

Vision for organic greenhouse production

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Cucumbers at Verbiek, 2010





Peppers at Verbiek





Tomatoes at Verbiek





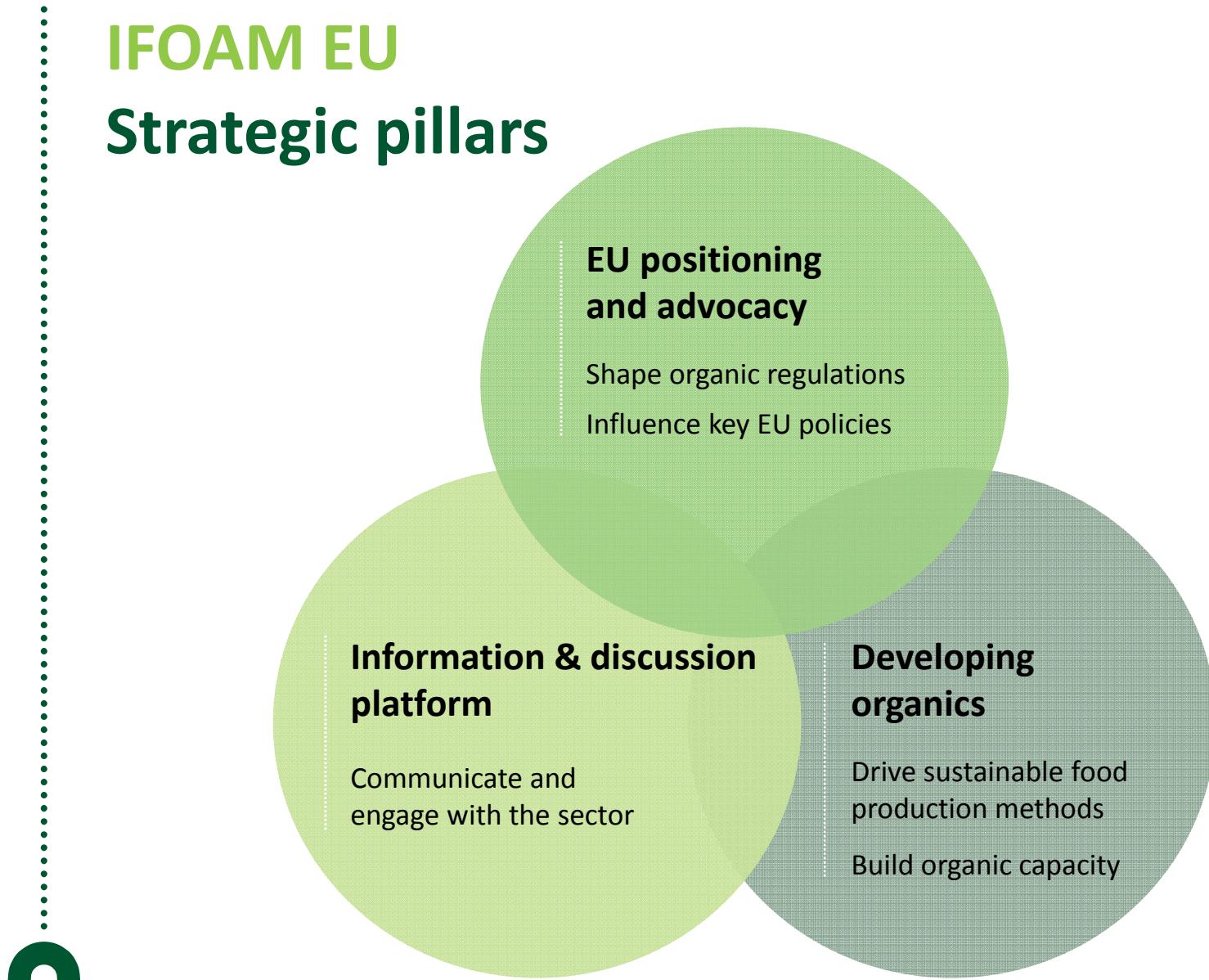
IFOAM EU GROUP

- Established 2000 as regional group of IFOAM
- Represents more than **160** IFOAM member organisations across the EU and EEA
- IFOAM EU advocates, lobbies, and campaigns on a wide range of issues relating to organic production and sustainability in Europe
- Set up Greenhouse Production Taskforce in 2010



IFOAM EU

Strategic pillars





Position on Organic Greenhouse Production

- Vision = fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring system widely adopted in Europe
- This also applies to greenhouse production
- Greenhouse Position Paper:
 - Production must take place in soil
 - No demarcated beds (exception for pre-existing systems)
 - Fertilisation should take place primarily through the soil ecosystem (25% maximum in liquid form)
 - Energy use should be monitored and efficiency increased
- Continue research and development



EGTOP report

- Expert Group on Technical advice in Organic Production
- Sub-group on Greenhouse Production
- Report covers many aspects but key elements included:
 - Greenhouse production is subject to the Organic Regulations
 - Fertilisation should primarily come from slow release sources
 - Soil health and disease control should depend on preventative methods and techniques
 - Substrate production should be confined to transplants and plants sold to the consumer
 - Harvested fruit and vegetables should come from plants grown in soil and not from substrate culture
 - Exception proposed for demarcated beds pre 2013

Research for the organic sector

- Advocacy for more research and innovation for the organic sector is done within TP Organics
- IFOAM EU runs the TP Organics Secretariat



TP Organics?

