



EIP-AGRI WORKSHOP ORGANIC IS OPERATIONAL **14-15 JUNE 2017 - HAMBURG, GERMANY**



EIP-AGRI Workshop

Organic is Operational: linking EIP-AGRI Operational Groups in organic farming

Wednesday 14 June – Thursday 15 June 2017
Hamburg, Germany

The EIP-AGRI network is holding a two-day workshop dedicated to Operational Groups dealing with organic farming, in cooperation with the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Innovationsbüro EIP Agrar Schleswig-Holstein, Innovationszentrum Niedersachsen GmbH and IFOAM EU.

Around 300 Operational Group projects supported by the Rural Development Programmes have started. Approximately 40 of these are dealing with issues relating to Organic Farming. These 40 projects cover technical issues in organic farming and most are focusing on specific crops: arable crops, potatoes, fruits & vegetables, grassland and vines. Others are looking into plant protection and soil management, or animal husbandry, mainly pigs and poultry.

Objectives

Promoting cross-border knowledge exchange and networking:

- among Operational Groups dealing with Organic Farming, and;
- between these Operational Groups and other Operational Groups as well as relevant research projects dealing with similar issues.
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Topics to be covered will include:

- arable farming and soil management
- chickens, especially laying hens,
- plant protection,
- animal feed/protein crops.

The specific objectives are to assist Operational Groups (OGs) working on Organic farming by:

- identifying common challenges
- exploring potential solutions to shared challenges
- exchanging good practices
- connecting participating OGs to relevant research projects
- promoting further cooperation between partners from different OGs and research projects

** These issues are based on the results of a questionnaire which was recently sent to partners in Operational Groups working on Organic Farming.*



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Programme

Please note that this seminar will be held in English only.

Day 1 – Wednesday, 14 June 2017	
8:15 – 9:00	Registration and preparing exhibition
Welcome and setting the scene	
9:00 – 9:10	Plenary session: Welcome & introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming words <i>Alberto D’Avino (European Commission – DG AGRI) & Heinrich Terwitte (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Rural affairs, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany)</i> Who is who? <i>Claude St Pierre (EIP AGRI Service Point)</i>
9:10 – 9:20	Setting the scene: The architecture of EIP-AGRI <i>Anikó Seregélyi (European Commission - DG AGRI)</i>
9:20 – 9:30	Thematic introduction & objectives and programme of the workshop <i>Susanne Padel (EIP AGRI Service Point)</i>
Organic is operational – project examples	
9:30 – 10:00	Plenary session: Examples of different types of innovation projects (Operational Groups, Thematic Network, Multi-actor project)
10:00 – 11:00	Interactive session: Exhibition of Operational Groups, Thematic Networks and research projects <i>Operational Groups and research projects are invited to present their activity through photographs, posters, agricultural inputs/produce or other items/tools</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
Innovations in organic agriculture	
11:30 – 12:30	Breakout sessions: Implementing an experimental innovation process <i>Parallel sessions to get acquainted and to discuss experiences of experimenting and testing of solutions, monitoring and data collection. Groups will be split according to farming systems, such as arable cropping, horticulture, and livestock</i>
12:30-13:15	Buffet lunch



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12:45/13:15	Departure for field visits
14:00 – 17:00	<p>Field visits to organic farms involved in Operational Groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field visit Horticulture: The OG Altes Land (OG Fruit growing in the "Alte Land" region) aims to adapt technology for commercial organic fruit growing in this North German apple region. We will visit the Esteburg experimental farm in Jork-Moorende, where several organisations work together for fruit growers in North Germany. 2. Field visit Animal husbandry: The OG Innobau (OG Sustainable Innovations in Agricultural Construction) tests the use of new criteria in the planning of novel ideas for livestock housing systems. We will visit Hof Dannwisch, the oldest bio-dynamic farm in North Germany that keep pigs, cattle and chicken and grows some vegetables. 3. Field visit Arable/soil management 1: The OG Nährstoffmanagement und Ertragssteigerung im Ökologischen Marktfruchtbau (OG Sustainable yield increase in ecological cash cropping) uses farm specific catch cropping strategies. We will visit Gut Wulksfelde, a well-established diverse organic farm just outside Hamburg with a focus on arable cropping and adding value. 4. Field visit Arable soil management 2: The OG Innovation Kompostsysteme für mehr Bodenfruchtbarkeit (OG Innovation compost systems for more soil fertility) carries out trials on farms comparing the impact of different composts as well as compost teas on yield. The OG works on strategies for work management creating high quality compost on agricultural land. We will visit Buschberg Hof, a diverse biodynamic growing care farm working with people with disabilities.
18:30	Organic networking dinner (organic historical farm Hof Eggers near Elbe)



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Day 2 – Thursday, 15 June 2017	
8:15 – 9:00	Registration for day 2
9:00 – 9:30	Plenary session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key ideas emerging from day 1 activities • Introduction to breakout sessions
Working together in a multi-actor setting	
9:30 – 11:00	Breakout sessions: How can we get the best out of multi-actor groups? <i>Parallel sessions to discuss and exchange good practices to get the best out of multi-actor groups. Possible topics are farmers' involvement, communication channels, coordination and facilitation, reporting and sharing of results.</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
Networking for Operational Groups	
11:30 – 11:40	Networking tools and possibilities to connect EIP-AGRI actors <i>Willemine Brinkman (EIP AGRI Service Point)</i>
11:40 – 12:40	Interactive session: How can we further exchange between Operational Groups after the workshop?
12:40 – 12:55	Plenary wrap-up <i>Susanne Padel & Claude St Pierre (EIP AGRI Service Point)</i>
12:55 – 13:00	Closing words <i>Alberto D'Avino (European Commission – DG AGRI)</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch and goodbye for now

* Please note that in the afternoon of Thursday 15 June there will be an AgriSpin session on innovation support services for organic farming. [More information](#).