Conciliate farming interests with biodiversity conservation requirements, the perspective of farmers

Dorota Metera, IFOAM EU Siggen Seminar 2017, 10-12 March 2017



IFOAM EU Operations and organisation

160 members in all 28 EU member states, EFTA and EU candidate countries:

- Organic farming associations
- Organic food processors, retailers, traders
- Organic food and farming advisors and researchers
- Organic certifiers

Based on the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture

Health, Ecology, Fairness & Care.



IFOAM EU Strategic pillars

EU positioning and advocacy

Shape organic regulations Influence key EU policies

Information platform

Communicate and engage with the sector

Developing organics

Drive sustainable food production methods

Build organic capacity



EU policy Relevant for organic food & farming?



MORE ORGANIC

Food/Feed control Pesticide registration

Farming & biodiversity





Reaching EU Biodiversity Objectives

- Commission's mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 shows agriculture sector not making major progress
- Part of this is better implementation of the existing Nature Directives, by incentivising & supporting development of sustainable & farming systems
- Farmers largely confronted by the need to maximise their price competitiveness for the private goods they produce in an increasingly globalised food system.
- CAP should be better used to help farmers reach EU environmental and climate goals inside and outside protected areas



Lessons from the Nature Directive Review?

- Natura 2000 sites effective in protecting species and habitats, however, network limitations and competition with other land uses constrain overall effectiveness.
- On its own, the Natura 2000 network is not enough to achieve favourable status for European species and habitat.
- Organic farming efficient and cost effective way of supporting the Natura 2000 network, more favourable basis for wider biodiversity landscape outcomes as a whole
- Targeted agri-environmental measures can complement organic farming, however at national and regional level RDPs often have limited ambition or potential to achieve efficiencies.
- EU food and farming policies often lack coherence for supporting a more positive policy environment to meet Nature legislation objectives









Organic supply and demand paradox

 Dynamic market growth, but trends suggest EU organic production lags behind



Source: Willer et al, 2016





Public goods vs private goods

- Agriculture highly dependent on environmental and socio-economic public goods
- European farmers confronted by need to maximise price competitiveness
- Current market framework does not sufficiently recognise farm produced private and public goods

Mainstream approach for public goods in agricultural production missing



Analysis of current CAP

- Disproportionate emphasis on international price competitiveness
- Public goods payments based on single practices rather than on a targeted system approach
- Payments calculated in terms of income forgone and costs incurred, not the value of public goods
- Greater preference from Member States to opt for 100% EU financing



IFOAM EU Objectives for CAP post-2020

- CAP incentivises & rewards the positive externalities of agriculture
- Create a more supportive policy environment for organic farming development
- Increase the influence and relevance of organic as a key solution
- Build bridges with other like-minded organizations to reach the IFOAM EU 2030 Vision



Long-term Vision for CAP spending

Current CAP Spending



New payment model based on public money for public goods



Key milestones for new payment approach

- 2021: Immediate transfer of 50% of the existing Pillar 1 budget & 10% of the Pillar 2 budget to a new single public goods budget
- **2021-2034:** Mandatory budgetary milestones to transfer the remaining CAP budget
- 2034: One pillar payment system with 80% of agricultural budget dedicated to public goods delivery and 20% for supporting measures.



Collection of wild plants in the region of Białowieża National Park

Sioło Budy – education and tourism

Rural development...







Collection of wild plants in the region of Narew National Park

Wild species





Rural development...





Thank you for your attention



