Editorial

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Dear Readers,

With great pleasure we release the IAHA Newsletter No. 6. We aimed to summarize the number of interesting ongoing research projects on organic livestock, financed by the European Union (under the Core Organic Plus programme) in this newsletter issue. I believe that these projects will increase and develop the need of the organic sector producers and demand of the organic consumers for the new decade. The other subjects are: A summary of the 2018 Organic sector market report from New Zealand, an article on Capacity building on Organic Animal husbandry in India and an information on the 6th Symposium on Organic Agriculture linked to the 10th Ecology Izmir Fair in Turkey.

The IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) organized a well-attended two-day event named the 'Pre-Conference on the ROLE OF LIVESTOCK IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE' (plus practical workshop) at the 19th Organic World Congress in New Delhi, India in 2017. The pre-conference was held at the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF), Ghaziabad, India on 6-8 November 2017. Over 80 participants from 14 countries attended; in addition over 35 students had the opportunity to experience an international event. The conference was jointly organised by: ICAR-IVRI, FiBL, ANTHRA, NCOF, OFAI, IFOAM Organics International and IAHA. The following event will be organised by IAHA too: A 2-day Pre-Conference (21-22 of September 2020) prior to the 20th Organic World Congress (23-27 September 2020) in Rennes France. The Pre-Conference will be complementary to the livestock sessions at the main conference.

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We are happy to announce the pre-conference to all of you who are interested to meet in France.

Integrated ecological approaches mean the interactions between plants and/or animals and other organisms, as well as the interactions within the soil, and ecosystem services such as pollination, biological pest control, maintenance of soil structure and fertility, nutrient cycling. Ecological farming systems have developed in Europe and across the world, and they have their own research and innovation needs. Almost a quarter of the World’s organic agricultural land is situated in the European Union (EU). According to Eurostat data, in 2011 the EU-27 had a total area of 9.6 million hectares cultivated as organic, representing 5.4% of EU agricultural land. So, Europe became a major player in the organic sector in the last decade. The organic farming share in European agriculture rose substantially, and at the same time, European citizens started to increase their demand for organic products.

Growing population, rising income and global shifts towards consumption patterns which are richer in animal proteins will further increase pressures on agricultural resources. Research and innovation will tackle the various dimensions of resource use, looking at approaches at the level of animals, of agro-ecosystems and throughout value chains. In the livestock sector, the relationship between animal feed and feeding and health needs to be further investigated. In addition, the possibilities for improving animal welfare, e.g. through more appropriate management (including human animal relationship in farming), need to be further explored.

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU research and innovation programme. So far the 315 projects have been completed under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) with the 1,9 billion Euro EU contribution. The 23 projects or expected grants have been supported on Animal production under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) Societal challenge 2 (SC2) with the 142 million EU contribution and 262 participations in selected projects. Key themes are resource use – feeding - sustainability – efficiency - animal welfare - economic performance. The 24 projects or expected grants have been supported on animals and health under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) with the 197 M€ EU contribution and 325 participations in selected projects. Key themes are host-pathogen interaction; vaccinology; one Health; anti-microbial resistance; international cooperation. The 41 projects or expected grants have been supported on ecological approaches and organic farming under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020) Societal Challenge 2 (SC2) with the 236 M€ EU contribution and 746 participations in selected projects. Key themes are agroecology – organic farming – biodiversity –

The next EU research & innovation investment programme is named HORIZON EUROPE (2021 – 2027). European Parliament and Council reached a common understanding on Horizon Europe on 19 March 2019. The commission has started preparations (budget, synergies and third country association) for the implementation of Horizon Europe. The Commission proposes a budget of Euro 100 billion for Horizon Europe. It is explained that the new programme vision is the sustainable, fair and prosperous future for people and planet based on European values. Next steps towards the first Horizon Europe work programme is: Early involvement and exchanges with Member States, consultation with stakeholders and the public at large Establishment of Mission Boards (Summer 2019). Co-creation at Research & Innovation Days 24 – 26 September 2019. Extensive exchanges with the new European Parliament. Establishment of new Commission - envisaged endorsement of Strategic Plan (autumn & winter 2019/2020). Drafting of first Horizon Europe Work Programme on the basis of the Strategic Plan (2020), Start of Horizon Europe (2021).

