

TUESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2013

09.30 – 10.30 Space for pre-conference meetings

10.00 – 11.30 REGISTRATION and refreshments

11.30 – 13.00 OPENING PLENARY

Delivering real organic values

Despite the market and weather challenges, many producers and food businesses remain convinced that there are real benefits to the organic approach, for their businesses and for society.

Nic Lampkin (ORC): Chair

TBC (TBC): Sustainable food systems and the contribution of organics from a retailer perspective

John Pawsey (Arable farmer): Challenges and benefits of organic production from a farmer's perspective

Kate Collyns (Grower): Challenges and benefits of organic production from a grower's perspective

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch/networking

14.00 – 15.30 WORKSHOPS 1

New approaches to arable crop cultivation and cover crops

The latest from the TILMAN-ORG project, presenting results from long-term EUwide tillage and cover crop trials. An opportunity to consider making changes in the approach on the home farm. (Organised by ORC/Tilman-ORG)

Christophe David (ISARA): Chair

Paul Mäder (FiBL): Overview of the TILMAN-ORG project

Marion Casagrande (INRA) and Joséphine Peigné (ISARA): Conservation agriculture in organic farming diversity of practices and motivations of European farmers

Julia Cooper (Newcastle University): Using reduced tillage and green manures in organic systems

Organic seeds and breeding for organic growers

This session will report on current developments in research and explore the potential for growing the UK organic seed sector and the development of participatory plant breeding. (Organised by OGA)

Ben Raskin (Soil Association): Chair

Louisa Winkler (ORC): The latest work on sustainable, organic and low input breeding from the SOLIBAM project

Peter Brinch (Open Pollinated Seeds): Organic seeds and breeding for organic growers, a participatory approach.

René Groenen (Biodynamic grower): Organic seed production

Greenhouse gas emissions from grassland systems

Grassland farms are sometimes criticised for their levels of greenhouse gas emissions. How real is the problem and how easy is it to take action? This session will explore a range of options. (Organised by SRUC, formerly SAC)

Christine Watson (Scottish Rural College): Chair

Dave Roberts (SRUC): Dairy Farming Systems and the Environment

Ross Paton (Torr Farm): Practical on-farm measures

Rob Macklin (National Trust): Comparing the carbon footprint of different beef systems

Current animal health and welfare issues: management, veterinary advice and tools

Animal health continues to be an important topic for livestock farmers with implications for farm productivity and certification. This session will look at on-farm problems from both sides (vet and farmer) and will also present the latest developments in welfare assessment from the Assurewel project

Katharine Leach (ORC): Chair

Peter Plate (Vet): Holistic approaches to a range of health and welfare issues

Neil Edwards (farmer): Discussions of farm approaches

Jessica Stokes (Soil Association): AssureWel: promoting uptake of welfare outcome assessment

OELS/OHLS new options in 2013

Several changes have been made to the English Environmental Stewardship scheme with some options downgraded, others improved and some new ones of high relevance to organic producers. This session will explore the changes and the opportunities for OELS and OHLS participants.

Peter Melchett (Soil Association): Chair

Steve Bellingham (Natural England): Overview of the scheme changes

Alison Smyth (Abacus): Making use of the new options creatively to support your organic system

Caroline Corsie (Worcs Wildlife Trust): What's the wildlife benefit and impact on my farm management?

15.30 – 16.00 Refreshments

TUESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2013 (cont.)

16.00 – 17.30 WORKSHOPS 2

GMOs: recent developments and organic breeding alternatives

The recent GM wheat trial has raised familiar issues and re-awakened concerns in many people. This session will consider the trial and other developments and place them in a context of political inappropriateness. A key part of the session will be the presentation of viable alternative approaches.

Bruce Pearce (ORC): Chair

Pete Riley (GM Freeze): Overview of recent developments and challenges

Lawrence Woodward (GM Education): What is wrong with GM in research terms and politically

Thomas Döring (ORC): Alternative approaches and lessons from ORC research

Innovations in grower tools and cultivation approaches

This session will feature a range of innovative tools and ideas as well as showing how to modify old kit. Discussion topics will include relevance and practicality of the innovations presented. (Organised by OGA)

Alan Schofield (Organic Growers Association): Chair

Video shorts: Innovations from the USA

Roger Hitchings (ORC): Eliot Coleman's approach to tools and equipment

Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organic Growers): Innovations in growers' tools

Soil management for grassland systems

Soil quality and condition is vitally important in grassland farming. There are fewer opportunities for physical intervention compared to cropping systems but much can be done without resorting to the plough.

This session will present a range of approaches to address grassland soil problems.

Mark Measures (IOTA/ORC): Chair

Heather McCalman (IBERS): PROSOIL – 2 years on

Jon Wilson (Holt Farms): Practical soil management and role of soil analysis

Elizabeth Stockdale (University of Newcastle): Supporting soil biota in grassland systems - learning from practice

High organic concentrate feed costs – challenges and solutions

This session seeks to de-mystify the costs of feeding concentrates and to present viable alternatives.

