

Organic-PLUS workshop in Norway, October 28-29, 2019



Background: In 2018, a research and innovation (RI) action was funded from Horizon 2020, the ongoing RI programme of the EU. The action is a project aimed at phasing out contentious inputs from organic production, titled «Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in Europe» (Organic-PLUS, <https://organic-plus.net/>). NORSØK and Oslo Met are the Norwegian research partners of the project. NORSØK has received funding from the Research Council of Norway (NFR) to inform Norwegian stakeholders about this project. A good opportunity for this is to involve the board of organic regulations (RVU), appointed by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority to give advice on Norwegian conditions and opinions concerning organic regulations.

On October 28-29, a workshop is arranged to inform the members of RVU, and other Norwegian actors involved in the development of organic production in this country, about the work and outputs of the Organic-PLUS project. Possible effects of phasing out contentious inputs from for Norwegian organic production will be presented and discussed.

Venue: October 28, 12:00- October 29, 13:00 at Fokhol gård, Stange (<https://fokhol.no/>)

*Dependent on the number of participants, a few may have to spend the night at another accommodation about 3 km from Fokhol. We will assist with transport from **STANGE** train station to Fokhol.*

On day 1, all participants stay together. On day 2, RVU have a regular meeting while other participants discuss the situation in Norway in more detail, with contributions from advisors in Norwegian Agricultural Extension Service (Norsk landbruksrådgivning, NLR).



Fokhol farm, July 2016.

Monday October 28: Contentious inputs in organic farming – how can we reduce them?

Moderator of the day: Grete Lene Serikstad, NORSØK

12:00 Lunch, welcome to Fokhol

13:00 Welcome to the meeting, by leader of RVU Gerald Altena (Debio) and Anne-Kristin Løes, NORSØK (leader of WP SOIL in Organic-PLUS)

13:20 [What are we doing in the project «Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in Europe» \(Organic-PLUS\)? Anne-Kristin Løes, NORSØK](#)

14:00 [Organic growing in greenhouse under Mediterranean conditions – use of inputs in citrus, tomato etc., and how to phase them out, Nikolaos Katsoulas, University of Thessaly, Greece \(leader of WP PLANT in Organic-PLUS\)](#)

14:45 Guided tour at Fokhol farm

15:45 [Rapidly growing Annexes? EGTOPs role in assessing new and existing inputs in organic growing. What is the scientific basis for Annex changes? Frank Oudshoorn, SEGES, Denmark; active in Organic PLUS and member of EGTOP – Expert group for technical advice on organic production appointed by the European Commission.](#)

16:30 Tea and coffee break with something sweet

17:00 Results from the consumer studies in Organic PLUS. How can regulations better fit to the consumers' expectations? Gunnar Vittersø, SIFO /OsloMet, active in Organic PLUS.

17:30 Short break

17:40 [New EU-regulations on organic production to be implemented in 2021 – how will this affect laws and standards in Norway? Monica W. Stubberud, Mattilsynet \(Norwegian Food Safety Authority\)](#)

18:10 [Obstacles for phasing out conventional inputs in organic farming in Norway. Kjersti Berge, Norsk landbruksrådgivning, NLR \(Norwegian Agricultural Extension Service\).](#)

19:00 Dinner

After dinner we will discuss regulations and their role in the development of organic farming. Some of the discussion groups may be in English. **One person per group will be appointed to make minutes.**

Possible topics for discussion:

How can Norway increase the impact in working processes on EU level, related to regulations for organic production? (Hvordan kan Norge få større påvirkningskraft i regelverksarbeidet på EU-nivå?)

How can we increase the use of organic inputs, while reducing the use of contentious inputs (e.g. conventional animal manure, plastic for mulching)? (Hvordan øke bruken av økologiske innsatsmidler, og tilsvarende redusere bruken av konvensjonelle innsatsmidler (f.eks. gjødsel), og uønskede innsatsmidler som f.eks. plast)?

Does the organic regulation hamper or support a development towards organic basic principles (health, ecology, fairness, care)? Regelverk som hinder eller motivasjon for utvikling i retning av grunnleggende prinsipper for økologisk landbruk (helse, økologi, rettferdighet og omsorg)?

