



EkoConnect – International Centre for Organic
Agriculture of Central and Eastern Europe e.V.

Phone: +49 (0) 351-456 80 38

Fax: +49 (0) 351 21 37 953

E-Mail: info@ekoconnect.org

Internet: www.ekoconnect.org

EkoConnect Information Letter Organic Agriculture of Central and Eastern Europe

Dear Madams and Sirs, dear friends of organic agriculture,
What you are reading here is the first issue of the “EkoConnect Information Letter Organic Agriculture of Central and Eastern Europe”. The EkoConnect Information Letter is a new media of information about organic agriculture in Central and Eastern Europe. It has been designed for experts in public institutions or private organisations and companies dealing with organic agriculture, who want to have up-to-date informations. It has also been designed for beginners in organic agriculture, who need basic information about the subject and who don't have other sources of information. Everybody can use the index in order to identify quickly the notices of relevance. The Information Letter wants to disseminate know-how and news and connect people and organisations. So, everybody can e-mail to EkoConnect and suggest for publication, interesting notices or reports in one of the letters languages. In general he will have the source of information indicated. The Letter is started now in english, polish, romanian and german, but further languages will follow, as soon as we have enough partners for translation – you are welcome to participate and make the letter be understood even in your language. Don't hesitate to forward the Information Letter to your colleagues and friends and tell us about more people, who would like to get the letter. If you haven't received the letter directly from EkoConnect, but wish to subscribe and get it from now on and for free, please send a message to info@ekoconnect.org. This adress can also be used to cancel your subscription. We are looking forward to a vivid exchange of information and ideas with you.

the EkoConnect editorial staff

Bernhard Jansen

Wiebke Deeken

Index

1. Czech Republic: Research Institute for Organic Agriculture founded
2. Hungary: cultivation of GM corn prohibited
3. Biodiversity benefits from Organic Agriculture
4. International scholarship of DBU extended to the baltic states
5. Conferences on Organic Agriculture held in Lithuania
6. Draft Criteria for the Evaluation of Organic Inputs published in a new project report
7. Public data base organic eprints: you are welcome to participate
8. Coordination of Research on Organic Agriculture
9. EU reg. 2092/91, consolidated version
10. Proceedings of the First World Conference on Organic Seeds
11. Study on Organic Marketing Initiatives and Rural Development
12. Manuals about Organic Agriculture published in Poland
13. Conference on Food Safety to be held in Warsaw
14. Seminar on cereal research in the Baltics
15. Bioakademy in Lednice
16. Organic Agriculture Marketing Conference in Krzyzowa, Poland

* * * * *

1. +++ Czech Republic: Research Institute for Organic Agriculture founded +++

On the 5th of november of 2004 "Bioinstitut" – institute for organic agriculture and sustainable landscape development – has been founded in Olomouc. The institute is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic and in the other new member states of the EU. Besides the czech organic farmers association Pro-Bio and the Palacky university in Olomouc, there is also the swiss research institute for organic agriculture (FiBL) among the founders. The president of the administrative board is Mr. Petr Travnicek of Pro-Bio, vice president is Mr. Urs Niggli from FiBL. Mr. Jiri Urban has been named director of the institute by the administrative board. The institute will realise research in the fields of organic agriculture, sustainable economy, improvement of landscape use and landscape ecology and will also focus on the dissemination of knowledge. Adress: Bioinstitut c/o Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, Jiri Urban, Křížkovského 8, CZ-771 47 Olomouc

* * * * *

2. +++ Hungary: cultivation of GM corn prohibited +++

According to a notice at oekonews.at the prohibition of genetically modified corn in Hungary applies immediately and comprises the production, use, dissemination and import of any plants of corn which are derived from the MON 810 of the US genetic engineering group Monsanto. Hungary is the first eastern european country, that has opted against GM corn. As a reason for the decision the ministry said, that the results of ongoing tests should be awaited. The potential of GM crops to contaminate conventional crops is still being investigated. Oponents of genetic engineering are stating that this is the case, which is also supported by experiences from other countries. It is impossible to draw back GM crops, if they once have propagated in the environment.

* * * * *

3. +++ Biodiversity benefits from Organic Agriculture +++

From the simplest bacteria up to the mammals: Organic agriculture enhances the diversity of species in every step of the nutritional chain. This is the result of the so far broadest study on organic agriculture which has been realised by two british research organisations collecting data in Europe, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. The study has been published in "Biological Conversation", Volume 122. You can read more about this and many more notices regarding

organic agriculture and biodiversity on the revised webpages of IUCN and IFOAM
<http://www.organic-biodiversity.net>

* * * * *

4. +++ International scholarship of DBU has been extended to the baltic states +++

The German Federal Foundation for Environment (Deutsche Stiftung Umwelt, DBU) is running an international scholarship programme with the baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as well as with the region of Kaliningrad, Poland and the Czech Republic. Applicants should apply for the scholarship at the DBU's partner organisations in their respective home countries. After publishing the scholarship programme at the universities of the countries involved, once a year the best candidates will be chosen, who can begin their research activities of 6-12 months in Germany at the beginning of the following year. DBU is encouraging a wide range of disciplines in the scope of environmental sciences and is supporting on the first hand a stay in institutes with a strong orientation towards practice. About 50 candidates per year from all the associated countries can currently benefit from the DBU scholarship. The polish programme, which is being realised in cooperation with the Nowicki Foundation in Warsaw has been established already in 1997 and is the oldest one.