From my side, Open Science across is the key novelty of the Horizon Europe. Better dissemination and exploitation of Research & Innovation results and supports to active engagement of society. The other novelty is the new approach to European Partnerships. New generation of objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships will be created in support of agreed EU policy objectives. Also, Horizon Europe will have synergies with other European Union programmes.

We all agree that Horizon Europe will offer solution for organic livestock, which needs to be further investigated and developed. The 2-day Pre-Conference (21-22 of September 2020) in Rennes France will be great chance to discuss and improve the Research & Innovation.
1. Organic Livestock in New Zealand - a summary of the 2018 Organic sector market report

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In recognition of the global growth of the demand for organics, Organics Aotearoa New Zealand (OANZ) commissioned a survey of the New Zealand domestic market for organic produce, consumer behaviours and perceptions. On behalf of OANZ, A C Nielsen surveyed 1000 New Zealanders over the age of 15, between the 4th and 10th of May 2018. The survey indicated that 79% of shoppers in New Zealand purchase organic products, fresh foodstuffs being the most purchased items and 51% of shoppers buy organic produce at least every two weeks. Despite the interest, organic sales still only account for 2.2% of total grocery sales.

The overall domestic market for organics is valued at $246 million per annum, an increase of 28% since 2015. Organic sales in total are estimated to generate $600 million per annum to New Zealand. The organic export market has expanded an average of 42% since 2015, with all categories increasing their market shares. Meat, wool and dairy exports are valued at $99.5 million having grown 45% since 2015, but organic pastoral based exports still only comprise 0.5% of the total dairy, meat and wool exports from New Zealand. In acknowledgement of the growing demand for organics, OANZ questioned representative bodies as to their members’ knowledge of organics, their current production methods and, if not already organic, whether they would consider transitioning. Response rates were low but 50% of those that did respond indicated an interest in gaining full certification or transitioning to organics. The major reason driving change for both beef, lamb and dairy producers was a closer alignment to family or business values, followed by environmental considerations, the major barrier was the bureaucracy involved. Sheep and beef farmers also indicated that a lack of suitable strategies for animal welfare, parasites and weed control made them hesitant to embrace organic production. Running alongside with the increase in organic production and demand for organic produce the country has seen an increase in certified processors and transport operators servicing the industry. The area under certified livestock production in Aotearoa New Zealand has increased by 25% (2015-2017) to 64,278ha. This is a small proportion of total land area, with only 0.51% of farmed land certified for organics. As worldwide organic demand continues to increase it is hoped that land conversions in New Zealand will also increase.
Organic Dairy production

The organic dairy herd of approximately 42,000 cows produces 170 million litres of milk per annum. Jackie and Bryan Clearwater farming organically in the South Island exemplify the commitment of organic dairy farmers to their cattle, their pastures and the farm environment. During a recent presentation, Bryan attributed his success to ‘regarding his cows as his business partners’. In 2017 there were 101 certified organic dairy farms, 17 more than in 2015. There are now 50 organic dairy farms meeting US organic certification standards.

Globally organic dairy production is expected to be worth US$25 billion by 2022. New Zealand is in a particularly strong position in the organic dairy formula market, “nearly 60% of Chinese mothers believe that products from New Zealand and Australia are better than those from other sources”.

