

BioFach Key theme 2016: "Organic 3.0 – Acting for more organic!"

Organic 3.0 is the discussion on the organic sector of the future and stands for credible and sustainable concepts which are ground-breaking in the re-structuring of the global agriculture and food industry. The organic movement itself is called upon. But not only that: its partners in politics, the private sector and civil society must also create the conditions for the restructuring process and growth as well as actively support the organic sector. BioFach 2016 provides the platform for holding discussions and initiating specific measures.

Organic 3.0 – Acting for More Organic!

Like every year, the organic movement meets at the BIOFACH, the leading global fair for organic products. The past two years have shown that the organic sector is ready to further develop its own conceptual understanding of organic under the heading 'Organic 3.0'. What began as a farmers' gathering in Schleswig Holstein1, has evolved into a global discussion forum, spurred through the different BIOFACHs worldwide and the debates led by the organic movement (represented by IFOAM – Organics International). Several organic think-tanks (especially SOAAN2, aiming at crystalizing the discussions) develop contents linked to Organic 3.0 and present their visions of how they see the evolution from Organic 2.0 to Organic 3.0.

At BIOFACH 2016, the organic movement catalyzes the definition of the conceptual understanding of organic into concrete action that puts into practice the new ideas. Current studies demonstrate: We need to change the global agriculture and food system in order to rectify harmful developments for instance in the fields of animal husbandry, use of pesticides, preservation of biodiversity or regarding global food sovereignty.

The statistics show that the organic sector continues to grow. By the end of 2013 the global consumer purchases of organic products had reached 72 billion US\$ (44% more than five years ago). This however is less than 1% of the total share of the global market for food and beverages. Even in leading markets (Denmark, Switzerland and Austria) this figure stays at only 6-8%. This is why many stakeholders in the organic movement have been asking with what objective and in what role organic can - and wants to – significantly contribute to addressing global sustainability challenges.

What is clear is that if organic wants to offer an important contribution to solving global problems, it needs to change conventional systems and continue to grow. Growth affects the self-perception of the organic movement. Goals and strategies need to be rethought and have to be translated into practice. The organic movement is challenged. But that is not all. All partners in the political sphere, the private sector and in civil society have to create the necessary conditions to actively support the organic sector. BIOFACH 2016 is the platform where concrete steps for action are taken.

On the one hand, the attention paid to 'Organic 3.0 – Acting for More Organic!' during BIOFACH 2016 targets the political and legal framework conditions, that are designed by countries or communities of states. This includes communications/ awareness-raising, the promotion of organic agriculture, public sourcing policies, standards setting and requirements for less sustainable agricultural and production systems. The discussion also has as an objective to allow players active in the

economy of or beyond the organic sector to engage in the further development of the future of organic. It also aims at convincing important partners from the civil society that the promotion of the organic sector as a solution to environmental and social challenges, e.g. through public relations, is highly effective.

¹ Braun, S; Rahmann, G; Strotrees, S&L. 2010. R-Evolution des Ökolandbaus!? „Ökolandbau 3.0“

² SOAAN: Sustainable Organic Agriculture Action Network: <http://www.ifoam.bio/en/sustainable-organic-agriculture->

[action-network-soaan](#)

1

Annex 1: Thematic Focuses

The dialogue in favor of ‘Organic 3.0 – Acting for More Organic!’ is directed at the organic movement and external stakeholders. It aims at achieving a common understanding regarding the medium and long-term goals of trade. It covers three main areas:

1. Policies

Country governments, state communities (e.g. EU or AU) and their intergovernmental institutions (UNO, WTO, G8 etc.) have much influence on and responsibility over the parameters of agricultural production and the food sector, that are to develop into a sustainable economic system. In this way they also define the role of organic in this development. This is also visible in the EU organic regulation, the CAP, TTIP and the SDGs3.

2. The Private Sector

The aim is to sustainably design the entire value chain. Hence private sector players and their work take center stage. To achieve credibility, the organic movement must pull in the same direction and stand united behind Organic 3.0. Values and the attainment of ambitious sustainability goals have to be considered as much as the guaranteeing economic feasibility and opportunities for growth. Purely organic organizations are addressed as much as mixed businesses or others that see the potentialities in the context of Organic 3.0 and that can envisage a development towards organic. Production, processing and trade are close to the consumers who, as before, will continue to be the driving force behind the development of organic.

3. Civil Society and Organic Service Providers

Organic 3.0 positions organic as a solution to environmental and social challenges. Thanks to organic’s effectiveness, many organizations, even outside the movement, empathize with organic. The dialogue around Organic 3.0 with civil society organizations strengthens partnerships and favorably positions organic to citizens and consumers. Organic service providers from science, consulting, certification, advocacy, etc. are equally important carriers of our vision, who participate in the development of the Organic 3.0 concept and of concrete steps

that will ultimately allow translation into actionability.

Annex 2: Preliminary Organic 3.0 Guidelines

Positioning: Organic is an agricultural production system conducive to achieving true sustainability in agriculture and the food sector. Organic agriculture offers solutions to the environmental and social challenges like poverty, malnutrition, climate change, the loss of biodiversity or the degradation of natural resources (e.g. soils, water). Feasibility and effectiveness are proven, it is now imperative to pursue target-specific promotion and dissemination. The common public interest and the urgency of true sustainability to ensure the future of humankind require public investments.

³ CAP, Common Agriculture Policy, TTIP Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, SDG Sustainable Development Goals

2

Goal: Shift of conventional agriculture in the direction of organic agriculture and an increased market share of sustainably produced goods.

Principles: Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care. **Characteristics:**

Organic agriculture invites especially young producers globally to develop their businesses in this direction

Culture of innovation (technical, political and social) Continuous improvement, aiming at best practice Integrity and transparency
Inclusiveness

From 2.0 to 3.0 Guidelines:

From an orientation towards minimum requirements to an orientation to continuous improvement

From exclusivity of certification towards multiple options to achieve credibility

From organic agriculture as the goal in itself towards organic as an instrument to achieve true sustainability

From exclusion due to non-compliance to inclusion of parties that wee potential in organic

From pioneering technologies towards the relevance of systems From a respectable niche philosophy to mainstreaming policies

Usage of real cost accounting through the consideration of positive and negative externalities in agricultural production

The complete document please find here as a pdf