

### ***High Time to Align Agricultural Practices to Face Future Challenges***

*Business as usual is not an option – agriculture must use fewer inputs and consider climate and biodiversity say experts on 2<sup>nd</sup> European Organic Congress*

**Brussels, 1/12/2009** – Unsustainable agricultural practices degrade ecosystems which are crucial for human survival. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Organic Congress (1) of the IFOAM EU Group (2) experts and policy makers outline the necessary changes required throughout the food chain and present policies that must be implemented to allow us to face the challenges climate change, biodiversity loss and food security.

“In order to align food production to face future challenges, truly sustainable food systems are urgently needed. If we are to see real progress in Europe, the future CAP must mainstream strategies to face the future challenges within a sustainable, socially just and ethical food and farming system. Organic farming offers a comprehensive model. The IFOAM EU Group stresses the need for a reform in our *Key demands for a sustainable CAP 2014-2020* that are launched today (3)”, states **Christopher Stopes**, President of the IFOAM EU Group, in his opening speech.

“Farming must play its part in climate change mitigation and adaption. But we should not forget about other aspects of sustainability if combating climate change. Organic farming is a solution multiplier. It emits less carbon as is uses fewer inputs and sequesters higher carbon in soils, while delivering better results in biodiversity conservation, animal welfare and soil conservation. Therefore organic practices have to be considered by decision makers in their climate mitigation strategies”, declares **Thomas Dosch**, Deputy President of the IFOAM EU Group, who will represent the IFOAM EU Group at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen.

**Urs Niggli**, Director of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) (4), underlined the importance of research: “It is worthwhile to consider the organic concepts of eco-functional intensification and rural empowerment in order to improve global food security. Despite the fact that organic research can count by now only on 1% of the amount of the research budget that is spent for conventional farming, organic farming performs already well in yields and sustainability. Further investments in research and training in organic practices are crucial to mainstream sustainable organic systems”.

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## Press Release

International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements – EU Regional Group

### NOTES:

(1) Second European Organic congress, 2 December 2009, Brussels; more information: [www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org](http://www.organic-congress-ifoameu.org). The congress is co-financed by the European Community, DG Environment. The sole responsibility for the communication/publication lies with the IFOAM EU Group. The Congress is financially supported also by Sipal Partners, ARIZA, EOSTA, Nature & more, Provamel and many contributors in kind.

(2) The **IFOAM EU Group** represents more than 300 member organisations of IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) in the EU-27, the EU accession countries and EFTA. Member organisations include: consumer, farmer and processor associations; research, education and advisory organisations; certification bodies and commercial organic companies.

(3) Towards a Sustainable CAP – Key demands of the IFOAM EU Group for a sustainable CAP 2014-2020; please find the full paper at: [http://www.ifoam.org/about\\_ifoam/around\\_world/eu\\_group\\_new/positions/Papers/pdf/Position\\_IFOAMEU\\_CAP\\_12.2009.pdf](http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group_new/positions/Papers/pdf/Position_IFOAMEU_CAP_12.2009.pdf)

(4) FiBL Switzerland, [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)