

Pesticide use and contamination: how EU policies can help organic operators

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- **Short term objective:** to find a temporary workable approach in relation to the application of the new EU Organic Regulation
- **Medium-long term objective:** to build an approach that brings harmonization and is fair to organic operators





Short-term Objective

“Legal” References:

The requirements of the new EU organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and the current Commission’s opinions

Situation:

Many questions still open, many different approaches in the different Member States, confusion on the market. Big issues with phosphonates and ETO.





Medium- and Long-term Objective

“Legal” References:

Article 29(4) of the new EU organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 (report on implementation + proposal if appropriate by 31 December 2025)

Situation:

No proposal on the table at the moment -> IFOAM Organics Europe project on residues





IFOAM OE's Sector Project

Reports due by June 2022 from FiBL:

1. **Scientific report** on pesticide presence in the environment including surface water, ground water, air, soil, wild plants and possibly transport and processing
2. **Data collection** of pesticide residues present in the food and farming system, including organic
3. **Overview** on how control bodies, authorities and business deal with residues in the EU.
4. **Case-studies** from 5 countries (it was expanded)
5. **Pilot study** on spray drift on 5 small organic farms in Switzerland

Second part of the project (second semester 2022):

- Workshops with IFOAM OE's members and outside actors
- Position making
- Advocacy towards the Policy Makers



Scientific Report under peer-review

Presence of pesticides residues in:

- Soil
 - Water
 - Air
 - Post-harvest environment
 - Wild Plants
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Conclusions

- Pesticides are omnipresent in the environment
- The task of minimising contamination is fully in the hands of organic operators, even if the source of such omni-presence is often out of their control
- Organic farmers, processors and traders do their best to minimise the presence of residues in organic food
- As we have seen in this session, the organic sector is proactive since decades on this issue through regional, national and EU projects
- Organic operators cannot be sanctioned for something is not in their control
- Organic operators have the same objectives of the policy-makers and of the EU citizens: no pesticide residues in food (both in organic and conventional!)



Thank you for your Attention!

