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**Organic
eprints**

Open access archive for research
in organic farming and food systems

Organic Eprints

- an international online archive

20-year anniversary report

First edition, 2023

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Publisher

ICROFS

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About ICROFS

ICROFS, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems, has existed since 1996. The centre is appointed and financially supported by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark. ICROFS contributes to further development of a market-driven and competitive organic sector and thereby supports a continuous growth in the Danish organic sector. ICROFS is located at Aarhus University in Foulum, Viborg and has its own national board and own regulations. The centre supports organic research projects from many different institutions and industries.

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Organic Eprints – An International Online Archive

20-year anniversary report

Ilse A. Rasmussenⁱ, Helga Willerⁱⁱ and Mine Lindemannⁱⁱⁱ

This report is published on the occasion of Organic Eprints' 20-year anniversary.

The European Commission has decided that 25% of the EU's farmland should be organic by 2030. In order to achieve this goal, research and knowledge and dissemination related to this is a prerequisite. Over the last decades, a lot of research has been carried out, and results from this research has been collected in Organic Eprints. Today, it seems even more important to be able to have free and open access to research on organic farming and food systems, thus, Organic Eprints is more important than ever.

Organic Eprints is an international open-access archive dedicated to research on organic farming and food. A wide variety of items can be uploaded to the archive, such as published or submitted refereed papers as well as dissemination publications, conference items, books and reports, theses, practice tools or video files. Currently, there are almost 30,000 eprints available. Therefore, Organic Eprints offers a great collection of research outputs and has a large outreach with more than 131,000 downloaded eprints per month. As the only online archive solely dedicated to research on organic farming and food, Organic Eprints has notable benefits to users, authors, and institutions. Some key benefits are that Organic Eprints makes it easy to get an overview of the organic research, which can be filtered by e.g., institution, subject area, project, or conference, making it possible to assess who is working on which subjects. It also makes it easy for authors to reach the organic community. Organic Eprints is used internationally, although most activity takes place in Europe. The three biggest subject areas amongst uploads are animal husbandry, crop husbandry and food systems. The user interface is available in English and German; however, user guides are available in multiple languages and eprints can be uploaded in all languages. Editors make quality control of items from their region and help maintain the archive.

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1. Introduction

This report is published on the occasion of the 20-year anniversary of Organic Eprints. Since Organic Eprints was first established in 2002, it has contributed to the organic research community by compiling organic research outputs in a single archive, thereby making it easier to disseminate knowledge to the organic research community and find the most relevant and up-to-date research results. This report is an introduction to the Organic Eprints archive. Section 2 provides a general introduction to the archive and how it is used. Hereafter, it is described how the archive is managed and maintained, which is followed by core statistics e.g., regarding major subjects and geographical distribution of users. To give a sense of why Organic Eprints is valuable in various contexts, some of the most significant benefits for users, authors, projects, institutions, and conferences are then highlighted. Lastly, notable institutional and project commitments are also highlighted as practical examples of how Organic Eprints is used and developed.

2. About

Organic Eprints (www.orgprints.org) is an international open-access archive of electronic documents related to research in organic food and farming. The archive contains full-text papers together with bibliographic information, abstracts, and other metadata. It also offers information on organisations, projects, and facilities in the context of organic farming research.

Organic Eprints has developed continuously since it was established in 2002, and it now^{iv} includes almost 30,000 eprints^v. The archive is free and open for all to use, and registered users can deposit their publications from refereed journals as well as non-refereed sources, as long as the publications are based on or related to research in organic agriculture or food. Publications on agroecology are also welcomed if they apply to the context of organic agriculture. Organic Eprints is the largest archive in the world solely dedicated to publications about research on organic agriculture.

2.1 Objectives

The main objectives of Organic Eprints are:

- to facilitate communication about organic research,
- to improve the dissemination and impact of research outputs, and
- to document research efforts.

In order to reach the objectives, the archive is designed to be used internationally, thereby attracting as many users and authors as possible, which improves communication and dissemination.

^{iv} 17 October 2022

^v An eprint may contain more than one document, e.g., a conference paper and the presentation of the paper

2.2 Key facts

- Established in 2002
- Almost 30,000 entries (“eprints”)
- Largest archive for publications related to research on organic agriculture
- Free to use
- More than 131,000 downloads per month^{vi}

2.3 History of Organic Eprints

Organic Eprints has been developed and operated since 2002 by the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems¹, ICROFS^{vii} (formerly Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming - DARCOF).

In 2003, the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture² (FiBL Switzerland) joined the project as its first international partner with editorial responsibilities for the German language region. Funding from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture via Germany’s Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)³ within the framework of the Federal Scheme for Organic Agriculture⁴ (BÖL) (between 2010 to 2021 the Federal Scheme for Organic Agriculture and Other Forms of Sustainable Agriculture (BÖLN)) made it possible to set up the German version of Organic Eprints website in 2003 and they funded the maintenance of this until 2016.

In 2004, the first CORE Organic programme was initiated, and a close collaboration with Organic Eprints was integrated from the start. Among others, the team of national editors was created with editors from all CORE Organic countries.

The national editors were first introduced to Organic Eprints at a meeting in Foulum, Denmark in 2005. Since then, the national editors have met several times to participate in training courses and workshops, discuss the development of the archive and exchange their experiences and knowledge as editors. The national and thematic editors and their feedback are crucial in developing Organic Eprints.

In the remainder of this report, you will learn more about Organic Eprints and its use as well as the goals for the future of the archive.



Picture 1: Editors meeting 2022, Frick, Switzerland

^{vi} As of 27 August 2022

^{vii} ICROFS Website: <https://icrofs.org>, contact: orgprints@icrofs.org

2.4 Types of eprints

Organic Eprints supports the dissemination of knowledge related to organic research, which is indeed not limited to a single type of research output, therefore it is possible to upload different types of documents to the archive. The following types of items can be uploaded:

- Scientific articles including preprints (pre-review), post-prints (post-review) and reprints (published)
- Theses
- Books and book chapters
- Reports and report chapters
- Conference items e.g., proceedings, papers/abstracts, presentations, and posters
- Videos and online products
- Articles in agricultural magazines and newspapers
- Practice tools for farmers and other practitioners
- Teaching resources (e.g., presentations)
- Project and programme descriptions and results (e.g., status reports)
- Descriptions of organisations and facilities
- Other types of items, including working papers, data sets, audio files (e.g., podcasts), and images.

2.5 Submission Policy

As highlighted above, the archive accepts published and unpublished documents such as scientific papers, theses, reports, book chapters, newspaper and magazine articles, videos, and project descriptions. The only criteria for acceptance are that the documents are relevant to research in organic food or agriculture, have a finished form that is suitable for communication and that the required metadata is correct.

The metadata (author, title, date, summary etc.) are freely accessible to all, and documents can be downloaded, stored, and printed freely in accordance with fair use. However, documents may not be uploaded to other online platforms (such as ResearchGate or EU FarmBook) without the consent of the author. As an alternative, it is encouraged to upload a link to the eprint.

Papers with a copyright can be uploaded with restricted access, so only the metadata will be freely accessible. When an eprint is uploaded with restricted access, the users must request a copy from the author to access the eprint. Search engines cannot find papers with restricted access. Restrictions can be permanent or for a limited period, e.g., 6 months, after which the restrictions are automatically removed.

