

Conclusions Track 1: Societal and economic viability

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Livelihoods of small scale farmers

Anna Milford: Conversion (or not) of coffee producers in Mexico

- Reasons to join : better prices and agreeing with the philosophy of the co-op
- Barriers: Organic requires more work and creates higher fixed costs which prevents some farmers from joining

Anne Marie Nicolaysen: Experience with conversion in parts of India

- The organizations that assist the farmers in the transition [to organic] are crucial
- Farmers are converting to organic farming methods to become more independent in terms of seed and other farm inputs and have an income

Lise Andreasen and E. Lazaro: Organic value chains in East Africa

- No results yet
- Focus on value chains for local high-value markets as well as export chains
- NGO works shows the synergy of supporting ecological intensification through improved marketing and innovation capacity of groups of smallholder farmers

Organic standards and consumption

Jessica Ascheman: A review of evidence regarding organic prices

- Consumption is determined by price perception, not price. Can this be used?
- Willingness to pay 10 to 50% premium

Kjell Sjöodahl: Do we need private standards in future?

- Stricter standards based on IFOAM and specific expectations in the country (Animal welfare, CSR, Wild fishery, climate)
- Standards must be easy to communicate and to motivate

Niels Heine Kristensen: Organic Food in public procurement in DK

- Public procurement contributes to wider policy goals of supporting organic agriculture, not only in Denmark
- Gold, silver and bronze award for Eating out Ø label

Poster session on the role of research (6 posters from 6 countries)

- Very different sectors with very conditions
- Research has different roles
 - For farmers (organic /conventional) demonstration
 - Biocontrol
 - For advisors: knowledge generation
 - For policy makers: evidence base
 - For researchers?
- Dedicated organic programmes
- Specialist organic centres or in general agriculture?

Supporting development of robust and holistic farming systems

Liev de Cock: Discourse analysis in Belgium

- The agro-ecological policy discourse had penetrated the policy arena, mainly green party.
- Common element between organic and conventional discourse is recognising the market potential.

Egon Noe: Barriers on arable farms in DK

- Interviews aided by pictures
- Dynamic markets call for flexible strategies,
- Labour, machinery, building places restriction
- No incentives from within the systems to aim for long-term benefits
- Lack of tools and skills to support the development of robust farming system
- Is the answer more rules to force farmers to adopt rotations?

Erik Fog: Picture tools

- Why do the farmers not do what we tell them?
- Picture tool to facilitate the discussion with the farmer (pictures for recommendations and pictures for restrictions)
- Playing the management game (easy/difficult; big/small effect)
- Resulting in a visual management plan, written can follow

Monique Bestman: Introducing trees in livestock farms (voederbomen.nl)

- For dairy farms the trees are expected to be a third crop (forage and wood for energy or litter with environmental goals)
- Made some silage from your branches which was liked by goats, zoo food cutting machine, in vitro experiments from goats)
- Various species on chicken farms (fruit trees, miscantus, energy plants;
- Fruit trees are damaged less by chicken;

How has the seminar shown that organic farming systems are – or are not – a driver for change?

- Overall good opportunities for maintaining a small living
- Empowerment of small scale producers
- The whole value chain can also drive growth (eating is part of agriculture)
- Organisations supporting organic farming are very important
- New management practises (trees and livestock)
- New tools to work with farmers (picture tool, weed control)
- The various customers (consumers, policy-makers, retailers all want value(s) for money

So yes, I have seen examples of driving for change, but

- Farming has changed fundamentally in the last 20 years
- Farmers want to survive and maintain their farm
 - Specialisation and trade are realities
 - Dynamic markets call for flexible strategies from farmers
 - Management skills are crucially important for survival

What has the seminar shown that can be utilized by organic food and farming systems?

- New systems (trees)
- New tools (weed control tool, picture tool)

Has the seminar given suggestions for new pertinent research questions?

- Why should the farmers invest in sustainability?
- Economic (in the widest sense) benefits
 - Not just about short term profits