The EU Organic Action Plan: Implications for Ukraine

Miguel de Porras (miguel.deporras@fibl.org)

16 April 2021
Why an Organic Action Plan for the EU?

• Broad scientific consensus on the positive role of organic agriculture on key environmental problems
• Lack of generational renewal in EU agriculture
• EU Organic market trends
• The development of the new regulation (848/2018)
• Non-delivering CAP
• Increasing strength of environmental organizations
• Better organized organic sector
• Organic farmers at the forefront of agricultural innovation
The Organic action plan structure

The OAP has 23 actions with 54 specific points organized in the following three axis:

• Axis 1: Organic food and products for all: Stimulate demand and ensure consumer trust

• Axis 2: On the way to 2030: Stimulating conversion and reinforcing the entire value chain

• Axis 3: Organics leading by example: Improving the contribution of organic farming to sustainability
Axis 1. Organic food and products for all: Stimulate demand and ensure consumer trust (I)

1.1 Promoting organic farming and the EU logo
   Action 1: information and communication (4 points)
   Action 2: promotion (4 points)

1.2 Promoting organic canteens and increasing the use of green public procurement
   Action 3: uptake of organics in public canteens (4 points)

1.3 Reinforcing organic school schemes
   Action 4: EU school scheme framework (2 points)
Axis 1. Organic food and products for all: Stimulate demand and ensure consumer trust (II)

1.4 Preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust
   Action 5: strengthen fight against fraudulent practices (7 points)

1.5 Improving traceability
   Action 6: strengthen traceability and transparency (3 points)
   Action 7: digital technologies (1 point)

1.6 The contribution of the private sector
   Action 8: reinforcing the role of retailers, wholesalers, catering services restaurants and others (2 points)
Axis 2. On the way to 2030: Stimulating conversion and reinforcing the entire value chain

2.1 Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices
   
   Action 9: framework of the new CAP and CFP (3 points)

2.2 Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency
   
   Action 10: comprehensive overview of the sector (2 points)
   Action 11: EU Market Observatories’ (1 point)

2.3 Supporting the organization of the food chain
   
   Action 12: producer organization (2 points)
   Action 13: group certification (1 point)
Axis 2. On the way to 2030: Stimulating conversion and reinforcing the entire value chain

2.4 Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuit

   Action 14: shorter organic supply chains (2 points)
   Action 15: enhance social inclusion in rural areas (1 point)

2.5 Improving animal nutrition in accordance with organic rules
   Action 16: phasing out contentious feed additives (3 points)

2.6 Reinforcing organic aquaculture
   Action 17: addressing organic aquaculture obstacles (2 points)
Axis 3. Organics leading by example: Improving the contribution of organic farming to sustainability

3.1 Reducing climate and environmental footprint
   Action 18: climate positive organic holdings (1 point)

3.2 Enhancing genetic biodiversity and increasing yields
   Action 19: enhancing biodiversity and yields (4 points)

3.3 Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products
   Action 20: phasing out contentious inputs (2 points)
Axis 3. Organics leading by example: Improving the contribution of organic farming to sustainability

3.4 Enhancing animal welfare
   Action 21: in the Animal welfare platform (1 point)
3.5 Making more efficient use of resources
   Action 22: sustainable bio-based materials (1 point)
   Action 23: protecting water (1 point)
The Organic action plan conclusions

Conclusions:

• The OAP will contribute to the achievement of the 25% target but not only, also others like pesticide reduction and reduction of nutrient surplus.

• To monitor this progress the EC will:
  • Organize an annual public follow-up meetings with representatives of the EP, MS and EU advisory bodies and stakeholders “if appropriate”.
  • Publish bi-annual progress report – including a scoreboard- to be presented at dedicated events
  • Publish a midterm review in 2024 to be presented in a high level conference
  • Organize a yearly EU-wide “Organic Day”
The Organic Action Plan and associated resources

• The OAP is not a regulatory instrument, it is a non-binding strategic document (“soft law”).
• However the plan develop specific objectives to the EC and to EU Member States. The achievement of these objectives will be monitored by the EC through two different instruments:
  • CAP strategic plans
  • National Organic Action Plans
• Horizon Europe research funds
  • The EC compromises to dedicate the 30% of funds of the area “Agriculture, forestry and rural areas”
• Additional resources:
  • Study about the real price of food including the role of taxation (4)
  • Specific organic dedicated budget: Agricultural promotion Policy, CAP information measures, EU market observatories’...
Research in the organic action plan