More information about the submission policy is available on the [website](#)⁵.

2.6 Languages available on Organic Eprints

Organic Eprints is an international platform and is available with an interface in English and German. The setup of the German version of Organic Eprints was funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) via the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) within the framework of the BÖL scheme. Germany and other German-speaking countries account for

much of the activity on the archive (see section 4), which can partly be attributed to the availability of the German interface. This makes the archive more accessible for German-speaking users and has therefore helped to ease access to German research results.

Organic Eprints' interface is only available in English and German, and automatic translation is not offered, however, the [user manual with screenshot guides](#)⁶ has been translated to [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Czech](#) and [Turkish](#) by the national editors to make it easier for users in these countries to utilize the archive. While the website and user manual are only available in certain languages, it should be noted that an eprint can be uploaded in all languages, however, it is encouraged to upload an English summary regardless of the language of the document.

3. Management of Organic Eprints

The management of Organic Eprints is carried out by core partners and national/thematic editors, who have different responsibilities.

3.1 Core partners and funding

ICROFS coordinates the network of Organic Eprints editors and organises training for editors together with FiBL. In addition to this, ICROFS' main responsibilities are to update the software and develop new facilities, as well as reply to direct inquiries from users, some of which are redirected to the national editors. ICROFS is funded by the [Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark](#)⁷. The commitment to make research results readily accessible through Organic Eprints is written into ICROFS [business strategy](#)⁸. FiBL Switzerland has extended editorial/administrative rights and therefore supports ICROFS with a variety of tasks.

In addition to the basic funding from ICROFS, FiBL, and the editors (see section 3.2), some funding is also secured through specific tasks in research projects, e.g., one task in [CORE Organic Cofund](#)⁹ had budget allocated to training of Organic Eprints editors, including travel costs to attend physical meetings, as well as funding to upload publications from national archives to Organic Eprints.

3.2 The editors

Many European countries, as well as some countries outside Europe, are providing valuable contributions to Organic Eprints and have appointed a national editor, who is promoting and maintaining the archive in their country. The CORE Organic Network has boosted the development of the archive and the European collaboration since all CORE Organic partner countries are requested to have a national editor.

There are currently 26 national editors and a few thematic editors who have editorial responsibility for their country, region, language, or certain thematic area. A full list of editors can be found in Annex 2 and their contact details can be found here: [Organic Eprints - Contact Information \(orgprints.org\)](#)¹⁰.

The editors' tasks include:

- Quality control of uploaded publications to verify compliance with criteria and correctness of information/metadata

- Attend in-person and online meetings, and training sessions
- If needed and time allows:
 - Act as a point of contact for national users
 - Translate the user guide
 - Promote Organic Eprints
 - Carry out training of national users

In addition to national editors, there are also thematic editors. In connection to the Organic Farm Knowledge platform, some editors are specifically responsible for reviewing the tools that are uploaded, to make sure they fulfil the requirements for the platform. You can read more about the Organic Farm Knowledge platform in section 6.1.

4. The statistics: How many and where?

To make statistics easily comparable, the IRStats2 software was applied to Organic Eprints in May 2018 which enabled international comparability of the user statistics by making data on visitors and country of origin available. The statistics software linked directly to Organic Eprints generates statistical information such as the number of downloads and hits on individual authors and subject areas, however, it currently does not provide information on the number of visits and visitors. Most statistics are available from mid-May 2018 onwards.

In 2021 there were a total of 1,530 million eprint downloads, this is on average 127,500 downloads per month or around 4,200 downloads per day. The number of monthly downloads from May 2018 – May 2022 is shown in Figure 1. The number of downloads has stabilised at a mean of around 135,000 monthly downloads with variations throughout each year, where there tend to be fewer downloads during the summer months (Figure 1).

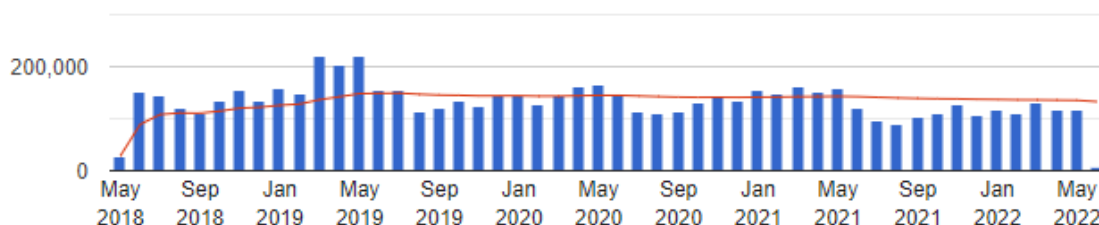


Figure 1: Organic Eprints download numbers from the end of May 2018

Source: Organic Eprints Statistics <http://orgprints.org/cgi/stats/report>, accessed 03/06/2022

The distribution of eprints by subject (Figure 2) shows that the most frequent theme amongst uploads is crop husbandry at 28% of all uploaded eprints. The second biggest theme is animal husbandry at 14% and hereafter food systems (i.e., policy, processing, markets and trade) at 13%. Authors can add more than one subject when uploading an eprint, which means that the same article may relate to several of the main subjects.

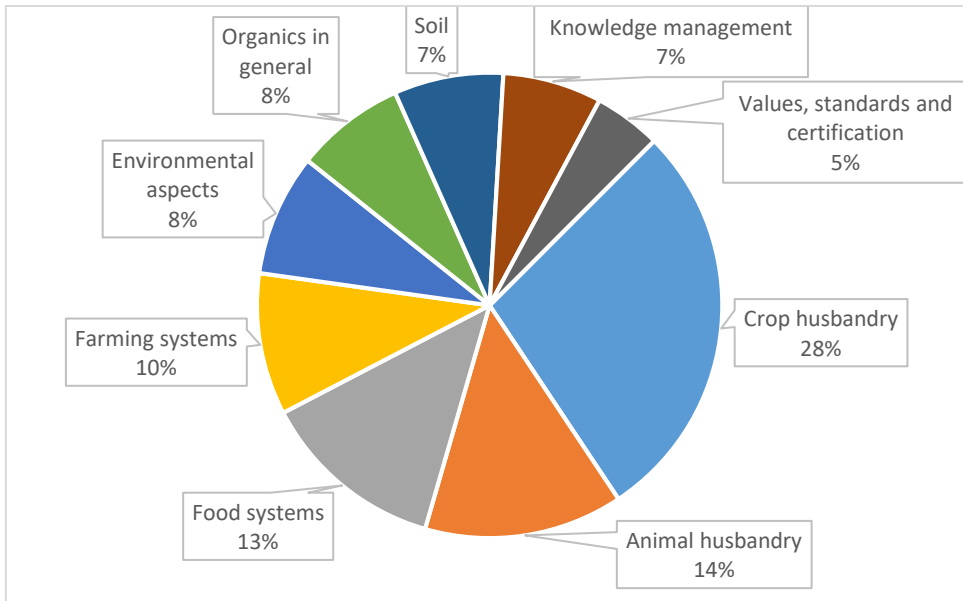


Figure 1: Distribution of eprints by subject area (%)
 Source: ICROFS, www.orgprints.org, accessed 25/02/2022

Looking at the distribution of eprints by continent (Figure 3) it is obvious that the vast majority of uploads originate from Europe. 93% of all eprints are uploaded from Europe and the remaining 7% is split between North America, Oceania, South America and Asia. Even though there certainly are eprints originating from Africa (see e.g., 4th African Organic Conference), Africa still accounts for less than 1% of the total number of eprints.

