Some thoughts on the relation between Organic Agriculture and Agroecology

OWC 2021, Rennes/online, September 9, 2021

Workshop on “Organics and Agroecology: Boundaries and Synergies between Sustainable Systems and Approaches”

Adrian Muller, adrian.mueller@fibl.org
- certified/codified
- well-defined
- transparent
- petrified / backward-looking

- undefined
- innovative
- inspiring
- lack of concreteness
Some challenges for organic agriculture where agroecology may give some input

• “Market context”
  • yield stability, crop rotations – diversity
  • yields and other efficiency measures (GHG footprints) as one key performance indicator

• “Agronomic”
  • N supply
  • yield gaps – in particular roots and tubers

• Others
  • social aspects
  • heterogeneity in production / locally adapted production
    → corresponding heterogeneity in processing
Way forward

Put as one core statement:

• learning from agroecology may help
to avoid relying on performance indicators from industrial agriculture in organic agriculture;

or:

• as long as organic agriculture tries to live up to performance ideals from industrial agriculture, it cannot play out its strengths.
Contact

Adrian Muller
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL
Ackerstrasse 113, Box 219
5070 Frick
Switzerland

adrian.mueller@fibl.org
Phone (direct) +41 62 865 72 52

info.suisse@fibl.org
www.fibl.org