

Café meeting: Promoting and communicating organic research internationally

Session, Wednesday 18th November 2009, 16:15-17:30 (during Plenary Session 2 in Danish)

At this informal café meeting, the staff of the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems, ICROFS, will present the many national and European organic research projects coordinated by the Centre. It will take place at the ICROFS booth in the exhibition area, and the café meeting will take the form of an open conversation and discussion rather than a formal presentation by ICROFS in order to meet the specific interests of the participants.

Therefore, prior to the congress, the participants of the café meeting have had the opportunity of giving their input to ICROFS their own selected questions and specific interests in the area of organic agriculture and food systems.

ICROFS – a centre without walls

The International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS) is a “centre without walls” where the research is performed in interdisciplinary collaboration between research groups in different institutions. The centre is an expansion of the former research centre DARCOF, which the Danish Government in 2008 decided to give an international mandate and an international board.

The main purpose of ICROFS is to coordinate and monitor international research in organic food and farming systems in order to achieve optimum benefit from the allocated resources. Further, the aim of ICROFS is to initiate research and create impact of the research results through support and dissemination of high quality research of international standard.

Find more information at www.icrofs.org

DARCOF III - international research cooperation and organic integrity

ICROFS presently coordinates the third consecutive Danish research programme in organic food and farming systems. The objective of this research programme - DARCOF III - is to contribute to a sustainable development of organic food systems and to the enhancement of the sector integrity in relation to the organic principles.

The research focuses on food quality and safety, environment and nature, animal health and welfare in organic food systems. Moreover, the DARCOF III programme includes a global perspective on the organic food systems and strengthening of international cooperation.

CORE Organic - transnational research partnership on organic food and farming

CORE Organic is a European partnership supporting transnational research in organic food and farming. A first CORE Organic ERA-NET (2004-2007) was initiated as a part of the European Commission's ERA-NET Scheme in order to step up cooperation between national research activities. After 2007, the partners continued activities and expanded the network to 27 partners in 22 countries.

A second ERA-NET, CORE Organic II, with the main aims to carry out a second phase of

transnational calls and secure a long-term collaboration, is under negotiation and should start at the beginning of 2010.

The overall objective of CORE Organic activities is to enhance the quality, relevance and utilisation of resources in European research in organic food and farming by gathering a critical mass and establishing a joint research programme.

Eight CORE pilot projects (2007-2010)

During the first CORE Organic ERA-NET, the partners launched a pilot call for joint transnational research projects in organic food and farming and selected the following eight research projects:

- Quality in organic wheat (AGTEC-Org)
- Better animal health and welfare (ANIPLAN)
- How to prevent diseases and parasites in organic pig herds (COREPIG)
- How to communicate ethical values (FCP)
- Organic food for young people (iPOPY)
- Risks of Pathogen Contamination in Organic Vegetables (PathORGANIC)
- What makes organic milk healthy? (PHYTOMILK)
- Safety, health and sensory qualities of organic products (QACCP)

Read more about the eight projects at www.coreorganic.org

Organic Eprints – an open archive for organic research

Organic Eprints is an open, on-line archive for research in organic agriculture with more than 8,000 publications – and growing rapidly. All use of the archive is free of charge.

There are 10,000 registered users of Organic Eprints, and the archive has more than 100,000 visitors each month. The archive contains scientific and popular articles, reports, presentations, project descriptions, books and other research publications.

Organic Eprints was established in 2002 as a community service by DARCOF, now ICROFS, the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems.

Today, in 2009, there are three partners who are responsible for running the archive, ICROFS from Denmark, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) from Switzerland and Bundesprogramm Ökologischer Landbau (BÖL) from Germany.

Certcost – economic analysis of certification systems for organic food and farming

CERTCOST is a European research project on certification of organic food. The project is supported by the European Commission and runs from 2008-2011, and ICROFS is deeply involved in many of the project's research elements and is also responsible for the dissemination of the research results as well as integrating relevant stakeholders.

Purpose of CERTCOST

The main project objective is to generate research based knowledge on how to improve the organic food certification system in terms of efficiency, transparency and cost effectiveness. The reason for this is the need for a strengthened competitiveness of the European organic food sector by means of reducing incidence of non-compliance and thereby increases consumers' trust.

Read more about the Certcost project at www.certcost.org