Organic sheep and Beef production

The world market for processed organic beef is currently forecast to double by 2027, achieving a value of US$12 billion. The global sheep market is smaller. In 2017 ANZCO, Silver Fern and Alliance, the biggest New Zealand meat processors, handled 65,000 organic lambs and 4,000 organic beef units. Currently there are 139 certified livestock farms (primarily sheep and beef) and this number has not increased since 2015. The export market has however changed in recent years, early markets were solely for prime lamb cuts, today the market is much broader and the demand for supply is consistent. Organic Futures Aotearoa supports 50 certified sheep and beef farmers, mainly in the South Island of New Zealand. The farms produce primarily Angus and Hereford beef grazed on mixed pastures and provide carcasses for export year-round. The largest family owned working organic sheep and beef farm is Hukarere Station, approximately 8000ha of hill country in the South Island. The farm runs 11,000 sheep and 2000 cattle and is managed with the aim of producing healthy food in an environmentally sustainable manner. As an estimated one third of organic meat in New Zealand ends up in conventional markets there is room for the expansion of export markets in beef and lamb.

New Zealand still does not have a national organic standard nor legislation associated with organic standards. Therefore, the most important next step for a robust organic future in Aotearoa New Zealand is the drafting of an Organic Act and National standards that are clear, transparent and internationally recognised.

Please access the full 2018 Market Report by using the link on the OANZ website www.oanz.org
2. Capacity building in Organic Animal husbandry in India

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Organic livestock production is of recent interest in many developing countries including India, since export demand for organic livestock products from developing countries is almost negligible at the moment. Nevertheless, capacity building programmes on organic livestock production are being undertaken in India.

At the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar (www.ivri.nic.in), training programmes on organic Animal Husbandry were organized for 15 veterinary officers of Sikkim (the first state in India declared fully organic) and for 12 auditors of Rajasthan State Seed and Organic Production Certification Agency (ROCA) (Figure 1). Another programme on organic animal husbandry ran from October 24-31, 2018 for the trainers of different departments dealing with livestock. The demand for such training on organic animal husbandry is likely to grow in future, so research efforts on organic livestock production need to be intensified to develop alternatives/substitutes to antibiotics, anthelmintics and other allopathic drugs and synthetic feeds additives, amino acids etc.

Figure 1. The attendances of training programme on organic Animal Husbandry in Izatnagar
3. The 6th SYMPOSIUM ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE linked to the 10th Ecology Izmir Fair (Gaziemir / Izmir/ Turkey)

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In Turkey, the Symposium on Organic Agriculture was organized at intervals since 1999 under the coordination of Association of Organic Agriculture Organizations (Ekolojik Tarım Organizasyonu (ETO). The 6th Symposium was held in Izmir on May 15-17, 2019 during the 10th Ecology iZMİR Fair for international participants with the chair of ETO Prof. Dr. Uygun AKSOY. The Symposium was organized by the ETO in collaboration with the Aegean Exporters Associations (eib) and İzmir fair Services Culture and Art Affairs Trade (İzfaş). The symposium aimed to support scientific and innovative research work, to promote initiatives and cooperation, to discuss the delivered research results with stakeholders, to wide-spread best practices, and to share the problems faced in the organic sector with decision makers and researchers. The symposium was attended by 200 people, approximately 30 of whom were from international. The 40 oral papers and 23 posters were presented during the 3-day symposium (Figure 1).

In the first two days, there were 29 oral presentations based on organic plant and animal production, one of them was in English and about the organic livestock. The presentation in English presented by Mette Vaarst (Denmark) was titled “Minimizing Antibiotic Use in Organic Farming” (Figure 2). The 11 papers presented on the 3rd day were completely attended by the international participants. The titles of the papers presented in this session are given below:
Development of Organic Agriculture in the World and Organic 3.0 and IFOAM and its Role in Regional Development of Organic Agriculture presented by Konrad HAUPTFLEISH (IFOAM); Rearing Calves with Cows in Organic Dairy Herds – A Relevant Option and What Does it Require? Presented by Mette VAARST (Denmark); FAO Activities on Organic Agriculture in Eastern Europe and Central Asia presented by Viliami FAKAVA (FAO, Hungary); Development of Organic Agriculture in Ukraine presented by Olena BEREZOVSKA (President of "Organic Ukraine" Ukraine); Organic Agriculture: Tunisian case presented by Iyed KACEM, (CCPB Tunisia); Organic Agriculture in Tajikistan presented by Bahromiddin HUSEYNOV (FAO TAJ Consultant); Organic Agriculture in Lebanon: An Overview presented by Suzy ROUPHAEL (Lebanon); European Union Organic Market presented by Michel REYNAUD (Ecocert) and Organic Market in the Middle East: Case of Lebanon presented by Adham HADDAD (Bioland, Lebanon). The organic producers and food communities' panels were organised during the 6th symposium by ETO (Figure 3).
4. Ongoing Projects on Organic Livestock Research, supported by HORIZON 2020 programme of the European Union

