

# Demand: Enhancing the competitiveness of the EU organic sector

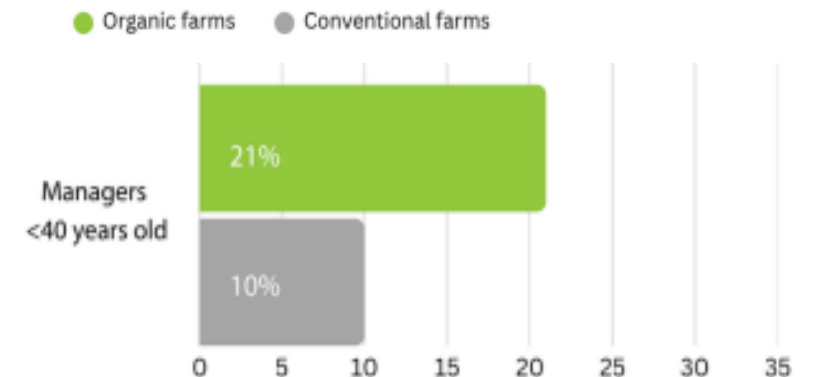
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IFOAM Organics Europe

# Organic – a key ally to enhance competitiveness of EU's agricultural sector

- Vision for Agriculture and Food:
  - “where ecosystem services beneficial to the environment, water, soil or air quality, such as in the **growing organic sector, are properly rewarded**”.
  - Organic **attractive to young farmers**.
- Profits of organic farms are 22-35% higher
- Organic average farm incomes are 9% higher
- Rural development and job creation: twice as many employees on organic farms

→ Enabling framework is key



# EU organic regulatory framework

- Values: our principles and objectives are clearly articulated and set by law
- Extension of scope and full coverage of international trade
- New structure: Basic Act + secondary legislation + soft legislation is challenging, lost focus and coherence
- Ways to improve: our strategic aim is to secure adjustments that lead to a **stronger, more coherent and future-proof organic regulation.**
- We need a framework that:
  - **Preserves high integrity and trust**, ensuring organic remains a beacon of credibility.
  - **Maintains the positive impact** on the environment, the local economy and competitiveness.
  - Ensures a **level playing field**.
  - **Supports practical implementation** under the diverse circumstances in Europe, allowing farmers to implement the organic principles adapted to their local conditions
  - **Empowers innovation**, without compromising the core principles of organic.

# Reopening of the Basic Act

If the Basic Act must be reopened, it must be done with precision — not to weaken the system, but to future-proof it and ensure it continues to deliver on its strategic role for EU agriculture, markets and citizens.

It should be a strategic safeguarding operation:

- The objective is not to re-open political compromises or lower standards,
- but to protect the credibility, stability and long-term resilience of the organic framework,
- by making a few surgical, targeted adjustments where the current legal text is blocking the functioning of the system (starting with the Herbaria-related labelling issue).

The topics that are currently emerging our membership are built around four main pillars:

- Equivalence
- Improvement of animal welfare and strengthening of organic animal husbandry principles
- Clarification and development of rules on organic processing and trade
- Better application of rules on international trade for groups of operators

# Working on secondary and soft legislation

## General issues:

- Complexity of the regulation – clear and transparent interpretations and exchange between MSs, best practices
- Impact assessments and transitions better fit to implementation of new rules
- Fast-track approval of natural substances

## Production rules:

- Greenhouse rules
- PRM rules
- Clear conversion rules for livestock
- Poultry rules
- Conditions of access to outdoors/pasture while safeguarding principles
- Settling C&D for processing and storage
- Use of ingredients naturally rich in nutrients

