



Organic Knowledge Network on Monogastric Animal Feed OK-Net EcoFeed

News stories 1st project year

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Executive summary

This deliverable is part of the Horizon 2020 project - OK-Net EcoFeed, Work Package 3 – Coordination of innovation and thematic groups, lead by the Organic Research Centre (ORC).

The overall aim of OK-Net EcoFeed (Organic Knowledge Network on Monogastric Animal Feed) is to help farmers, breeders and the organic feed processing industry in achieving the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed for monogastrics, in particular pigs, broilers, laying hens and parents of broilers and laying hens. The overall aim of Work Package 3 is to establish and maintain an environment of exchange/cocreation of knowledge among farmers, business actors, researchers and advisers as a common ground to identify needs, assess new tools and innovations and facilitate exchange. As part of WP3, IFOAM EU is providing 2 “new stories” per project year, based on the inputs of WP leaders. The Innovation Groups in the project will translate the stories and disseminate them through the most appropriate channels.

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I. Introduction

OK-Net EcoFeed officially started on 1 January 2018. IFOAM EU has provided 2 articles for the EIP-AGRI newsletter and website in the first year of the project. More details can be found in D1.7 – EIP-AGRI articles 1st year.

On top of the articles made for the EIP-AGRI channels, IFOAM EU has provided 3 more stories for the project partners to share and advertise (within their channels) the project and its outcomes through the first project year.

This task will continue in the second and third year of the project, continuously providing updates on the new outcomes of the project, that partners can share in their national channels.

II. OK-Net EcoFeed website launched

The project has launched its website at the end of February. Find below an article to communicate about the opening of the website.

VISIT OK-NET ECOFEED'S NEW WEBSITE TO LEARN ABOUT EFFORTS TO REACH 100% ORGANIC AND REGIONAL FEED FOR MONOGASTRICS ACROSS EUROPE

Learn more about how the project is helping farmers, breeders and the organic feed processing industry in achieving the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed for monogastrics, in particular pigs, broilers, laying hens and parents of broilers and laying hens as part of the OK-Net EcoFeed project, by visiting the project's recently launched website www.ok-net-ecofeed.eu.

A key objective of organic farming is the closing of nutrient cycles, but it is difficult to achieve. To a large extent, feed and livestock production, in particular of pigs and poultry, are concentrated in different regions, and animal feed (especially proteins) has to be imported from regions far away. In addition, organic farmers have difficulties in sourcing protein feed of organic quality. The lack of organic and regional feed threatens both the sustainability of organic agriculture as well as consumers' confidence.

On the website, you will find information on how the project will synthesize the scientific and practical knowledge available about organic and regional feed production for monogastrics and how it will extend the farmknowledge.org platform to include the topic of monogastric animal feed.

III. Organic Farmknowledge.org

The Organic Farmknowledge platform (farmknowledge.org) has been launched in October 2016 by the OK-Net Arable project. This web-based platform has the aim to bridge the gap in exchange of information between farmers, farm advisers and scientists across Europe.

IFOAM EU wrote an article on the continuation and transfer of the Organic Farmknowledge platform from OK-Net Arable to OK-Net EcoFeed.

END OF OK-NET ARABLE, START OF OK-NET ECOFEED – CONTINUATION OF THE OK-NET KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

The OK-Net Arable project came to an end in February. The end of OK-Net Arable is not the end of the [project's knowledge platform](#). It will be taken forward by a new project called OK-Net EcoFeed.

[OK-Net EcoFeed](#) will help organic pig and poultry farmers in achieving the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed. OK-Net EcoFeed will work with 11 innovation groups that will identify innovations from the ground up and ensure that solutions disseminated by the project “work in the real world” of farming. All knowledge generated by OK-Net EcoFeed will be made available on the [OK-Net knowledge platform](#).

The OK-Net Arable project promoted the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists, with the aim of improving organic arable cropping in Europe. One of the main outcomes of the project is the [knowledge platform: farmknowledge.org](#). This platform provides access to more than 100 tools (guidelines, videos, fact sheets...) divided according to the most relevant topics in organic arable farming: soil quality and fertility, nutrient management, pest and disease control.

The article is available on the website [of IFOAM EU \(link\)](#) and in the March edition of the IFOAM EU newsletter [\(link\)](#).

IV. Project meeting, farm visits

The second project meeting took place in Angers France together with the first Thematic Group meeting. It was hosted by the project partner ITAB on 24-26 September 2018. See below an article made about the meeting, included farm visits.

ON-FARM FEEDING FOR ORGANIC BROILERS

Marc Pousin's farm in Saint-Pierre-des-Échaubrognes, France provides 100% organic, local feed for its broilers. OK-Net EcoFeed had the chance to visit and learn from the mixed farm (crops, cattle, sheep and different poultry species), the founder of the *Volailles Bio de l'Ouest* (VBO-West Organic Poultry Coop) cooperation. The farm has 3 free range areas with 2 buildings each and a small on farm feed “factory”. The



feed composition is settled together with Aliments Mercier, a French organic feed company, providing local supplying strategies. The feedstuff composition of the farm is the following: 25% is self-made on the farm, 50% is bought from a neighbour (50–100 km) and 25% mixed protein/minerals are bought to Mercier Aliments and formulated to be adapted with the farmers feedstuff.

The visit to the farm was part of the Horizon 2020 project, OK-Net EcoFeed. The project had its second project meeting in Angers, France, on 24-26 September 2018, where two other parallel visits took place. One to an

organic laying-eggs farm with 95% organic feed, purchased outside the farm and one to UFAB (Union Francaise de l'Agriculture Biologique) the leader organic feed company in France.

A visit to an organic pig farm was also planned but had to be cancelled due to alerts of the African swine fever in France.

The article is available on the [project website \(link\)](#) and website of [IFOAM EU \(link\)](#) also in the October edition of the IFOAM EU [newsletter \(link\)](#).

V. Conclusions

IFOAM EU has provided 3 articles on top of the ones for the EIP-AGRI network through the first year of the project. The work will continue in the coming 2 years. IFOAM EU will provide articles and news items about the outcomes and results of the project to the project partners, whom will communicate it on their national level.