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We summarise here a number of interesting research projects on organic livestock, financed by the European Union and European countries (mostly under the Core Organic Plus programme). The project coordinators of these projects want to work together with IAHA, the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance, in organising a special Pre-Conference on organic livestock at the Organic World Congress in Rennes in September 2019 (see separate article in this newsletter). The summaries of the projects are based on the Core Organic project database and/or FiBL project database.

GrazyDaiSy - Dairy cattle meet their natural needs through grazing, dam-rearing and health support

Organic animal rearing focuses on allowing animals to meet natural requirements and considers a systems approach. There are still many knowledge gaps and areas – like separating cows and calves just after birth – where common practice does not match the organic principles fully. The project covers most European climate zones, from the coldest North to the hottest South. GrazyDaiSy investigates how to manage mixed age groups of cows, including rearing calves with their dams, whilst maintaining a high level of health and a constant effort to minimize medication. Furthermore, we focus on implementing resilient grazing strategies to improve animal performance and decrease impacts on the ecosystem on and around the farm. However, we also address the special challenges of keeping older and younger animals together on grass.

The project aims to encourage grazing and improve grazing management, rearing cows and calves together, and minimizing medicine use.

Main project activities

1. Identifying and improving relevant organic grazing strategies under different European conditions.
2. Researching on farm level, together with farmers, advisors and stakeholders.
3. Developing resilient animals and sustainable management systems to decrease medicine usage.
4. Aiming at considering animal rearing in a farming systems context and taking a holistic systems approach.
5. Exchanging knowledge and learning between European regions and countries.
6. Investigating the motivations and perceptions of farmers and their advisors.
7. Developing ways where cows and calves can bond, spend weeks of the milk-feeding period together, and de-bond gently afterwards.

Duration: 2018-2022
Project Coordination: Mette Vaarst, Aarhus University, Denmark
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Website: http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/research-projects/grazydaisy/

ProYoungStock - Promoting young stock and cow health and welfare by natural feeding systems
This project ProYoungStock aims to identify approaches to improve young stock rearing systems concerning animal-friendly husbandry, feeding and disease prevention at different levels. Surveys on dairy calf rearing systems with cow-calf contact practised in several European countries will provide information on distribution, diversity and success of such systems. Economic modelling will show their effects on gross margins. On-farm trials will evaluate their impact on animal welfare including health, production, economic efficiency and workload parameters compared to common systems. Veal fattening with foster cows will be compared to common automatic feeders on farm. Effects of feeding increased milk levels on welfare, behaviour, and performance of replacement calves will be analysed in comparison to common feeding. It will be investigated whether the content of immunoglobulins in colostrum and milk can be stimulated via cow-calf contact or via feed supplements. Long-term effects of young stock rearing methods on health and performance later in life will be studied by comparing different feeding (silage vs. non-silage) and grazing strategies (extensive vs. intensive). The impact of plant bioactive compounds on protein use efficiency, animals’ immune response, and product quality will be assessed. The project will contribute to the implementation of animal-friendly and efficient dairy calf rearing and fattening systems in which use of antibiotics and anthelmintic is minimised, and therewith help to solve welfare problems in current calf rearing.