What is the potential for development of regulations supporting environmental benefits such as non-fossil energy consumption, reduced pollution, climate mitigation, biodiversity? Hvilke muligheter har vi for å utvikle regler knyttet til miljøeffekter som f.eks. energi, forurensing, klima, biologisk mangfold?

21:00 End of discussion for people accommodated elsewhere.

Tuesday October 29: The actual situation in some important organic production systems in Norway. Which challenges will arise if/when phasing out contentious inputs?

Moderator of the day: Anne-Kristin Løes, NORSØK

The main actors on day 2 are experienced advisors in organic growing from NLR, who will present their opinions on the need for, and consequences of, phasing out various inputs from the growing of various organic crops in Norway. Nikos and Frank will comment on the advisors' opinions, while Gunnar and Anne-Kristin take notes and maintain the discussion if required. Possibly, we can find some solutions, or clarify some research questions for further studies.

08:30 *Welcome; aim of the day; brief intro to the project «Pathways to phase-out contentious inputs from organic agriculture in Europe» (Organic-PLUS). Anne-Kristin Løes, NORSØK*

08:45 *Plant protection challenges in organic fruit and berry growing. Sigrid Mogan*http://orgprints.org/36650/9/Mogan%20Fokhol%20Oct%2029_%202019%20fruit%20and%20berries.pdf

09:05 *Comments and discussion*

09:15 [*The use of contentious inputs in organic growing of potatoes and vegetables.*](#) Kari Bysveen

09:35 *Comments and discussion*

09:45 [*Challenges related to new organic regulations in greenhouse crops.*](#) Astrid Sigaard Andersen

10:05 *Comments and discussion*

10:15 [*Challenges related to organic production in Mid-Norway.*](#) Elin Thorbjørnsen

10:35 *Comments and discussion*

10:45 [*The use of contentious inputs in organic growing of cereals.*](#) Silja Valand

11:05 *Comments and discussion*

11:15 *Final discussion across all crops*

11:30 *A summary of the discussion, including the role of NLR in further work with organic production and regulations. Jon Mjærum, senior advisor NLR.*

12:00 *Lunch and departure*



Potatoes treated with copper – a contentious input toxic to soil life.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION	«Affiliation»: NLR, RVU or O+project?
Frank Oudshoorn	SEGES, Denmark	Organic-PLUS
Nikos Katsoulas	University of Thessaly, Greece	Organic-PLUS
Gunnar Vittersø	SIFO, OsloMET	Organic-PLUS
Hanne Torjusen	SIFO, OsloMET	Organic-PLUS
Anne-Kristin Løes	NORSØK	Organic-PLUS
Kari Bysveen	NLR Innlandet, advisor soil management + organic potatoes and vegetables	NLR
Sigrid Mogan	NLR Viken, advisor fruit and berries	NLR
Astrid S. Andersen	NLR Viken, advisor glasshouse production	NLR
Elin Thorbjørnsen	NLR Trøndelag, advisor soil and crop management	NLR
Hans Gaffke	NLR Øst, advisor organic production	NLR
Silja Valand	NLR Viken, advisor seeds, cereals and organic production	NLR
Jon Mjærum	NLR central administration, senior advisor	NLR
Gerald Altena	Debio (national certification body)	RVU
Lene Nilsen	Debio (national certification body)	RVU
Monica W. Stubberud	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	RVU
Kari Marte Sjøvik	Norwegian Farmers' Union	RVU
Kjersti Berge	Norwegian Agricultural Extension Service (NLR)	RVU
Børre Solberg	Organic Norway	RVU
Pierre Sachot	Bio-dynamic association	RVU
Isabell Lien	NOFIMA	RVU
Ingrid Strømstad	FK Agri (farmers' cooperative company for inputs)	RVU
Kai Funderud	FK Agri	RVU
Finn Avdem	Nortura (farmers' cooperative company for meat)	RVU
Tone Roaldkvam	TINE (farmers' cooperative company for milk)	RVU
Grete Lene Serikstad	Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture (NORSØK)	RVU