Information about the application process and the national partner organisations can be read in german and english at www.dbu.de/stipendien/

* * * * *

5. +++ Conferences on Organic Agriculture held in Lithuania +++

In Kaunas, Lithuania an international conference on organic agriculture has taken place on october 14th-15th of 2004. The conference with the title "The quality and its improvement of organic production" was organised by the lithuanian agricultural university, Lietuvos žemės ūkio universitetas. Many scientists from Lithuania, Poland, the Netherlands, Greece, Denmark and Germany presented and discussed results of their research activities regarding special issues of organic production. The conference reader with 37 technical contributions (26 in lithuanian, 11 in english) can be ordered at ai@nora.lzuu.lt at the agricultural university.

Another scientific conference was held in Kaunas by the veterinary academy of Lithuania, Lietuvos Veterinarijos Akademija. More information about the international conference called „Ecological stock-raising: The present and the future“ can be asked for at: Prof. Bakutis, zoohig@lva.lt

* * * * *

6. +++ Draft Criteria for the Evaluation of Organic Inputs published in a new project report +++

A new project report from the "Organic Inputs Evaluation Project" has been published. This volume contains documents which were prepared in the course of the workshop "Draft Criteria for Evaluation of Plant Protection Products, Fertilizers and Soil Conditioners Used in Organic Agriculture", held in Rome, September 23-24, 2004.

The use of plant protection products (PPP), fertilizers (F) and soil conditioners (SC) in European organic agriculture is regulated by the Council regulation EEC 2092/91 Annex II and has great implications on the crop-specific economy and the competitiveness of farmers. However the interpretation of which PPP and F & SC are allowed in various crops, and under which conditions and in which amounts they are allowed varies considerably between the EU member states and associated countries, resulting in unequal competition conditions for the organic farmers in Europe and confusion concerning the quality of certified organic products in the view of the European consumers. The objective of the project "Organic Inputs Evaluation" is to develop recommendations for harmonized and standardized procedures for the evaluation of plant protection products, as well as for fertilizers and soil conditioners authorized for use in organic agriculture according to Council Regulation 2092/91. A public conference of the Organic Inputs

Project will be held on October 13th, 2005 in Brussels. Further information about the project is available in english on the web page <http://www.organicinputs.org/projects.html>

* * * * *

7. +++ Public data base organic eprints: you are welcome to participate +++

The international data base „organic eprints“ is an archive open to the public which is serving the documentation and dissemination of scientific publications about organic agriculture. Organic eprints has been developed in 2002 by DARCOF (Danish Agricultural Research Centre for Organic Farming) and is being run since 2003 in cooperation with FiBL (Reserach Institute for Ogranic Agriculture).

Different kind of documents starting with simple reports up to dissertations can be included in the archive. The articles must be relevant to organic agriculture research and should be in a stage so that they can be used as bases for a communication process. Furthermore the required additional information has to be given with correctness. Documents can be delivered in any language, but should always have an english abstract. The user interface is available in english and german but the software is appropriate to a translation of the interface in other languages, which would be welcomed by the administrators of the data base. The entries in the archive are categorised by country, organisation and project as well as by topic. New categories can be added. The more documents are being made available to the public from the archive the more usefull it will be. For further information in german or in english please check: <http://orgprints.org/>

* * * * *

8. +++ Coordination of Research on Organic Agriculture +++

In the scope of the EU-project “CORE Organic” (Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming) which started on october the first of 2004 eleven european coutries are striving to coordinate their activities of research on organic agriculture. The project aims at the improvement of the quality and relevance of research on organic agriculture and the enhanced use of the european resources concerning research in organic argriculture. As one essential part of the project, the results of research activities from the countries involved are being published in the data base “organic eprints”. Further more an overview about relevant projects and institutes of research is being compiled.

At the end of the three year project a common research programme shall be generated. Further european countries, with existing national research programmes for organic agriculture are welcome to join the project. For further information please check: <http://www.coreorganic.org/>
contact: Dr. Erik Steen Kristensen Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming (DARCOF)
ErikSteen.Kristensen@agrsci.dk

* * * * *

9. +++ EU reg. 2092/91, consolidated version +++

A consolidated uptodate version of the EU regulation on organic agriculture – which ist he legal basis for organic production all over Europa – is still difficult to find in many of the new EU member states. A polish version can be downloaded at <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabOrgId=1155&LangId=0>

A slovak version can be downloaded from the webpage of the slovak competent authority, Ústredný kontrolný a skúšobný ústav pol'nohospodársky (UKSUP) <http://www.uksup.sk/main.php?dir=info&file=info>

* * * * *

10. +++ Proceedings of the First World Conference on Organic Seed +++

With over 70 articles and a focus on the scientific and technical aspects of organic seed production, this landmark publication provides key information about the current organic seed industry.

