

Development of criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the EU Action Plan for Organic Agriculture

The European funded research project ORGAP intends to provide scientific support for the implementation of the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming. Furthermore, the project will assess its long-term and short-term effects.

European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming

In June 2004 the European Commission released the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming. With this action plan the Commission intends to assess the situation of organic farming and to lay down the basis for policy development in the coming years. The plan will thus provide an overall strategic vision for the contribution of organic farming to the Common Agricultural Policy.

The European funded research project ORGAP* gives scientific support for the implementation of the European Action Plan, and it will assess its long-term and short-term effects.

* Development of criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the European Action Plan for Organic Agriculture (contract no. 006591)

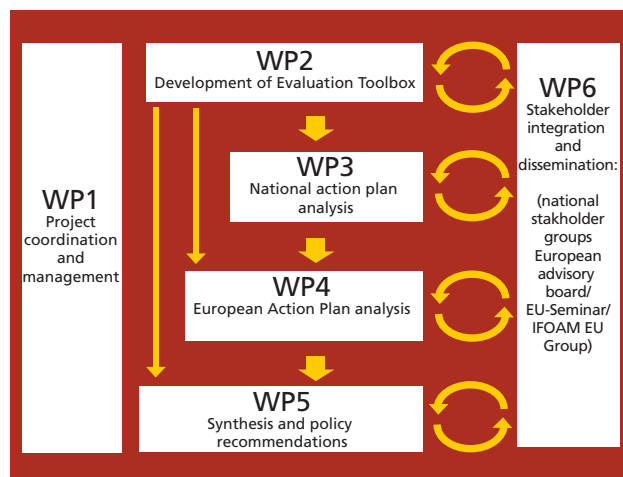
Objectives

The project will:

- ▶ Develop a toolbox to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the European Action Plan in the following areas: information, training and education, research, production, processing, market development, certification, and public expenditures
- ▶ Test the toolbox on a selected existing national action plans
- ▶ Identify conflict areas between targets of European and national action plans
- ▶ Analyse the implementation processes and procedures
- ▶ Make policy recommendation to the European Commission, national authorities as well as further actors

ORGAP work plan

The working plan consists of six workpackages (WP)



Workpackage 1:

Project coordination and management

WP 1 addresses the project management and scientific co-ordination tasks, including communication and dissemination, quality management, time planning, reporting and financial control.

Workpackage 2:

Development of Evaluation Toolbox (ORGAPET)

WP 2 involves the development of the organic action plan evaluation toolbox (ORGAPET), incorporating quantitative and qualitative product and process indicators covering the key areas of the EU organic action plan, building on existing socio-economic and agri-environmental policy evaluation methods (MEANS, IRENA) and incorporating work from current and previous projects on organic farming policy analysis and development. Stakeholder input into the development of the toolbox is emphasised.

Work package 3:

National Action Plan analysis

WP 3 provides a general overview and status quo analysis of national action plan objectives, design and implementation in 8 case study countries, as well as an analysis of the results of existing evaluations of a selection of these national action plans in order to a) draw conclusions concerning issues affecting the success or failure of these plans and b) determine the potential contribution of the results and available data to the application of ORGAPET at the European level. Group interviews with stakeholders in the case study countries are used to assess the feasibility of applying the ORGAPET approach at national level and to prepare for its application at the European level. In a special subtask there will be a focus group discussion on the identification of areas of conflict and/or synergy between objectives of national and EU action plans and their significance for the implementation of the EU Action Plan at national level. This provides the basis for the development, again with stakeholder input, of strategies aimed at resolving the potential conflicts and exploiting the synergies in order to facilitate implementation of the EU Action Plan at national level.

Workpackage 4:

European Action plan analysis

WP 4 provides an early assessment of the potential risks and problems associated with specific policy-relevant areas and assists in the initial implementation of the EU Organic Action Plan by offering a structure for thinking through the likelihood, seriousness and probability of

detection of potential problems. The work package also involves the testing of the ORGAP evaluation toolbox at the European level in the context of the early stages of implementation of the EU Organic Action Plan.

Work package 5:

Synthesis and recommendations

WP 5 involves the synthesis of the results of the analyses of national action plans and the implementation of the EU action plan, taking into account potential conflict/synergy areas and risk/problems. Policy conclusions relating to the implementation and development of EU and national action plans are identified. On the basis of the testing in earlier work packages, the ORGAP evaluation toolbox will be revised and a manual for the initiation and evaluation of action plans produced.

Work package 6:

Stakeholder integration and dissemination

WP 6 parallels the project co-ordination work package, focusing on the effective integration of stakeholders in the project work by means of national workshops, interviews with national stakeholders, European advisory committee meetings, electronic discussion groups and other means of consultation with/dissemination to stakeholders and non-academic audiences. In addition, a mid-project European seminar will be organised in order to present results of early work packages and consider issues for more detailed analysis in later work packages.



Facts on ORGAP

Project duration

The project started commenced on May 1st 2004 and it will last for three years.

Partners

The project partnership consists of 10 partners from 9 countries, covering different disciplines, stakeholder views and experiences with national action plans for Organic Agriculture.

The partners are:

Country	Partner
Switzerland	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)
United Kingdom	University of Wales, Aberystwyth (UWA)
Germany	University of Hohenheim (UHO)
Italy	Università Polytechnica Marche, Ancona (UPMA)
Denmark	University of Southern Denmark (USD)
NGO	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
Slovenia	Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD)
Czech Republic	Institute for Agricultural Economics (VUZE)
Netherlands	Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI)
Spain	Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica (SEAE)

Project Coordinator

Otto Schmid (scientific coordinator),
Bettina Landau (administrative coordinator),
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL),
Switzerland

Follow the progress of ORGAP

ORGAP will organise national workshops as well as meetings with an Advisory Committee on European level. In May 2006, the project will participate in a major organic congress to be held in Odense, Denmark. The congress will be held in collaboration with other EU funded projects.

The ORGAP web site www.orgap.org and the free electronic newsletter will inform on activities and conclusion in the project, for instance workshops, conferences and new publications. Please visit the CORE Organic website at www.orgap.org. The website will also include a discussion forum, which allow to dialogue with the public.

Contact

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