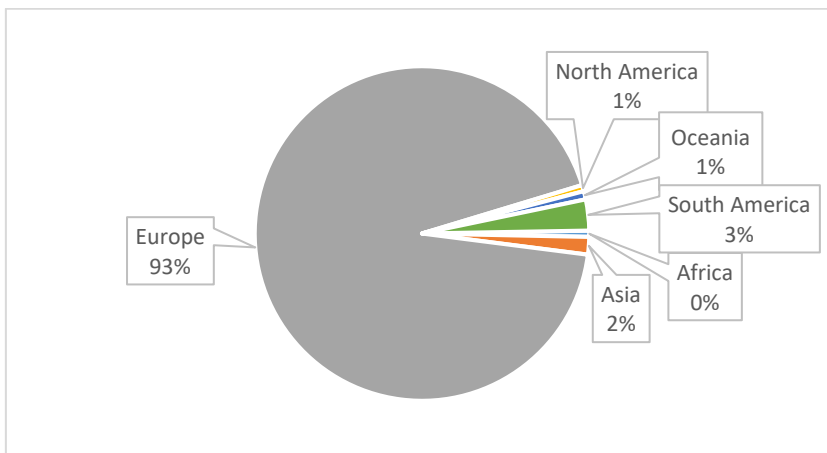


Figure 2: Distribution of eprints by continent (%)
 Source: ICROFS, www.orgprints.org, accessed 12/08/2021

Zooming in on the distribution of eprints by countries in Europe (Figure 4), it shows that 24% of all European eprints originated from Switzerland. Germany (21%), Denmark (19%) and France (9%) are also to be found at the top of this list.

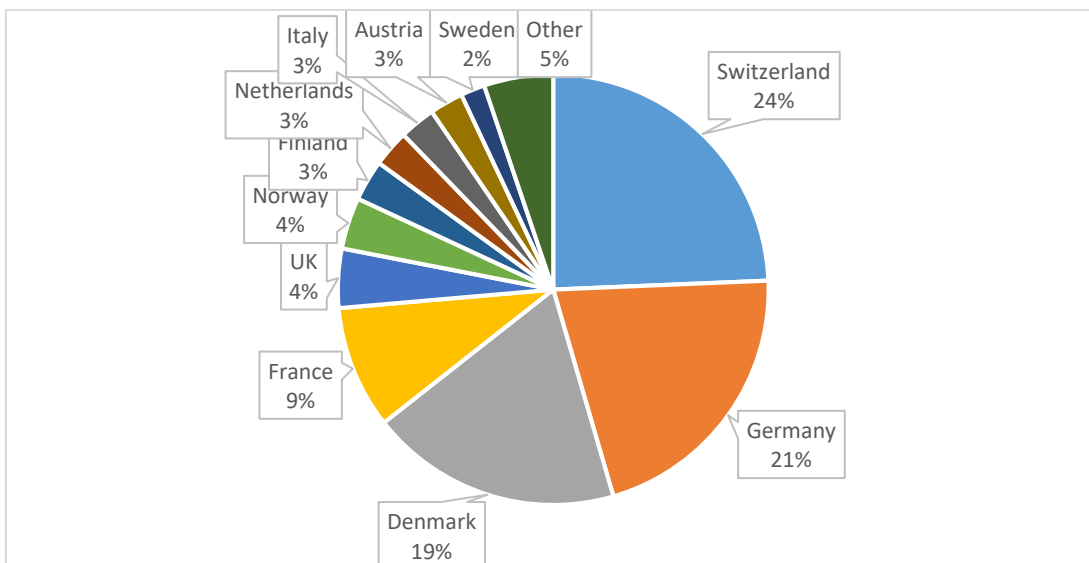


Figure 3: Distribution of eprints by countries in Europe (%)
 Source: ICROFS, www.orgprints.org, accessed 25/02/2022

The geographical distribution of where eprints are downloaded from (Figure 5) shows that the eprints are downloaded around the globe although 58% of downloads are made by users in Europe. 18% of all downloads are made in Asia and 8% of all downloads are made from respectively North America and Africa. While it is by no means an even distribution, it seems that the users of Organic Eprints are much more dispersed across the world compared to the authors as seen in Figure 4.

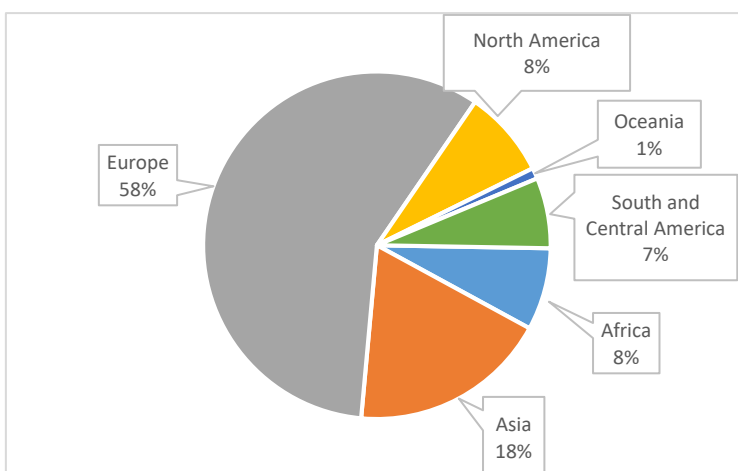


Figure 4: Distribution of downloads by continent
 Source: ICROFS, www.orgprints.org, accessed 12/08/2021

When looking at the distribution of downloads by country (Figure 6), Germany is by far the country with the largest share of downloads (35%). Denmark (10%), Switzerland (6%) and the USA (6%) are also found at the top.