Duration: 01.04.2018 – 31.03.2021
Coordination: Anet Spengler and Anna Bieber, FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland, e-mail: anet.spengler@fibl.org; anna.bieber@fibl.org
Websites: http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/
https://www.proyoungstock.net/
MIX-ENABLE - MIXEd livestock farming for improved sustainAblity and robustnEss of organic livestock

Integrating two or more animal species with crop production or agroforestry on a farm potentially provides many benefits including more efficient pasture use and parasite management. However, organic mixed livestock farms (OMLF) tend to specialize or display limited integration between farm components. This limited integration may reduce the practical benefits of OMLF.

Therefore, this project aims to:

1. characterize OMLF in Europe, especially their level of integration between farm components,
2. assess their sustainability and robustness to adverse events,
3. compare their performances with those of specialized farms,
4. integrate the knowledge developed on OMLF into models that can simulate their performances against climatic and economic variability,
5. conduct farm-level experiments to generate knowledge about OMLF (to feed into the models),
6. Co-design more sustainable and robust OMLF with farmers.

We will survey OMLF to collect technical and socio-economic data. Then we will enlarge existing concepts and methods to assess the level of integration between farm components and apply these methods to surveyed OMLF. We will also develop an indicator system for integrated assessment of OMLF and apply it to connect the sustainability and robustness of surveyed OMLF with their level of integration among farm components. In parallel, we will conduct farm-level experimentation of organic specialized and mixed livestock situations for the comparison of specific aspects of animal husbandry (e.g. pasture use, animal health). We will extend farm simulation models to OMLF and analyse the benefits and drawbacks of livestock diversity. Using these models, we will develop and implement participatory methods to co-design with farmers sustainable and robust OMLF. To inform practice and policy making, we will communicate our results to shed light on the potentialities of OMLF and the way to manage it sustainably or the way to reach it starting from a specialized farm.

Duration: 01.04.2018 – 30.03.2019
Coordination: Guillaume Martin, INRA, France
E-Mail: guillaume.martin@inra.fr
Project Website: http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/research-projects/mix-enable/
POWER (Proven Welfare and Resilience in organic pig production)

POWER addresses some of the main challenges to European pig farming, with a focus on the young animal (suckling piglets, weaners and growing-finishing pigs). It has one overall aim: to support the development of a variety of resilient and competitive organic pig production systems across Europe, with low ecological footprints and high animal welfare.

The specific objectives are:

1. To investigate the effects of different designs of concrete outdoor runs on growing-finishing pig behaviour, health and pen hygiene. This will improve animal welfare and reduce nutrient losses;
2. To investigate the effects of the farrowing pen design, as well as improved genetics on maternal behaviour and piglet mortality;
3. To investigate the effects of different management strategies (e.g. iron or probiotic supply, prolonged lactation) on piglet growth and health during lactation and after weaning;
4. To identify and field-test best practice examples of different combinations of housing and pasture systems, considering productivity, feed efficiency, animal health and manure/pasture management;
5. To evaluate the overall effect of the identified innovative solutions of points 1 to 4 on cost effectiveness, system resilience and ecological footprints of a variety of systems practiced across Europe;
6. To provide guidelines for organic pig producers across Europe on the development of ecological and economically competitive pig systems with high standards for animal welfare.

A key to these objectives is the improvement of resilience at the animal and production system level:

- at animal level: the ability to withstand and overcome e.g. diseases, social and nutritional challenges;
- at the production system level: the ability to successfully negotiate changes in feed costs, revenues or legislation.

The project builds on earlier work, which suggests that husbandry conditions have an effect on disease resistance in pigs, possibly through stress reduction. This leads to our overarching working hypothesis that it is possible to increase overall resilience of organic pig systems across Europe through targeted welfare, environmental and economic research, in combination with stakeholder-driven identification of best practices.