- ▶ European Technology Platform for organic food & farming since 2008
- ▶ Officially recognised by European Commission in 2013
- ▶ Unites small & medium enterprises, large companies, researchers, farmers and civil society organisations

▶ Mission:

To advocate for and obtain greater investment in research and innovation for organic, low-input and agroecological food production and so contribute to the transition to sustainable food and farming systems.

Members of TP Organics

Business representatives



European Landowners' Organization



Cooperation with the Agri Food sector group of the Enterprises Europe Network in terms of knowledge management, technology transfer, SME Instruments.



European CSOs



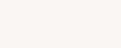
Education and Science



Research Centers, Universities, Scientists, Advisory Services, Innovation Brokers



More than 300 active SMEs:



International



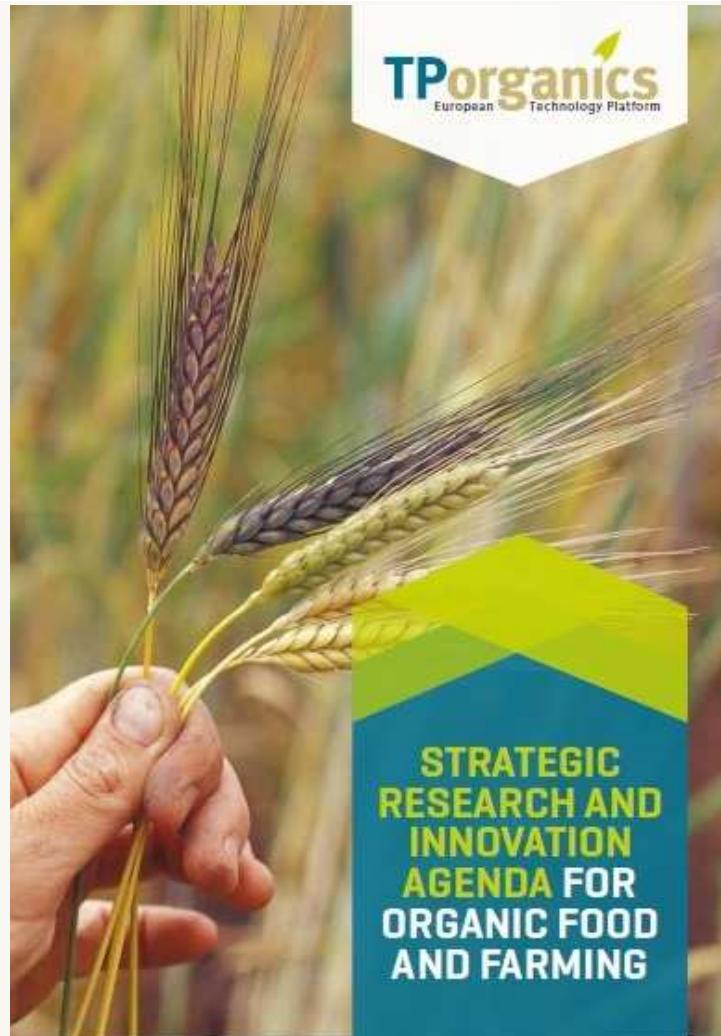
Education and Science



National Mirrors



Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda



Concepts for sustainable organic greenhouse systems

Challenge

- Greenhouses are highly specialised and simplified cropping systems
- Require intensive use of energy, water and other inputs
- Use of functional biodiversity is limited

Expected impact

- Concepts for sustainable and climate-neutral organic greenhouse production systems suitable for different climates, conditions and agro-ecosystems
- Closed nutrient cycles and improved efficiency in the use of water and inputs
- Sound soil management
- Biological pest and disease controls based on ecological approaches
- Improved competitiveness of organic greenhouse production

Additional issues

- ▶ Strong overlap with TP Organics Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, yet additional issues were identified at:
- ▶ EU Conference on Organic production, Research and Innovation (May 2015)
 - role of grafting
 - recycling of plastics and other coverings
- ▶ Joint workshop TP Organics and BioGreenhouse (October 2013)
 - Breeding robust and resource-efficient crops
 - Urban horticulture: standards and social aspects
 - Sustainable, safe and healthy food & diets



Conclusions

- Much excellent work has been done and good progress is being made
- Commission is taking note of EGTOP report and IFOAM EU representations but no sign yet of detailed implementing rules
- Regulation needs to be clearer but should take geographical and climatic differences into account
- There is more work to be done
- The contribution of BioGreenhouse to the process has been massive



- Thank you for your attention
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