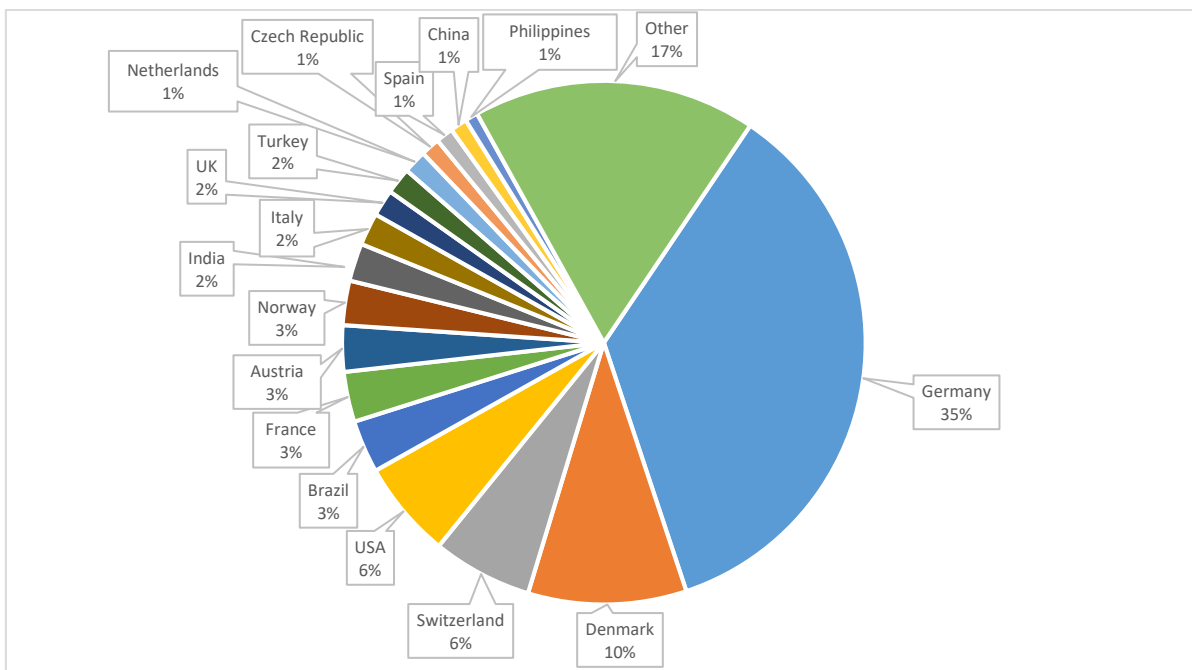


Figure 5: Distribution of downloads by country
 Source: ICROFS, www.orgprints.org, accessed 03/06/2022

5. Benefits of Organic Eprints: What, who, why?

Organic Eprints is the only archive that is solely dedicated to research in organic food and agriculture (that the authors are aware of) and is a tool that contributes to knowledge exchange between scientists, advisors, students, and other actors both nationally and internationally. The archive contributes to creating visibility and transparency of past and current research, thereby improving possibilities for networking and collaboration amongst institutions and researchers. By providing access to national and international research results related to organic agriculture on one single platform, Organic Eprints notably eases the availability of organic research since it is not necessary to consult several search engines and systems to find relevant results.

Compared to other online archives, Organic Eprints has benefits for users, authors, institutions, projects, funders, and conferences. Some of the most noticeable benefits are highlighted in the following sections.

5.1 Users

Organic Eprints has several benefits for users that wish to access items on the platform. Perhaps most importantly, Organic Eprints is free of charge and users can download eprints without the need to register first. Furthermore, the users get access to metadata from almost 30,000 eprints (incl. the items with restricted access), almost 22,000 of these eprints have open access and are free to download for the users. In cases of restricted access, the users can request a copy from the author; this is an easy one-click process for both the user and author. Other important benefits for the users are:

- **Advanced search engine available**
Organic Eprints has a refined search page where you can search for the type of eprint, language, keywords, country, title of publication (e.g., title of scientific journal or magazine) and much more.
- **E-mail alerts on your favourite topics**
Once a registered user is satisfied with a search, the “Save search”-function makes it easy to stay informed about new eprints on particular topics. The user can choose to receive email alerts with updates from the saved search once per day, week or month. In addition, it is possible to make a public URL to such a search, and the link will automatically be updated with new publications that fit the search.
- **Results via major search engines**
Users do not even need to know about Organic Eprints to use it when searching. When using major search engines such as Google/Google Scholar most publications in Organic Eprints will be shown and thus provide fast and easy access to the research. This attribute is particularly relevant for students but also for other users.
- **Overview of relevant research**
By using the browse or search functions in Organic Eprints, it is easy to get an overview of new relevant research directly related to organic agriculture – other search engines are not as easy to filter for results relevant only to organic agriculture.
- **Includes “grey” literature e.g., conference items**
It is possible to search for “grey” literature on Organic Eprints, making it easier to find documents from conferences, agricultural newspapers, and magazines.

5.2 Authors

There are also benefits for authors when uploading documents to Organic Eprints. When the author has created an account, which is a simple process, he or she can easily upload documents to the archive. When an item is uploaded it becomes more accessible and easier to find for users thereby supporting knowledge dissemination and making the publications more likely to be used and cited. People interested in organic research use the platform and by uploading an item, the author is more likely to become visible and reach the organic community. Other benefits for authors include:

- **Quick and easy to link to all your articles at once**
It is easy to create a link to all publications of an author in Organic Eprints, and once a new publication is entered in Organic Eprints, the link will automatically be updated to include the new publication.
- **A secure, permanent, and simple identifier for all entries**
Each eprint has a unique, permanent identifier, (e.g., <http://orgprints.org/36340/> or <https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/36340/>). This makes it easy for the author to link to specific publications with the full document e.g., in a publication list.
- **Easy creation of publication lists**
An author can easily create a publication list in different formats by searching for their name and using the export function. Several different citation styles are available.

- **Download statistics for each publication**

The download statistics for each publication are available for the authors (since May 2018) and are shown on the eprint page and in the statistics section.

- **Easy to find articles via major search engines**

Since users that are unaware of Organic Eprints will also find the publications when using search engines such as Google/Google Scholar the publications become available to a broad audience, which improves visibility, and dissemination and potentially increases citations.

5.3 Projects

It is valuable for research projects to upload outcomes to Organic Eprints for the following reasons.

- **Direct link to all publications related to a project**

Organic Eprints makes it easy for the project to provide direct links to all publications related to the project at once. If a project has its own affiliation in Organic Eprints – which all relevant projects can get by contacting an editor or the archive administrator – they can make a direct link to all their publications, which is automatically updated when new ones are uploaded to Organic Eprints (See e.g., [EcoOrchard¹¹](#)). This can e.g., be used for reporting to funders.

- **Automatic upload of EU-funded projects to OpenAire**

If a project is funded by the European Union, the publications can be made available for metadata harvesting through OpenAire (see section 10.5). When adding the Grant Agreement Number, the publications are automatically uploaded to the EU archive for scientific and science-related publications [OpenAire¹²](#). This makes the project available to a wider European audience and fulfils the Open Access requirements of these projects.

- **Project outputs are permanently available**

Project results are regularly uploaded and stored on temporary project websites. By uploading to Organic Eprints, the project outputs remain accessible even if the project website goes offline. An example is the papers from the CORE Organic project [TILMAN-ORG¹³](#), which are all available in the archive.

5.4 Institutions

There are also valuable benefits for institutions that use Organic Eprints.

- **Direct link to all publications from the institution**

Organic Eprints provides an overview of and a direct link to all publications that are affiliated with the given institution. Organic research institutions can be added as an affiliation in Organic Eprints by contacting an editor. Once an institution has an affiliation, they can create lists of publications that are automatically updated as soon as new publications are uploaded to Organic Eprints, see e.g. [FiBL's list of publications¹⁴](#). This can also be used for reporting, e.g., to funders or annual reports.

