

RELACS European workshop

Towards European roadmaps for reducing the use of contentious inputs in organic agriculture

2 December 2021 | 10:00 – 17:00 | online (Microsoft Teams)

Background information

'Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems' ([RELACS](#)) is a Horizon 2020 project aiming at promoting the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of inputs considered contentious in organic farming systems, namely: copper and mineral oil for plant protection, recycled fertilizers and conventional manure in plant production, antibiotics and anti-worm drugs (anthelmintics) in animal production, and finally synthetic vitamins in animal production.

As part of the RELACS project, national workshops were organised in 9 EU Member States (France, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Belgium) and the United Kingdom, gathering practitioners, advisors, national authorities and scientists, to discuss the pros and cons of proposed tools and techniques, explore the current acceptance level as well as identify necessary adaptations of current legislation. Based on the outcomes of the workshops, input-specific national roadmaps were prepared including recommendations and action plans to reduce the use of contentious inputs, based on the practitioners' assessment of the alternatives studied in RELACS.

The aim of the RELACS European workshop is to gather EU policymakers, Member States Representatives, manufacturers of biocontrol products, experts and scientists specialised in organic production, and farmer organisations, to:

- share and discuss the conclusions of the national roadmaps;
- discuss the actions needed at EU level to help reduce the use of contentious inputs and, more generally, to design fair, reliable and implementable EU rules on the use of inputs in organic production.

The outcomes of the European workshop will be used to draft three roadmaps at European level for reducing the use of contentious (i) plant protection products (copper, mineral oil), (ii) fertilisers (manure from conventional agriculture, recycled nutrients) and (iii) inputs used in livestock production (antibiotics, anthelmintics and vitamins).

Registration link: <https://my.organicseurope.bio/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=238>

Please register by Monday 29th November.

Please find the preliminary agenda below.

Targeted participants:

- National farmers' organisations
- Manufacturers of biocontrol products
- Researchers in organic production
- DG AGRI, Unit B.4 Organics
- DG SANTE, Unit E.4 Pesticides and biocides and Unit F.3 Plants and organics
- COP members
- EGTOP members
- RELACS Project partners
- Organic-PLUS Project partners



Agenda

Time	Subject
10:00-10:15	Time for connecting and getting familiar with the online tool
10:15-10:30	Welcome note Lucius Tamm, FiBL, RELACS Project Coordinator Bram Moeskops, IFOAM Organics Europe
10:30-11:30	Summary of workshops held in 9 EU member states & the United Kingdom: National recommendations and action plan for reducing the use of contentious inputs in organic production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key outcomes of the RELACS national roadmaps on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alternative plant protection methods for reducing copper and mineral oil – Alternatives for a responsible use of nutrients – Alternative inputs and livestock production methods for reducing anthelmintics, antibiotics and synthetic vitamins <p>Mathilde Calmels, IFOAM Organics Europe (Presentations and discussions)</p>
11:30-12:00	Overview on existing initiatives to reduce contentious inputs (Presentations)
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-15:30	Stakeholder workshop: designing fair, reliable and implementable EU rules on the use of inputs in organic production <i>Brainstorming session: What reduction pathway could alternatives to contentious inputs offer? What actions and policy recommendations are needed at EU level to reduce the use of contentious inputs in organic agriculture?</i> 3 working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakout room on plant protection products • Breakout room on nutrients • Breakout room on livestock production
15:30-15:45	Break
15:45-17:00	Wrap up & conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of policy recommendations (10min/breakout room) • Discussions • Closing remarks