The report consists of 188 pages and can be orderd at IFOAM head office: headoffice@ifoam.org

* * * * *

11. +++ Study on Organic Marketing Initiatives and Rural Development +++

This report draws together the results of the European project Organic Marketing Initiatives and Rural Development (OMIaRD). It includes an analysis of Organic Marketing Initiatives (OMIs) and their market environment as well as their current and future contribution to the development of rural areas in Europe. The report also investigates the conditions under which OMIs can be an effective means of multiplying the beneficial impacts of organic farming in rural regions.

The report has been published in english by FiBL and can be ordered via internet at

<http://www.fibl.org/shop/show.php?sprache=EN&art=1363>

Further information on the project is available at the webpage of the OMIaRD project:

<http://www.irs.aber.ac.uk/omiard/>

* * * * *

12. +++ Manuals about Organic Agriculture published in Poland +++

The Federal Centre for Organic Agriculture in Rado, Poland, has published a serial of manuals about single topics and and branches of production of organic agriculture. 13 volumes about: cultivation of cereals, fodder production, fruit production, seeds, plant protection agents, vegetable production, potatoes, fertilisers and fertilisation, beef cattle, dairy cows, hogs, poultry and apiculture have been published. Furthermore there are seven booklets available with information about the most important species of vegetables for organic cultivation.

The manuals of the serial "Rolnictwo ekologiczne" are available in polish and can be ordered for free at Krajowe Centrum Rolnictwa Ekologicznego – Centrum Doradztwa Rolniczego Oddział w Radomiu, Ul. Chorzowska 16/18, 26-600 Radom, Tel. +48(48) 3656900, e-mail:

radom@cdr.gov.pl. You can also read the manuals on the webside of the centre:

www.cdr.gov.pl/radom

* * * * *

13. +++ Confernce on Food Safety to be held in Warsaw +++

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) is organising a Food Safety conference in Warsaw on april 8-9 of 2005. The conference with the title "Food safety in New Member States - Implementation of *acquis communautaire* and communications to the farmers and the consumers" aims to improve the knowledge of producers and consumers on food safety in the new EU Member States.

Governmental and non-governmental organisations working for the development of agriculture and the food sector as well as consumer and environmental organisations are invited to take part in the meeting to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of food safety standards in New Member States. An emphasis will be placed on the importance of agricultural methods for consumer health and nature protection, especially in light of the CAP reform. Organic agriculture is one of the major topics to be dealt with. The conference languages will be polish and english. For further information and application please check with:

Ms. Dorota Metera, IUCN Programme Office for Central Europe, Włoska 4m 2, 00-777

Warszawa, Poland

Tel.:+48 22 8410757, e-mail: dorota.metera@iucn.org, www.iucn-ce.org.pl

* * * * *

14. +++ Seminar on cereal research in the Baltics +++

The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) project ENVIRFOOD (Environmental friendly food production system: requirements for plant breeding and seed production) is organising a four-day seminar, to be held from May 31 to June 3 in Talsi, Latvia.

One of the objectives is to assemble cereals research expertise in order to work out a scientific program for collaboration in plant breeding, variety testing and seed production for organic and low-input agriculture in the Baltic countries. Coordinator Ina Belicka. The programme can be downloaded from the website [www.qlif.org](http://www qlif.org)

* * * * *

15. +++ Fifth European Summer academy on Organic Farming – Bioacademy +++

The Bioacademy is an annual event held in Lednice, Czech Republic, not far from the borders with Austria and Slovakia. This year it will be held from June, 29th to July 1st at the Horticultural Faculty of Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Lednice. The bioacademy has become an important meeting for people from Eastern and Western Europe, involved in organic agriculture to exchange ideas with each other and keep contact. The academy's programme will start with an introductory plenary meeting with participation of ministers, politicians, representatives of government administration, associations or research institutes. Practical part of the conference are excursions to organic farms. The Bioacademy is organised by the organic farmers associations "Pro-Bio" (CZ) and "Bio Ernte" (AT) in cooperation with the Czech ministries of Agriculture and of Environment and the Austrian ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. For more information please check: <http://www.pro-bio.cz>, Phone / Fax: +420-583 216 609, e-il: pro-bio@pro-bio.cz

* * * * *

16. +++ Organic Agriculture Marketing Conference in Krzyzowa, Poland +++

On April, 8th and 9th of 2005 the Foundation Krzyzowa and EkoConnect are organising a conference about marketing organic products. Experts and representatives of organic farming from Poland, Germany, Czech Republic and Austria will present marketing initiatives and exchange know how on organic marketing. The program is now on the internet at: www.krzyzowa.org.pl/CM/content.php/default/start .