Duration: 01.05.2018 - 30.04.2021
Coordination: Anne Grete Kongsted, Aarhus University, DK
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Project website: http://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund/research-projects/power/
Other on-going EU Projects with relevance for organic livestock

RELACS - Replacement of Contentious Inputs in organic farming Systems
The overall objective of RELACS is to foster development and facilitate adoption of cost-efficient and environmentally safe tools and technologies to phase out the dependency on and use of contentious inputs in organic farming systems. RELACS will reduce the use of copper and mineral oil, manure from conventional farms, provide alternatives to excessive use of anthelmintic in small ruminants, and reduce antibiotic use in dairy cattle and moderate reliance on synthetic vitamins in cattle and poultry production. To pursue this aim:

1. RELACS will provide a comprehensive overview of the current use of and critical evaluation of the need for external inputs in organic plant and animal production.
2. To bring far developed (TRL≥6) alternatives to copper, mineral oils and anthelmintics to the market,
3. To extend the use of farmer-driven techniques to reduce antibiotics to a wider range of EU regions and
4. To develop and explore innovative approaches to reduce synthetic vitamin use and propose acceptable vitamin and plant nutrition sources, based on thorough systems analysis and R&D.

Duration: 01.05.2018 – 30.04.2022
Coordination: Lucius Tamm, FiBL – Research Institute of Organic Agriculture Switzerland
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Website: https://relacs-project.eu/

Organic-PLUS project: Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in Europe

‘Organic-PLUS’ means minimising, and eventually phasing out contentious inputs from certified organic agriculture. By doing so organic food systems can be truer to the IFOAM organic principle of ‘ecology’. This principle is now shared by the EU Bio-economy agenda, focusing on renewable biological resources from land and sea. Furthermore, this research is also applicable to non-organic farming systems seeking to adopt more agro ecological solutions. This combined focus on organic principles and Bio-economy may not only lead to more resilience and quality assurance within organic production, but also reduced environmental impact and fairer, more reliable
rules and regulations that organic consumers (current and new) can trust to “buy-into” the growth of the sector.

The overall aim of the ‘Organic-PLUS project’ (O+) is to provide high-quality, trans-disciplinary, scientifically informed decision support to help all actors in the organic sector, including national and regional policy makers, to reach the next level of the organic success story in Europe. The research on livestock covers contentious inputs used in the major animal production systems, considering the use of natural plant sources of vitamins as an alternative to synthetic products, the use of anti-infective and immune-stimulatory molecules from plant products as an alternative to synthetic antibiotics and the use of alternative and novel bedding materials in place of straw from conventional farms.

The O+ project is also committed to research broader public concerns about contentious inputs and to further develop science-society dialogue around contentious inputs. The O+ project will present first results from efforts to map the use of contentious inputs across Europe. The project will invite discussion on further contentious inputs and possible phase-out scenarios to strengthen the contribution organic agriculture and horticulture (including conventional) can make to a true ‘Bio-economy’.

Duration: 01.05.2018 – 31.04.2022
Coordinator: Ulrich Schmutz, Coventry University’s Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience
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OK-Net EcoFeed - Organic Knowledge Network on Monogastric Animal Feed

The overall aim of OK-Net EcoFeed is to help farmers, breeders and the organic feed processing industry achieve the goal of 100 % use of organic and regional feed for monogastrics, in particular pigs, broilers, laying hens and parents of broilers and laying hens.

In the last two decades, the market for organic food has shown steady vigorous growth in most parts of Europe, and this growth is still accelerating. A key objective of organic farming is the closing of nutrient cycles; however, this is difficult to achieve. To a large extent, feed and livestock production, in particular of pigs and poultry, are concentrated in different regions, and animal feed (especially proteins) has to be imported from far-away regions. In addition, it is difficult for organic farmers to source protein feed of organic quality. The lack of organic and regional
feed threatens both the sustainability of organic agriculture as well as consumers’ confidence. In order to contribute to the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed for monogastrics, OK-Net EcoFeed has 4 specific objectives:

1. The project will synthesize the scientific and practical knowledge available about organic and regional feed production for monogastrics;
2. It will create a European network of innovation groups to facilitate exchange and co-creation of knowledge among farmers, business actors, researchers and advisors;
3. It will collect end-user material and develop new tools adapted to the needs of farmers and business actors. All material and tools will be summarised in the EIP common format for practice abstracts.
4. Finally, the project will extend the OK-Net knowledge platform (farmknowledge.org) to include the topic of monogastric animal feed.

