Can we avoid copper, mineral oil, synthetic vitamins, antibiotics, conventional straw, peat, plastic and animal-derived fertilisers?

With 25 partners from 12 countries, the Organic-PLUS project will strengthen the integrity of organic agriculture in Europe. Contentious inputs such as copper, antibiotics, peat, plastic and fertilisers derived from non-organic sources need to be phased out.

The coordination is carried out by Professor Ulrich Schmutz at Coventry University (CU), UK.

Project objectives

1) Identify and evaluate contentious inputs currently used in organic agriculture in Europe
2) Provide specific technical solutions to minimize or phase-out the use of such inputs
3) Provide environmental, social and economic assessment of phase-out scenarios
4) Disseminate and broker knowledge, ideas and results to maximize impact

All experimental work will be conducted in multiple European countries in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders including product manufacturers and commercial farmers and growers.

What do the consumers say?

Consumers’ perceptions are crucial for the market development of organic products. WP IMPACT studies consumers’ attitudes towards existing inputs and relevant alternatives, to ensure they are in line with their expectations as well as with organic principles.

Are the alternatives truly sustainable?

WP MODELL integrates results from all WPs to produce scenarios for the phasing out of contentious inputs. Sustainability evaluations will be made by life cycle assessment tools.

The Organic-PLUS team wants to get in touch with other scientists working in related fields, and other stakeholders. We welcome your comments and responses, and we like to add you to the stakeholder database of the project. Read more about the project, and subscribe to our newsletter!


The project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No [774340 — Organic-PLUS].

AUTHORS

Anne-Kristin Løes, NORSØK, Norway - leader of WP SOIL, and corresponding author
Adrian Evans, CU, UK – leader of WP IMPACT
Nikolaos Katsoulas, UTH, Greece - leader of WP PLANT
Massimo De Marchi, UNIPD, Italy - leader of WP LIVESTOCK
Claus Gran Sørensen, AU, Denmark - leader of WP MODELL
Ulrich Schmutz, CU, UK - leader of WP LEAD, and project coordinator

Contact: Anne-Kristin Løes, Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture (NORSØK), Tingsrød, Norway. anne-kristin.loes@norsok.no