

PRESS RELEASE

Research in organic food and farming

Elements for a sustainable Europe

In May 2006, researchers representing all aspects of European research in organic food and farming will present their work at a joint congress to be held in Denmark

"Clean drinking water, protection of nature, a balanced development of rural districts, care for farm animals, production of renewable energy, healthy and safe food..." Both consumers and society are asking for diverse services from agriculture, and thus providing new challenges for European farmers, food producers and policymakers.

As a mean to comply with the new demands, the European communities have initiated research to investigate the possibilities for developing the various aspects of agriculture and food systems. Some of the research are focussing on the development of organic food and farming.

In May 2006 - for the first time ever - researchers from virtually all EU funded research projects in organic food and farming will join the same congress to present their results for organic producers and processors, as well as for those interested in an overall sustainable development in Europe.

The research, to be presented, includes the integrated project "Improving quality and safety and reduction of cost in the European organic and "low input" food supply chain" (QLIF).

Other research projects like ENVIRFOOD, REPCO, INTERCROP and SAFO are focussing on the development of environmental friendly production systems, health and food safety in organic animal husbandry.

Furthermore, projects focussing on policies and regulation will participate in the congress together with the CHANNEL project, which focus on East and Central European collaboration and the new ERA-NET scheme CORE Organic, which focuses on transnational research coordination.

- "Our goal is to organize a programme, which is rewarding for organic producers and processors seeking new knowledge on a specific organic production. At the same time the programme will provide an overview of current European research in organic food and farming and thus an impression of the possibilities to implement research results in an overall societal development", the organizers of the congress have pronounced.

The event will take place on 30 – 31 May 2006 in Odense Denmark, and it will be held in collaboration with the biannual *Danish Organic Congress*. Together with the congress the Danish organizers are preparing an exhibition on technologies and products within organic food and farming. More information can be found at www.organic-congress.org

As the official language will be English, the congress should be open for anyone interested in organic food and farming.

Further information

Further information on the joint organic congress can be obtained from the congress homepage: www.organic-congresses.org or from Claus Bo Andreasen, international communication manager at DARCOF and secretary for the programme committee: E-mail: Clausbo.Andreasen@agrsci.dk, phone: +45 8999 1035 or +45 4079 8032.

Further information on the individual research projects participating in the congress can be obtained from the project coordinators:

Project	Coordinator	Email / webpage
Improving quality and safety and reduction of cost in the European organic and "low input" food supply chain (QLIF)	Carlo Leifert, University of Newcastle, UK Urs Niggli, FiBL, CH (academic coordinator)	c.leifert@ncl.ac.uk www.qlif.org urs.niggli@fibl.org
Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming (CORE Organic)	Erik Sten Kristensen, DARCOF, DK	eriksteen.kristensen@darcof.dk www.coreorganic.org
Research to support revision of the EU regulation on organic agriculture (Organic Revision)	Erik Sten Kristensen, DARCOF, DK Urs Niggli, FiBL, CH (deputy coordinator)	eriksteen.kristensen@darcof.dk www.organic-revision.org urs.niggli@fibl.org
Sustaining Animal Health and Food Safety in Organic Farming (SAFO)	Mette Vaarst, DIAS, DK	mette.vaarst@agrsci.dk www.safonetwork.org
European Information System on Organic Markeds (EISFOM)	Nic Lampkin, University of Wales, UK	nhl@aber.ac.uk www.eisfom.org
Further development of Organic Farming Policy in Europe, with Particular Emphasis on EU Enlargement (EU-CEE-OF)	Nic Lampkin, University of Wales	nhl@aber.ac.uk www.irs.aber.ac.uk/EUCEEOF
Replacement of Copper Fungicides in Organic Production of Grapevine and Apple in Europe (REPCO)	Jürgen Köhl, Wageningen, NL	jurgen.kohl@wur.nl www.rep-co.nl
Environmental friendly food production system: requirements for plant breeding and seed production (ENVIRFOOD)	Ina Belicka, Stende Plant Breeding Station, Latvia	stende.selekcija@apollo.lv
European Action Plan of Organic Food and Farming (ORGAP)	Otto Schmid, FiBL, CH	otto.schmid@bluewin.ch
Opening channels of communication between Associated Candidate Countries and the EU in Ecological Farming (CHANNEL)	Laszlo Radics, CORVINIUS, HU	laszlo.radics@uni-corvinus.hu http://www.channel.uni-corvinus.hu/content.php?content_9
Intercropping of cereals and grain legumes for increased production, weed control, improved product quality and prevention of N-losses in European organic farming systems (INTERCROP)	Erik Steen Jensen, Risoe, DK	erik.s.jensen@risoe.dk www.intercrop.dk