- **Organic Eprints as the institution’s publication archive**
 Institutions may also use Organic Eprints as their only archive. Institutions can get the training and access to manage their eprints themselves. The institution can use organisational keywords and add affiliations to organise publications according to their needs. [Organic RDD](#)¹⁵, [CORE Organic](#)⁹, [NORSØK](#)¹⁶ and [FiBL](#)¹⁷ are all institutions that use Organic Eprints as their publication archive. Figure 7 is an example of Swiss research institutions that are added as affiliations on Organic Eprints – by clicking the name of each institution a list of all publications affiliated with the given institution is provided.
- **Country / Organization / Project (6674)**
 - **Switzerland (6674)**
 - [agroecology.science](#) (4)
 - [Agroscope](#) (401)
 - [Bio Suisse](#) (58)
 - [Bundesamt für Umwelt, Wald und Landschaft BUWAL](#) (5)
 - [Bundesamt für Veterinärmedizin BVET](#) (2)
 - [Coop](#) (5)
 - [ETHZ - Agrarwissenschaften](#) (217)
 - [FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture Switzerland](#) (6396)
 - [Goetheanum](#) (13)
 - [HAFL](#) (19)
 - [Migros](#) (1)
 - [Other organizations](#) (297)
 - [Staatssekretariat für Bildung und Forschung](#) (5)
 - [Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG](#) (23)
 - [University of Basel](#) (4)
 - [University of Bern](#) (3)
 - [ZAHW](#) (17)
 - [Zürich University](#) (27)

Figure 6: Institutions with affiliations from Switzerland
 Source: ICROFS, www.orgprints.org, accessed 09/05/2022

The list of research affiliations as well as lists of subject areas, years, eprint types, document languages and research funder can be found in the ‘browse’-section in Organic Eprints ([Browse Eprints](#)¹⁸).

5.5 Funders

Organic Eprints can be a benefit to funders in several areas.

- **Direct link to all publications related to funder**
 Funders and funding programmes can, like institutions, be added as affiliations in Organic Eprints by contacting the national editor. Since publications uploaded to Organic Eprints are freely available and easy to find, it makes it more likely that the project results will be used by others. Further, the funder can create a direct link to the publications, which is automatically updated.
- **Easy to find research and expert reviewers**
 The use of Organic Eprints is beneficial when making an overview of the existing and relevant body of research and makes it easier for funders to find potential expert reviewers and to assess whether suggested research has already been carried out.

- **Tool for project reporting**

It is relevant for funders to use Organic Eprints for project reporting. When a publication is uploaded, the funding programme can be added as an affiliation which makes it easy for the funder to keep track of project outputs and verify that deliverables have been completed. The publications uploaded to the archive will be permanently available, contrary to many project websites that disappear after a few years. In this way, the output from the funded research will be available also after the end of the project. In the "[Browse](#)"-section¹⁹ it is possible to find funding programmes by clicking on the relevant country. Figure 8 is an example of a list of projects funded by the Danish Organic RDD2 programme.

- **Country / Organization / Project** (578)
 - **Denmark** (578)
 - **Organic RDD 2** (578)
 - **BEEFARM** (25)
 - **MultiChick** (22)
 - **MultiPlant** (64)
 - **OrganoFinery** (81)
 - **ProtecFruit** (60)
 - **RobustFish** (69)
 - **RowCrop** (88)
 - **SOBcows** (72)
 - **VIPiglets** (44)
 - **pECOSYSTEM** (63)

Figure 7: Projects under the Danish Organic RDD 2 program with a total of 578 eprints from 10 projects
Source: ICROFS, <https://orgprints.org>, accessed 19/11/2022

Another way to locate publications from certain projects is to use a project code in the keyword field. This has been done by e.g. BLE/BÖLN (e.g. FKZ 15OE009) and FiBL (e.g. FiBL60073) (Figure 9).

Keyword(s) matches "FiBL60073"

Displaying results 1 to 23 of 23.

[Refine search](#) | [New search](#) | [Save search](#)

Order the results: by author's name [Reorder](#)

Export 23 results as ASCII Citation
[Export](#)

[RSS 1.0](#)

[Atom](#)

[RSS 2.0](#)

[Batch Edit](#)

1. Willer, Helga; Trávníček, Jan; Meier, Claudia and Schlatter, Bernhard (Eds.) (2022) **The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics and Emerging Trends 2022**. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL and IFOAM - Organics International, Frick and Bonn.


2. Willer, Helga; Trávníček, Jan; Meier, Claudia and Schlatter, Bernhard (Eds.) (2021) **The World of Organic Agriculture 2021 - Statistics and Emerging Trends**. Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL and IFOAM - Organics International, Frick and Bonn., CH-Frick and D-Bonn.


3. Willer, Helga; Schaack, Diana; Lacarce, Eva; Zanolli, Raffaele and Holdstock, Lee (Eds.) (2020) **The European Market for Organic Food at BIOFACH 2020**, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick. Proceedings of BIOFACH Congress 2020. Session: The European




Figure 8: Projects from the FiBL project "FiBL60073".
Source: ICROFS, <https://orgprints.org>, accessed 1/12/2022

5.6 Conference organisers and attendees

Organic Eprints can be used in several ways in relation to conferences which may benefit organisers as well as participants.

- **Direct link to all publications related to specific conference**

Conferences can be added as an affiliation by contacting the national editor. When searching for a conference on Organic Eprints, it makes it easy to find all outputs from specific conferences. A direct link to the publications from the conference is also available.

- **Permanent availability of proceedings, papers, and abstracts**

Conferences are often managed with sophisticated conference management programs with facilities to manage the papers and abstracts, registration, and payments. The conference management programs are often mainly used before and during the conferences, so access to the papers after the conference may be lost. Organic Eprints offers a platform where documents, such as proceedings and individual papers and abstracts can be made available permanently. See more details in Annex I (10.3).

- **Direct import from conference management software**

It is possible to create direct import of conference papers from the conference management software to Organic Eprints. The [Scientific Conference for German Speaking Countries 2019²⁰](#) and [Science Forum at the Organic World Congress 2021²¹](#) are examples of conferences that used direct import to make papers and presentations permanently available.

- **Overview of ongoing research**

The proceedings as well as the individual papers from many conferences reflect the ongoing research on organic farming which makes it easy for researchers, funders, and other interested parties to familiarise themselves with the current research activities. Articles or abstracts in the proceedings are fully searchable by author and theme, see e.g. [Organic World Congress²¹](#), [ISOFAR conferences²²](#), [Nordic Organic Congress²³](#), [Organic conferences for German speaking countries²⁰](#), the [African Organic Conference²⁴](#), etc.²⁵.

6. Institutional and project inputs to Organic Eprints

The continuous growth of the body of contents is a direct result of the users' submissions of publications to Organic Eprints. Some projects, institutions, and networks have committed to uploading all their output to Organic Eprints. Several institutions, such as [FiBL²](#), [NORSØK²⁶](#) and [INRAe²⁷](#), as well as some research projects funded by [European Union²⁸](#) and research programmes like [BÖL²⁹](#), [Organic RDD¹⁵](#) and [CORE Organic³⁰](#) are using Organic Eprints for their publications and reports. This also makes it easy for the institution and Organic Eprint users to get a quick overview of research related to a specific institution or programme. The Dutch [Biokennis-bank³¹](#) archive, the Swedish [Epsilon³²](#), the Flemish [NOBL³³](#), and the French [ABioDoc³⁴](#) are also planning to make automatic uploads to Organic Eprints. Annex 1 contains more examples and details of important institutional and programme commitments to Organic Eprints.