## Control rules:

- Residue cases
- Access to data
- Surveillance rules

## Groups of operators:

- More risk-based on control tools
- Rationalizing composition criteria

## International trade:

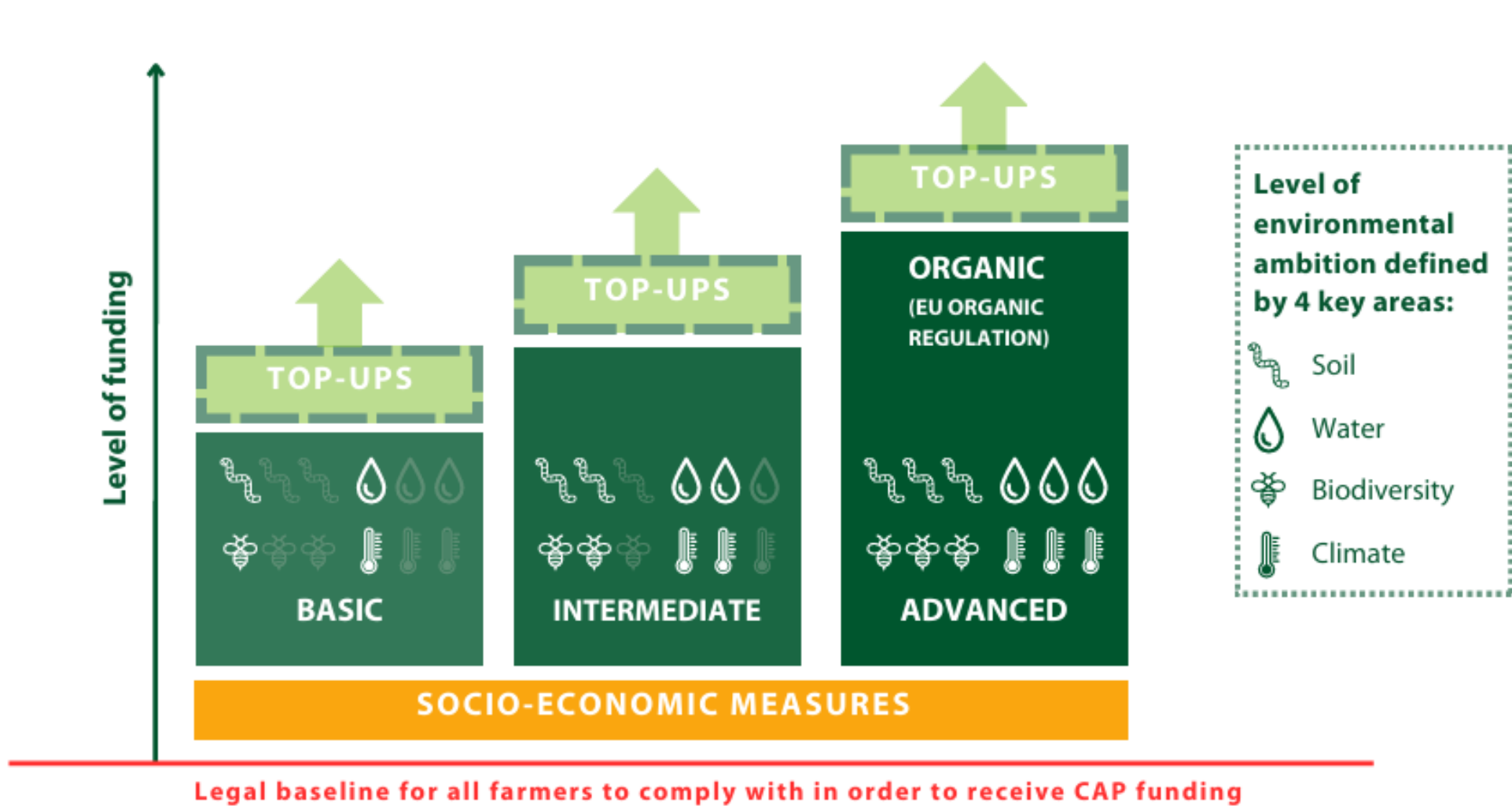
- Customs procedures
- Circumstances of issuance of COIs
- Complaints

# Organic action plan

- New Organic Action Plan should accompany the development of the organic market and supply chain
- CAP has to support the objectives and level of ambition of the Organic Action Plan
- Dedicated budget for EU and national Organic Action Plans are necessary
- Measures should match the identified issues in the national OAPs
- “Organic farming should be a model to follow”
  - Consider socio-economic impacts of organic more clearly
  - Increase support research and innovation in organic

# A CAP that supports organic farming

- No backtracking in the support of organic in the CAP Strategic Plans (minimum current level of support)
- Ringfencing of payments for ecosystem services, including support for organic farming because of its proven benefits for the environment and socio-economic aspects.
- Conversion and maintenance: both payments are complementary and should have budget attached to them.
- Ensure proportionality between support and the environmental benefits provided to give a comparative advantage to organic farmers.
- Green by definition: should only apply to organic farming based on its legal status and the ambitious requirements of the EU Organic Regulation
- Generational renewal: starter pack in the next CAP is positive but it needs attached budget
- Boost organic demand so it matches the projection of organic producers in the next years (through promotional campaigns, public procurement, strengthening of the market through CMO)



IFOAM Organics Europe: The organic movement's vision for the CAP post-2027