The project will build on the experiences of OK-Net Arable, which is a thematic network addressing organic arable cropping. OK-Net EcoFeed is a logic continuation of OK-Net Arable, making the bridge between feed cultivation over feed processing to animal production.

Coordinator: Bram Moeskops, Research and Innovation Manager IFOAM EU
Email: bram.moeskops@ifoam-eu.org, Project Website: https://ok-net-ecofeed.eu/

ROADMAP - Rethinking of Antimicrobial Decision-Systems in the Management of Animal Production

ROADMAP will foster transitions towards prudent antimicrobial use (AMU) in animal production in a large variety of contexts, by favouring a rethinkings of antimicrobial decision systems all along the food supply chain. Even if it is possible to learn from successful experiences, there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to reduce AMU. Various strategies with be necessary to take into account local conditions defined by social, economic, technical and institutional variables. ROADMAP will develop innovative conceptual approaches within a transdisciplinary and multi-actor perspective to engage with animal health professionals, stakeholders and policy makers. It will adapt, combine and produce tailored strategies to reduce AMU in diverse production systems in Europe and low- and middle-income countries (pig, poultry, cattle and fish sectors).

Duration: 01.06.2019 – 20.05.2022, Project Website: under construction,
Coordinator: INRA, France
5. IAHA’s activities

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The IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) is an informal network of individuals and organizations interested in inspiring, supporting and strengthening the development of organic animal husbandry around the world. IAHA, with more than 100 members, is seen as the animal husbandry ‘think tank’ of the IFOAM - Organics International Action Group. The main activity of IAHA is organising a livestock focussed Pre-Conference linked to the Organic World Congresses. We held a one-day event prior to the 18th Organic World Congress in Istanbul in 2014 and a well-attended two-day event (plus practical workshop) at the 19th OWC-Congress in New Delhi, India (2017).

In addition, IAHA organises a workshop at the main OWC at which the outcomes from the Pre-Conference are presented and discussed. A declaration on Organic Animal Husbandry, developed by IAHA, was acknowledged by the General Assembly of IFOAM in November 2017. IAHA has started organising a 2-day Pre-Conference (21-22 of September 2020) for the Organic World Congress (23-27 September 2020) in Rennes France. The Pre-Conference will be complementary to the livestock sessions at the main Congress. Several coordinators from EU projects on organic animal husbandry have already committed to contribute. IAHA would welcome active participation from farmers, advisors and researchers as well as policy makers from outside Europe at this Pre-Conference. We believe that a global participation forges bonds and extends the knowledge of organic animal husbandry.

More details, including the Call for Abstracts, can be found on the IAHA website. In order to keep our membership and interested persons better informed about conferences and research around the world on organic livestock IAHA has decided to re-activate the newsletter. I want to thank Muazzez Cömert ACAR from Turkey for editing this newsletter as well as Marion Johnson (New Zealand / England) and Mahesh Chander (India) for their valuable contributions.

IAHA would welcome interesting contributions for the next newsletter which will be published in March 2020.
6. Events

The 9th annual Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) Multi-stakeholder Partnership (MSP) Meeting

The 9th annual Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) meeting will be held on 9-13 September 2019 at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Presentations, panels, posters, field tours, and discussion throughout the week will focus on the theme of Innovation for Sustainable Livestock Systems, highlighting examples from throughout the world of innovative solutions to address sustainable livestock production and agrifood systems. MSP meeting attendees will have the opportunity to network, learn, share research and experience, and help foster dialogue to address livestock sustainability at the regional and global level. Anyone engaged in sustainable livestock systems, from producers to researchers and inter-governmental to non-governmental organizations, is encouraged and welcome to attend. This meeting truly is a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership. Check the link for the program and more information. https://conferences.k-state.edu/gasl2019/program/

Pre-Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry systems on 21-22 September 2020 linked to the 20th Organic World Congress of IFOAM in Rennes (France)

The IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) invites you to participate in the Pre-Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry on 21-22 September 2020, as well as the main IFOAM Organic World Congress on 23-25 September 2020 in Rennes, France.

