

The background of the slide is a solid green color with a repeating pattern of white icons representing various organic products. These icons include vegetables like carrots, tomatoes, mushrooms, and leafy greens; fruits like apples, pears, and berries; and animal products like sheep, cows, and fish. The icons are arranged in a grid-like fashion across the entire slide.

## Vision for organic greenhouse production

Roger Hitchings, RMH Consulting, UK



Cucumbers at Verbiek, 2010





Peppers at Verbiek



Tomatoes at Verbiek





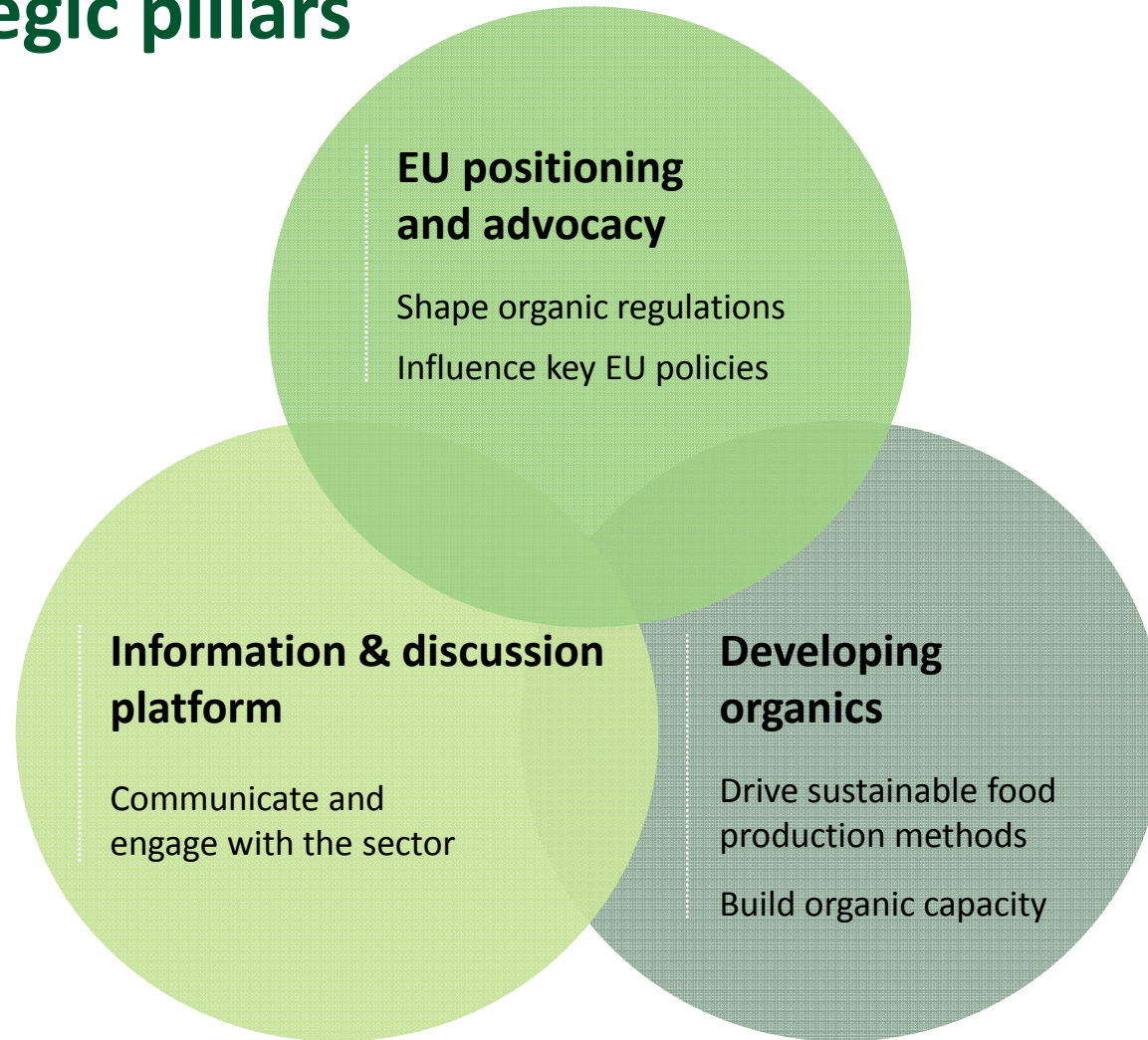


## IFOAM EU GROUP

- 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

More than 300 active SMEs:



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



## International



## National Mirrors



## European CSOs



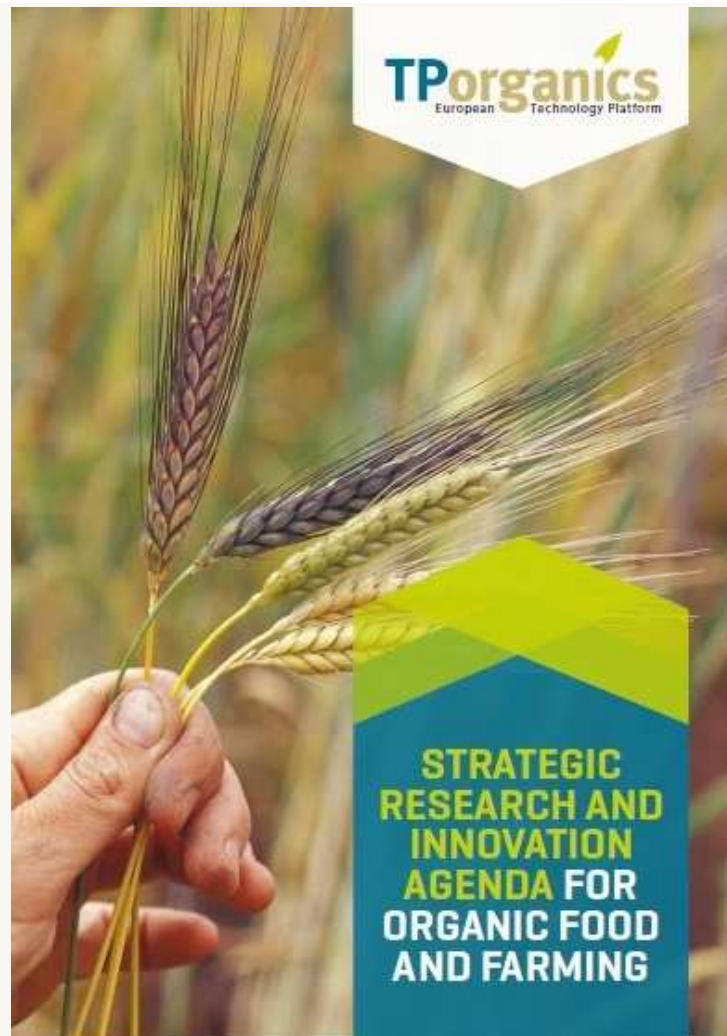
## Education and Science



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



# 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

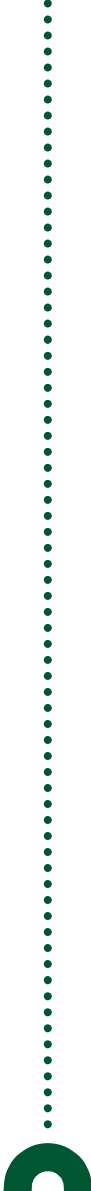
# Additional issues

- ▶ 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



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- Thank you for your attention
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