With the contributions of numerous institutions and researchers, the Organic Eprints archive is constantly growing and thus contains much of the most recent research, and new uploads are made daily (See <http://orgprints.org/cgi/latest>).

6.1 Practice tools on Organic Eprints

[Organic Farm Knowledge](#)³⁵ (Figure 10) is an example of how Organic Eprints can be used for projects and items that are not directly related to research. Organic Farm Knowledge, which was initiated in 2016, is a platform that provides access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production practices. It also aims to serve as a virtual meeting place for transnational learning. The platform promotes the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists, aiming to increase productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe.

Organic Farm Knowledge, originally set up by ICROFS, is directly linked to Organic Eprints since all tools that are made available on the platform are first uploaded to Organic Eprints and from there transferred to the platform.

The platform is multilingual and offers translation of the abstracts of the tools, which are all entered in English. The actual tools (e.g., guidebooks, videos, technical notes, or calculation tools) are not translated.

We expect that Organic Farm Knowledge will become a European platform for exchange among farmers and will greatly help to increase the visibility of practical information for farmers. It will thus contribute to the exchange of practitioners and advisors, both nationally and internationally.

The Organic Farm Knowledge website is currently maintained by FiBL in collaboration with other partners.

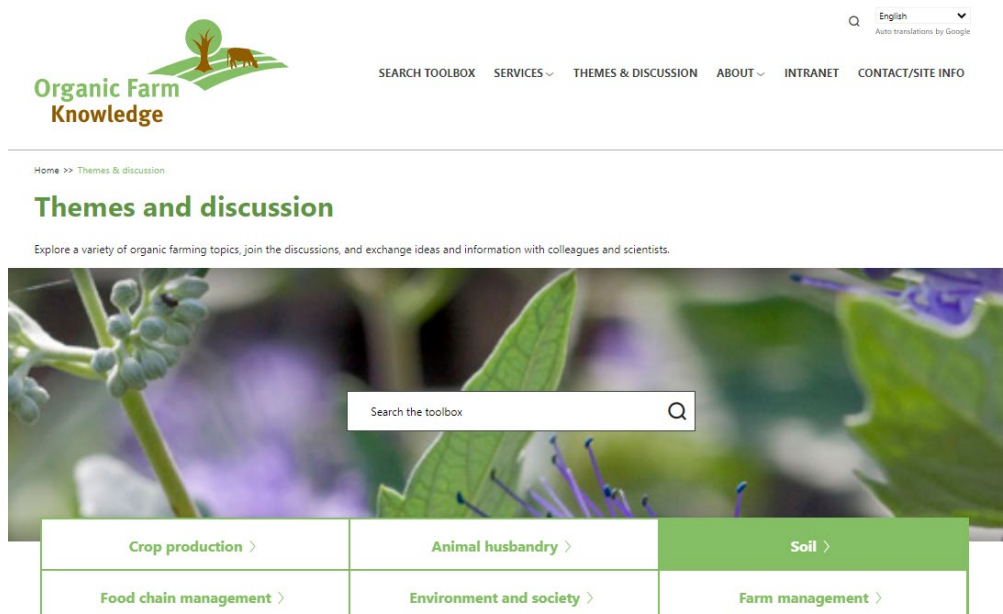


Figure 9: Front page of Organic Farm Knowledge in English

7. Discussions

The following sections presents future objectives of the archive and discusses the importance of the development of the user base, editors, and funders.

7.1 Future objectives of Organic Eprints

Organic Eprints has developed rapidly in the 20 years since it was initiated, which is shown by the increase in number of eprints and the number of monthly downloads. The Organic Eprints platform is continuously being developed to improve user experience and to meet the needs of authors and users.

The future work on Organic Eprints will aim to:

- Establish Organic Eprints as an archive for all organic research projects,
- Make a user survey to collect feedback and insights about user experience,
- Continual improvement of the Organic Farm Knowledge platform (section 10.4.2), which is directly linked to Organic Eprints and could serve as a prototype of further similar projects, thus contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Organic Eprints archive by making it relevant to new target groups.
- Introduce new ways of using Organic Eprints, e.g., similar to Organic Farm Knowledge,
- Make the Agrovoc vocabulary an integral, searchable part of Organic Eprints (see section 10.6),
- Include Organic Eprints in project proposals to get funding for further development,

7.2 Future funding, engaging core partners/funders, editors and users

In order to realise the above aims and develop the archive in general it is vital to secure funding and engage with the core partners, editors and users to come up with the best strategies and solutions.

7.2.1 Securing future funding

In order to maintain and develop Organic Eprints it is necessary to secure sufficient funding. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark has until now provided funding for ICROFS, which has been utilized for the operation, maintenance, and development of Organic Eprints including server capacity, technical work, and administration of editors etc. Still, there is a need to secure funding from other funders or share the tasks with other partners.

An executive committee has been established, which is in charge of the strategic development, executing strategic decisions and planning the future development of Organic Eprints, securing funding, carrying out promotion (in collaboration with the editorial board), and securing the maintenance and continuity of the archive. The Executive Committee is composed of representatives of the core partners ICROFS and FiBL Switzerland, TP Organics, one or two funding agencies, one or two institutions of national/thematic editors and one or two editors. The funding agencies, institutions of the editors and the editors of the executive board are yet to be determined.

FiBL Switzerland has committed to contributing in-kind work to support the work ICROFS is carrying out as administrator in addition to the work they have already been doing. They will take on the overall responsibility for the editorial work as well as the responsibility of the editorial board and the international helpline. Furthermore, the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), through the framework of BÖL, is also considering contributing with funding to FiBL Germany in order to support their work with Organic Eprints. In addition to the funding from FiBL and likely BMEL via BLE, several editors have indicated a commitment to support the work of ICROFS with in-kind contributions.

An advisory board composed of representatives from organisations (see Annex 2) who want to contribute to the development of Organic Eprints is also being established. ICROFS and FiBL CH as well as TP Organics are, due to their positions as core partners, mandatory members of the Advisory Board. Other members of the advisory board will be national funders (ministries or other funding agencies), national and thematic editors' institutions, e.g., universities, research institutions, NGOs.

These are all important contributions and steps towards strengthening the European collaboration and getting more co-funding and in-kind contributions from partners and funders.

7.2.2 Important contributions from editors

An important area of focus in the future development is the collaboration with the editors. There is currently a good and important collaboration with and between the editors of Organic Eprints and it is important to maintain the good collaboration. The collaboration can, amongst other things, be strengthened by increasing the editors' ownership and influence on the development of the archive. Currently, many institutions of editors and/or funders has expressed their willingness to continue to support the work the editors are carrying out. Without the editors it would not be possible to sustain the current quality of Organic Eprints.

The Editorial Board is the instrument to keep in touch with the editors. All editors are invited to be part of the Editorial Board, they receive training, participate in meetings, and get news and updates about Organic Eprints.