The co-organizers of this Pre-Conference are the French Organizers of OWC2020 (mainly ITAB and INRA), the Swiss Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Good Earth Great Food (NZ) and the coordinators of several European Core Organic Projects (GrazyDaisy, ProYoungStock, MIX-ENABLE, POWER) and Horizon 2020 research projects (Organic-PLUS, RELACS) as well as IFOAM Organics International.

The IAHA Organic Animal Husbandry Pre-Conference will highlight the role of “Organic Animal Husbandry systems – their challenges, performance and potentials”. The organizers wish to offer farmers, advisors, researchers and other interested persons the opportunity to exchange information, experiences and results (or preliminary results) of recent and on-going research and development with a focus on organic livestock systems and their vital role in sustainable production systems. The programme will include keynote speakers and plenary sessions, technical and scientific sessions, workshops and a poster session. If there is
sufficient interest, field trips to French farms (1-3 days) prior to the Pre-Conference will take place, organised separately by IAHA.

If you are interested in presenting a paper or a poster at the Pre-Conference please send an abstract (max. 300 words) **before 31st of October 2019** (this deadline is one month later than for OWC contributions) **to Otto Schmid (otto.schmid@fibr.org)** with a copy to Marion Johnson (marion.j@organicresearchcentre.com). Once the abstract is accepted, authors will then be asked to submit their full paper for review.

If the paper is accepted, they will get final confirmation of their presentation.

The organizers are particularly interested in contributions on the following themes:
1. Animal-friendly sustainable feeding and grazing-systems;
2. Sustainable livestock rearing and breeding systems;
3. Animal welfare approaches and strategies and their associated environmental impact;
4. Animal health management and the use of bioactive medicinal plants and other alternative therapeutics;
5. Livestock production in diversified systems for better efficiency and sustainability, taking into account the optimization of plant production systems and global agricultural production;
6. Justification of livestock production – combating the rising agenda of the anti-meat and milk (vegan) lobby;
7. Organic livestock product quality, marketing concepts, certification systems and consumer awareness;
8. Supporting organic livestock farmers through research, training, education, smart technologies, regulations and policies;

Submitting an abstract or application can be independent of participation at the OWC main Congress, but IAHA strongly recommends an active participation in the OWC 2020 congress. The Programme Committee for this Pre-Conference will coordinate the IAHA programme with the sessions in the IFOAM Organic World Congress. Thus, it is possible to present full scientific papers in the OWC2020 (coordinated by ISOFAR) and present papers or posters at the IAHA Pre-Conference. Pre-conference papers might show intermediate results and highlight points for discussion that are interesting from a world-wide perspective.

At the Pre-Conference there is time for more in-depth discussion and debate that is not possible during the main conference. Recommendations emerging from the different thematic IAHA sessions will be presented at the livestock sessions of the main Organic World Congress. More information is available in the Pre-Conference Call for Abstracts brochure, which can be downloaded from the IAHA website: [http://www.ifoam.bio/en/sector-platforms/iaha-animal-husbandry-alliance](http://www.ifoam.bio/en/sector-platforms/iaha-animal-husbandry-alliance).
Please register for the Pre-Conference when registering for the Organic World Congress 2020. Registration details will be available on the website of the OWC2020 organisers https://owc.ifoam.bio/

A fee for lunches and room reservation for the Pre-Conference will be charged by the French organisers (not determined yet). It is not possible to attend the Pre-Conference without registering for OWC (at least 1 day). If this is a problem, please contact Otto Schmid.