the 2nd meeting](#) [6]
 - [Mini-papers](#) [7]
 - [Press article "Innovative solutions for organic farmers in the European Union"](#) [8]
 - [Infographics on organic farming in the EU - \(EurActiv.com March 2016\)](#) [9]
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Focus Group members:

Surname, first name	Profession	Country
Bachinger, Johann	Scientist	Germany
Bellon, Stéphane	Scientist	France
Bertelsen, Inger	Representative from agriculture organisation, industry or manufacturing	Denmark
Brito, Miguel	Scientist	Portugal
Chable, Véronique	Scientist	France
Coletta, Monica	Farm adviser	Italy
Grand, Alfred Contact this member [10]	Other	Austria
Kempkens, Karl	Farm adviser	Germany
Koopmans, Chris Contact this member [11]	Scientist	Netherlands
Locatelli, Marco	Farmer	Italy
Manici, Luisa	Scientist	Italy
Nezet, Benoit	Farm adviser	France
Riguccini, Nadia	Farmer	Italy
Romanyà, Joan	Scientist	Spain
Sans Serra, F. Xavier	Scientist	Spain
Schmutz, Ulrich	Scientist	Germany
Sevón, Aira	Farmer	Finland
Sukkel, Wijnand	Scientist	Netherlands
Tyburski, Jozef	Scientist	Poland
Wivstad, Maria	Scientist	Sweden
Facilitation team		
Micheloni, Cristina Contact this member [12]	Coordinating expert	Italy
(Dagron, Pascal) Contact this member [13]	Task manager	France
Beigel, Sarah Contact this member [14]	Backup	United Kingdom

[Access the collaborative area](#) [15] (*only for members*)

Resources from the Focus Group members:

[Dutch factsheet on EIP-AGRI Focus Group "Organic farming - Optimising arable yields" - Dutch](#)

Links

- [1] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/focus-group-organic-farming-optimising-arable-yields-recommendations-and-outputs>
- [2] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-factsheet-organic-farming>
- [3] <http://www.tporganics.eu/index.php/home.html>
- [4] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/discussion-paper-eip-agri-focus-group-organic-farming-optimising-arable-yields>
- [5] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/publications/eip-agri-brochure-innovative-solutions-organic>
- [6] https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg1_organic_farming_discussion_paper_2013_en.pdf
- [7] https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/fg1_organic_farming_minipapers_2013_en.pdf
- [8] https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/press-article-focus_group_on_organic_farming_-_en_0.pdf
- [9] <http://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/infographic/organic-farming-in-the-eu/>
- [10] <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/user/7700/contact>
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- [16] https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/default/files/focus_group_organic_farming.pdf