Organic 3.0 in Sweden – gathering perspectives through stakeholder dialogue

M Wivstad & E Röös
EPOK, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

4th NJF Organic Conference
NJF seminar 495
June 19-21 2017, Mikkeli, Finland
Background of Organic 3.0

IFOAM initiative about the next step for a truly sustainable organic farming and consumption

– Need for a widespread conversion
– The sustainability of organic farming need to increase to better contribute to future challenges of our food and farming systems
– Inclusion of/cooperation with other sustainability initiatives
– Higher degree of science-based development
– Too detailed and rigid regulation
– Towards more goal-oriented standards

IFOAM Organics International & SOAAN, 2016. Organic 3.0
Recognized achievements by organic agriculture

- Avoidance of pesticides
- Lower energy demand
- Potential health benefits
- Higher biodiversity, pollination
- Better soil fertility
- Allow natural animal behaviour

E.g. Tuomisto et al. 2012; Tuck et al 2014; Reganold & Wachter 2016; Seufert & Ramankutty 2017
Sustainability challenges

- Low yields and productivity in some production systems, especially in arable farming, cereals, vegetables. Need for improvements of crop protection methods.

Widespread conversion – lack or shortage of nutrient sources.

Too high nitrogen and green-house gas emissions per kg produce.

Fossil fuel dependence.

Health problems in organic pig and poultry systems.
Organic 3.0 in Sweden – stakeholder dialogue

How to find what is important for the development of organic food and farming in Sweden?
Capturing ideas from Swedish stakeholders through round-table discussions

7 stakeholder dialogues 2016-2017
- Organic Sweden
- Swedish Society for Nature conservation
- KRAV staff which develops standards
- The board of KRAV
- The board of Swedish Organic Farmers’ Association
- Swedish authorities
- Researchers at SLU
Inputs through the dialogues

Long-term sustainable nutrient management
Recycling of urban wastes, including sewage products
New criteria for allowed fertilizers, not "natural or un-processed", instead sustainability evaluation

Breeding
Animal and crop breeding adjusted for organic systems – increased productivity and animal welfare

Horticulture
Low self-sufficiency of organic vegetables and fruits – great barriers for increased production. Lack of working staff, low economic viability, lack of crop protection methods and organic crop protection products
Dialogue inputs

Improve climate performance

- More vegetarian based organic diets, climate-smart diets based on local production

- Develop stock-less organic farming systems, alternative use of grass-clover (biogas digestion, extract proteins for feed/food)

- Organic farming in Sweden in animal-based. 90 % of agricultural land in used for fodder
Dialogue inputs

The EU organic regulation

-New scientific evidence does not effect the standards. Lack of experts in member states negotiations.
-Green-house production in delimited growing trays
-Urban wastes
-Criteria for inputs, e.g. synthetic aminoacids to laying hens
Dialogue inputs

Organic regulations
- Create alternatives to the EU regulation – a Nordic regulation?
- Change towards minimum standards, less detailed – how to keep consumer trust?
- More flexibility – a list of alternative management options for improved sustainability to choose from. Giving points that are payed for.
- Goal-oriented standards – very difficult to evaluate the results
Dialogue inputs

Nisch or mainstream

- Keep the nisch and work for continous improvements and high premium prices
- Function of the nisch is to be a driver and forrunner for improvments in agriculture as a whole
- More mainstream, increased availability for consumers, increased contribution to recognized sustainability parametres, e.g. pesticide contamination
Dialogue inputs

Increased dialogue with other initiatives
- Mutual learning
- Reduced polarization
- Examples: IPM, precision farming, Fair trade, ”Svenskt Sigill”, Conventional 2.0 (?)
EPOK will summarize all inputs to show different possible future pathways for organic agriculture – write a report

Indicate research needs, implement into research programs

Seminar late autumn 2017/early 2018 with stakeholders including researchers

Request stakeholders to go forward with Organic 3.0
Thanks for your attention!