7.2.3 Development of Organic Eprints user base

Organic Eprints is the largest international repository for research in organic agriculture and food systems. By depositing documents in Organic Eprints, authors make their work more visible, and users get access to more papers. While Organic Eprints does indeed have a large outreach given the number of monthly downloads there remains room for improvement in the international distribution of users and authors. As shown in section 4, most activity on Organic Eprints comes from Europe. Only 7 % of all eprints originate from outside Europe (Figure 3) and 42 % of downloads are made from outside Europe (Figure 5). This shows that there is obvious potential in increasing the use of Organic Eprints outside Europe. There also lies much potential in bringing the skewed international distribution between origin of upload and download into focus in the future work of Organic Eprints and aiming to make the distribution more even, thereby making the archive more beneficial for users outside Europe. If the geographic distribution of uploads were more similar to the international distribution of downloads, this would make the archive more relevant to the users' regional contexts while also providing a global outlook. Therefore,

Organic Eprints could benefit from encouraging the use of the platform across the world. This could in part be done by recruiting national editors from countries, where Organic Eprints is not currently well established.

8. Acknowledgements

Organic Eprints is funded by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark and co-funded by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (Switzerland) and from 2003 – 2016 the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) via the Federal Office of Food and Agriculture, (BLE), and it is supported through the national and thematic editors, as well as the Horizon 2020 programme CORE Organic Cofund. The national and thematic editors play a crucial role in the maintenance and development of Organic Eprints. Appendix 2 contains a list of the institutions that are providing editorial support.

9. Further reading

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10. Annex 1: Institutions, programs and research projects

Organic Eprints is used by institutions, research programs and research projects to document their output and make their research visible. The following are examples of how Organic Eprints can be used in different contexts.

10.1 Institutions

10.1.1 International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS)

[ICROFS](#)^{1viii} is the founder of Organic Eprints: ICROFS' predecessor (the Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming – DARCOF) originally set it up as a tool for monitoring the output of researchers that were funded under the DARCOF research programs. Still, Organic Eprints is used for this purpose in Denmark, currently for [Organic RDD](#)¹⁵. More than 4,000 eprints have been generated so far under the various Danish programs.

10.1.2 Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)

[FiBL](#)² took a similar approach storing all its output in Organic Eprints and using it as a tool for reporting purposes towards its main funder. Of all institutions represented in Organic Eprints, FiBL is the institute with the largest number of eprints with currently more than 6,300 eprints.

10.1.3 The Norwegian Centre of Organic Farming (NORSØK),

[NORSØK](#)³⁶ uses the archive for all its publications and currently has more than 650 uploaded eprints.

10.1.4 National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAe)

[INRAe](#)³⁷ has an automatic upload of links to those of their publications about organic agriculture in HAL, which have either a document attached or a DOI (permanent link to the document). At present, INRAe has uploaded more than 1,600 publications.

10.1.5 Other

The Dutch [Biokennisbank](#)³¹ archive, the Swedish [Epsilon](#)³², the Flemish [NOBL](#)³³, and the French [ABioDoc](#)³⁴ are also planning to make automatic uploads to Organic Eprints.

10.2 Research Programmes

10.2.1 Organic RDD

[Organic RDD](#)³⁸ is a Danish research programme started in 2011 as a continuation of the DARCOF programme, which is funded by the Danish Agricultural Agency and administered by ICROFS. The research programme funds Danish research projects focusing on organic food and farming. All Organic RDD projects upload their publications and reports to Organic Eprints. Each Organic RDD

^{viii} Links to institutions can be found in Annex 4

and DARCOF programme have an affiliation on Organic Eprints, making it easy to quickly get an overview of all research outputs from Organic RDD projects. Currently there are 1732 eprints from 7 Organic RDD Programmes, and 2543 eprints from the three DARCOF programme, thus making the research programmes a large Danish contributor to the development of Organic Eprints.

10.2.2 Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

Since 2003, in Germany the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) has used Organic Eprints as an archive for the project descriptions and final reports of the projects funded under the Federal Scheme for Organic Agriculture (BÖL) (from 2010 to 2021 as the Federal Scheme for Organic Agriculture and Other Forms of Sustainable Agriculture (BÖLN)). More than 2,200 eprints are now available from BÖL/BÖLN-funded projects.

10.2.3 CORE Organic

The development of Organic Eprints has been supported under the [various CORE Organic programs](#)³⁰. This included setting up a network of national editors and introducing the archive in several European countries that continuously share their research output and organising several workshops and seminars for national editors. These activities are coordinated by ICROFS.

Right from the start of the first CORE Organic program, it has been a requirement for the project partners to store all their results and output in Organic Eprints, and more than 2,300 eprints have been generated since the first CORE Organic program started.

10.3 Using Organic Eprints for conferences

The archive can be utilized for entering papers for conferences. For example, the German language scientific conferences²⁰ about Organic Agriculture have used Organic Eprints for the review process and for making papers available online after the conferences from 2005 to 2017. Also, the Organic World Congress²¹ scientific track has used Organic Eprints as conference submission tool and to make papers available online afterwards.

Since sophisticated conference management programs with facilities to manage the papers and abstracts, payments and the review process in a smooth way have become available, Organic Eprints has not been used much for the submission and management of conference papers. However, some conference organisers submit the papers to Organic Eprints after the conferences, and in many cases, the full proceedings are uploaded. In total, more than 4,100 items (conference papers and proceedings) are available.

10.4 Research projects

10.4.1 Using Organic Eprints for European projects

Not only the CORE Organic projects but also other [European-funded projects](#)³⁹ have used or are using Organic Eprints to store their output and there are in total 1,750 publications and other materials available from projects under programs other than CORE Organic. Some examples of

projects using Organic Eprints are Best4SioI, BRESOV, DiversiFood, LegumesTranslated, Live-seed, NEFERTITI, OK-Net Arable, OK-Net EcoFeed, Organic PLUS, RELACS, Remix and from earlier framework programmes: CertCost, LowInputBreeds, OrganicDataNetwork, Organic HACCP, Organic Revision, OSCAR, QualityLowInputFood, SOLID.

10.4.2 Organic Farm Knowledge

Organic Farm Knowledge³⁵ is a platform that provides access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production. It also aims to serve as a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning. The platform promotes the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists aiming to increase productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe.

Organic Farm Knowledge, which was originally set up by ICROFS, and is now being maintained by FiBL Switzerland together with partners. The platform is directly linked to Organic Eprints. All tools that are made available on the platform are originally stored on Organic Eprints.

It was set up in the framework of the Horizon 2020 project OK-Net Arable and was developed further in OK-Net EcoFeed. In these projects, many tools for farmers were selected or generated and made available. In the meantime, the partnership is expanded to include further projects and institutions (Relax, Remix).

Currently, the platform holds 660 tools and this number is expected to increase.

10.5 OpenAIRE Compliance

Organic Eprints is OpenAIRE¹² compliant (a Horizon 2020 requirement); i.e., all items entered into Organic Eprints funded by Horizon2020 or Horizon Europe that indicate the grant agreement number are automatically uploaded to OpenAIRE, the European Union's archive for research.

10.6 Agrovoc

Agrovoc⁴⁰ keywords are a controlled vocabulary covering all areas of interest to FAO, including food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and environment. Each word may have a translation into up to 22 languages. This means that although Organic Eprints has a user interface in English and German, users that are not so familiar with these languages can find keywords in their language in Agrovoc, e.g., the term 'organic farming' can be found in many languages at http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_15911.