- “The EC intends to dedicate at least 30% of the next calls related to Intervention Area 3 “Agriculture, forestry and rural areas” of cluster 6 of Horizon Europe”
- How much would this mean?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster 1</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Cluster 6</th>
<th>Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture &amp; Environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Food systems, Agriculture, forestry and rural areas, Circular systems, Environmental observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Biodiversity and natural resources, Seas, oceans and inland waters, Bio-based innovation systems in the EU Bioeconomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>€8.952 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>JRC (non-nuclear direct actions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessing the EU organic ambitions


Contact:
Heidrun.moschitz@fibl.org
www.fibl.org
Ambitious targets of the F2F strategy

25% organic until 2030

Share of organic agricultural land

FiBL

www.fibl.org
No «one size fits all» - differences between countries
No «one size fits all» - differences between crops

- Dry pulses and protein crops
- Olives
- Vegetables
- Grapes
- Cereals
- Oilseeds
- Root crops

Average of all crops: 20%

25% Target
# Organic Imports

## TABLE 6 - Organic import volumes by exporting country, 2018 and 2019 (t)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>404 623</td>
<td>433 705</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>265 817</td>
<td>337 856</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>271 801</td>
<td>324 354</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>33.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>276 879</td>
<td>304 297</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>43.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>204 871</td>
<td>214 240</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>49.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>262 722</td>
<td>210 760</td>
<td>-19.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>56.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>125 477</td>
<td>176 568</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>63 114</td>
<td>87 341</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>64.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>50 250</td>
<td>85 675</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>67.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>72 204</td>
<td>78 825</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>69.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Traces
## Organic Imports: Ukraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>113.9</td>
<td>179.4</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilcakes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>244.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>64.8</td>
<td>-14.1</td>
<td>31.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseeds</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Juices</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-24.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Traces*
Specific points addressing third Countries

1.4 Preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust

   Action 5: strengthen fight against fraudulent practices
   ensure a robust supervision of control systems in Member States and third countries. Increase cooperation with competent authorities and law enforcement bodies in third countries to exchange information

1.5 Improving traceability

   Action 6: strengthen traceability and transparency
   develop a database of certificates of all EU operators, and later also relevant third country operators

2.2 Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency

   Action 10: comprehensive overview of the sector
   Publish a yearly report on imports of organic products from third countries
Specific actions replicable in third Countries

- Promotion Policy (Action 2)
- Awards recognizing excellence of organic food chain (Action 2)
- Green Public Procurement (Action 3)
- Reinforcing school schemes (Action 4)
- Cooperation with the private sector (Action 8)
- Exchange of best practices (Action 9)
- Bio-districts (Action 14)
- Strengthen advisory services, AKIS (Action 9 & 19)
- Earmarked budget on Agricultural research funds (Axis III)
Some reflections about the OAP

- The OAP is an historical landmark for organic policy. It represents a strong political instrument for the EU organic sector, following the ambition of the F2F and Biodiversity strategy.
- Comparing to the OAP of 2014, it represents a qualitative change, from Niche to mainstream. It improves on the definition and specification of targets and the engagement of Member States.
- Subsidiarity is the source of the strengths but also of its challenges. The OAP is not a binding instrument, many of its points will have to face strong opposition from many different Member States.
- The Commission will need a strong internal allocation of resources to truly implement the OAP.
Some reflections about the OAP: Implications for third countries

- Third Countries are not strongly addressed in the EU OAP (contrary to the 2014 OAP)
- However, the whole 1st Axis it is expected to highly increase the EU demand for organic produce
- In despite of the EU focus of the promotion third countries will be needed to fulfil this increase.
- If we look to specific crops, Cereals and oilseeds are still lagging behind, remaining below the 5% of the total areas for those crops in the EU. Increase of EU organic meat consumption might also impact on a further increase for these crops
- The investment in research might have a strong spill over effect making available effective technologies for the organic sector
You can download the OAP here:


Thank You
Contact

FiBL Europe
Rue de la Presse 4
1000 Bruselas
Belgica
mobile: +32483516-831
miguel.deporras@fibl.org
info.europe@fibl.org