AgroVoc was introduced as an option in Organic Eprints in 2012. It is at present possible to enter Agrovoc keywords in English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Czech, but it is planned to expand this to more languages gradually as users show interest in this. Currently, the Agrovoc is activated on the Organic Farm Knowledge platform and is used for the search there; the full implementation on Organic Eprints is pending. The challenge here is that, in order to make it useful, all existing eprints would need to be tagged with the Agrovoc keywords.

11. Annex 2: Advisory board

The below funders, organisations & institutions are part of the Organic Eprints Advisory Board:

Country	Organisation	Website
Austria	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (BML)	www.bml.gv.at
Denmark	Danish Agricultural Agency (GUDP)	www.eng.lbst.dk
Denmark	International Research Centre for Organic Food Systems (ICROFS)	www-icrofs.dk
Finland	Finnish Organic Research Institute (FORI)	https://luomuinstituutti.fi/en/
France	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAe)	www.inrae.fr
Germany	Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	www.bmel.de
Hungary	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKI)	www.biokutatas.hu
International	IFOAM Organics Europe/TP Organics	www.ifoam.bio www.tporganics.eu
Norway	Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture	www.norsok.no
Sweden	SLU Centre for Organic Food and Farming (EPOK)	www.slu.se/epok
Switzerland	Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG	www.blw.admin.ch
Switzerland	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)	www.fibl.org

12. Annex 3: List of editors

The below institutions have appointed editors on Organic Eprints. Direct contact information for the editors is available here: [Organic Eprints - Contact Information](#).

Country	Institution	Website
Austria	Institute of Organic Farming and Farm Animal Biodiversity	www.raumberg-gumpenstein.at
Bangladesh	IFOAM -Organics Asia	https://asia.ifoam.bio/
Belgium, Flanders	Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research (ILVO)	www.ilvo.be
Belgium, Wallonia	Walloon Agricultural Research Center (CRA-W)	www.cra.wallonie.be
Brazil	Embrapa Environment	www.cnpma.embrapa.br
Bulgaria	Dept. Natural Resources Economics, University of National and World Economy	www.unwe.bg
Czech Republic	Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture, Bioinstitut	www.ctpez.cz
Denmark	International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS)	www.icrofs.org
Estonia	Research Centre of Organic Farming	www.mahekeskus.emu.ee
Finland	Finnish Organic Research Institute (FORI)	https://luomuinstituutti.fi/en/
France	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAe)	www.inrae.fr
Germany	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)	www.fibl.org
Greece	Laboratory of Viticulture, Agricultural University of Athens	www2.aua.gr
Hungary	Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKI)	www.biokutatas.hu
Ireland	Farm Management and Rural Innovation Department (TEAGASC)	www.teagasc.ie
Italy	Ministry of Agriculture, food sovereignty and forestry (Masaf, operating by SINAB)	www.sinab.it
Latvia	Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture	www.lbla.lv
Netherlands	Wageningen University & Research, Farming Systems Ecology Group	www.wur.nl
Nigeria	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology	www.lautech.edu.ng
Norway	Norwegian Centre for Organic Agriculture (NORSØK)	www.norsok.no
Romania	University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	www.usamv.ro
Slovenia	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	www.mkgp.gov.si
Spain	Research Centre for Science and Technology in Extremadura (CICYTEX)	www.juntaex.es
Sweden	Centre for Organic Food and Farming (EPOK)	www.slu.se/epok
Switzerland	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)	www.fibl.org
Turkey	General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies (GDAR)	www.tarim.gov.tr
United Kingdom	The Organic Research Centre	www.organicresearchcentre.com
Europe	IFOAM Organics Europe /TP Organics	www.organicseurope.bio

13. Annex 4: References incl. URL

- ¹ International Research Centre for Organic Food Systems, <https://icrofs.dk/en/>
- ² Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau: <https://www.fibl.org/en>
- ³ Federal Office for Agriculture and Food: https://www.ble.de/EN/Home/home_node.html
- ⁴ Federal Scheme for Organic Agriculture: <https://www.bundesprogramm.de/>
- ⁵ Organic Eprints submission policy: https://orgprints.org/about_policy.html
- ⁶ User guide for Organic Eprints in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Czech and Turkish: <https://orgprints.org/id/eprint/29427/>
- ⁷ Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries of Denmark: [Fvm.dk - english, en.fvm.dk](http://fvm.dk)
- ⁸ ICROFS Business strategy (only available in Danish): https://icrofs.dk/fileadmin/icrofs/Nyheder_PDF/ICROFS_STRATEGI_til_print.pdf
- ⁹ CORE Organic Cofund: <https://projects.au.dk/coreorganiccofund>
- ¹⁰ Organic Eprints – Contact Information: <https://orgprints.org/contact.html>
- ¹¹ Organic Eprints – ECOORCHARD: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/ecoorchard.html>
- ¹² OpenAIRE: <https://www.openaire.eu/>
- ¹³ Organic Eprints – TILMAN-ORG: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/TILMAN-ORG.html>
- ¹⁴ FiBL publications: <https://www.fibl.org/en/info-centre/publications-fibl-en>
- ¹⁵ Organic Eprints – Organic RDD: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/1darcof.html>
- ¹⁶ Organic Eprints – NORSØK Publications: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/norsok.html>
- ¹⁷ Organic Eprints – FiBL: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/fibl.html>
- ¹⁸ Organic Eprints – Browse Eprints: <https://orgprints.org/browse.html>
- ¹⁹ Organic Eprints – Country/Organization/Project: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/projects.html>
- ²⁰ Organic Eprints – Scientific Conference for German Speaking Countries 2019: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/int-conf-wita-2019.html>
- ²¹ Organic Eprints – Organic World Congress: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/int-conf-owc-2021-science.html>
- ²² Organic Eprints – ISOFAR Conference: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/int-conf-isofar-2005.html>
- ²³ Organic Eprints – Nordic Organic Congress: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/int-conf-njf-2017.html>
- ²⁴ Organic Eprints – African Organic Conference: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/int-conf-aoc-2018.html>
- ²⁵ Organic Eprints – International Conferences: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/conference.html>
- ²⁶ Organic Eprints – NORSØK: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/norsok.html>
- ²⁷ Organic Eprints – INRAe: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/fr-INRAe.html>
- ²⁸ Organic Eprints – European Union: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/eu.html>
- ²⁹ Organic Eprints – BÖL/BÖLN: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/BOEL.html>
- ³⁰ Organic Eprints – CORE Organic: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/eu.html>
- ³¹ BioKennis website: <https://biokennis.org/nl/biokennis/bioKennisbank.htm>
- ³² Epsilon website: <https://pub.epsilon.slu.se/>
- ³³ NOBL website: https://www.nobl.be/nl/zoek_item
- ³⁴ ABioDoc: <https://abiodoc.docressources.fr/>
- ³⁵ Organic Farm Knowledge: <https://organic-farmknowledge.org/>
- ³⁶ NORSØK website: <https://www.norsok.no/en/>
- ³⁷ INRAe website: <https://www.inrae.fr/en>
- ³⁸ Organic RDD - ICROFS: <https://icrofs.dk/en/research/danish-research>
- ³⁹ Organic Eprints – European Union: <https://orgprints.org/view/projects/eu.html>
- ⁴⁰ Fao – AGROVOC: <https://www.fao.org/agrovoc/>