Adaptation is a key strategy element in dealing with current problems

TBC (TBC): Chair

Susanne Padel (ORC): The real significance of feed costs to costs of production

Graham Vallis (Producer): Strategies to reduce concentrate use in milk production

Becky Nelder (ORC): An introduction to the ICOPP project - improved contribution of local feed to support 100% organic feed supply to pigs and poultry.

CAP Reform: Latest developments and Defra implementation plans

The CAP Reform plans are slowly taking shape, with budgetary decisions affecting possible future options.

Implementation may however be delayed until 2015 and uncertainty surrounds the transition process. This session will provide an update on recent CAP reform developments and examine the implications for UK organic support.

Nic Lampkin (ORC): Chair

Christopher Stopes (IFOAM EU Group): CAP reform from the perspective of EU organic/environmental movements

Rob Macklin (National Trust): Implementing CAP reform in the UK – key issues

Kevin Ruston (Defra): Defra's preliminary plans for organic support in England after CAP reform

17.30 – 18.30 Small group meetings

- 1. Participatory arable research opportunities**
- 2. Participatory horticultural research opportunities**
- 3. Participatory dairy research opportunities**
- 4. Participatory beef/sheep research opportunities**
- 5. Participatory pig/poultry research opportunities**
- 6. Via Campesina UK group formation discussion**
- 7. Space for other meetings available in the bar**

19.30 – 24.00 Conference dinner and Bar

WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2013

09.00 – 10.30 WORKSHOPS 3

Weed control in arable crops

Weed control in organic agriculture does not depend on a single strike approach. It is much more effective to consider weed control at every stage of the crop production process. This session uses a DVD called 'Many Little Hammers' to illustrate this approach before looking at two of the 'little hammers' in more detail. (Organic Arable)

Andrew Trump (Organic Arable): **Chair**

DVD presentation: 'Many little hammers' (edited)

Jonathan Storkey and David Brooks (Rothamsted Research): **Many little hammers – hitting where it hurts!**

John Pawsey (Shimpling Park Farms Ltd): **Managing winter wild oats**

Systems resilience for weather extremes

Weather extremes are tending to become the norm. Vegetable production is a tough job at the best of times so it is becoming more important to plan for extremes by modifying production systems to be more resilient. (OGA)

Roger Hitchings (ORC): **Chair**

Sam Eglinton (Garden Farm Produce): **Energy flow in ecosystems: improving yields and profitability**

Martin Wolfe (ORC): **Moderating extremes using agroforestry**

Iain Tolhurst (Tolhurst Organic Produce): **How to create a resilient system**

Enhancing biodiversity on dairy farms

There is an increasing level of interest from dairy farmers in how to increase biodiversity levels on their farms. This session looks at trees on farms and at biodiversity in the sward, and will provide guidance on biodiversity improvement. (Organised with OMSCo and Woodland Trust)

Jo Smith (ORC): **Chair**

Mike Townsend (Woodland Trust): **Trees on livestock farms**

Henry Edmund (Colderton Estate): **Experiences of an award winning producer**

Gethin Davies (RSPB): **The nature of dairy farming**

Decertification the only option? Facing current financial challenges

Times are tough, demand is down and costs are higher, but is de-certification the way out? Are organic farms really performing badly financially? The reality is often different as a new financial report from the Soil Association and ORC and an in-depth look at arable and dairy costs show. (Organised by Soil Association)

Simon Crichton (Triodos Bank): **Chair**

Nic Lampkin (ORC): **Highlights from the joint SA/ORC financial report**

William Waterfield (Consultant): **Arable input costs**

Geoffrey Sayers (Carswell Farms & Well Hung Meat): **Financial realities on the farm**

Anaerobic digestion: issues, farm-scale options and digestate use

Anaerobic digestion continues to invite interest and comment with larger scale systems tending to show greater promise. This session will report on developments in small-scale systems and the role of AD in nutrient cycling.

Laurence Smith (ORC) **Chair:**

Dr Kurt Möller (University of Hohenheim): **Effects of anaerobic digestion on nutrient cycles and availability**

Dr Clare Lukehurst (Task 37): **Small-scale farm anaerobic digestion**

Richard Tomlinson (Calon Wen): **Farmer experience**

10.30 – 11.00 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11.00 – 12.30 WORKSHOPS 4

Prohibited product contamination of organic produce (with reference to the cereal sector)

Pesticide contamination of organic cereals and other arable crops can be devastating. Crops can lose their organic status and may be difficult to sell. This session will examine proposed reforms and protocols and their potential impact on producers and the supply chain. (Organised by Organic Arable)

Bruce Pearce (ORC): **Chair**

Lawrence Woodward (Whole Organic Plus): **The limitations of the proposed reforms and impacts on producers**

James Winpenny (Defra): **Initial Responses to the Defra Consultation on Defra's Proposed Protocols**

Richard Jacobs (OF&G): **Prohibited product contamination of organic produce (with reference to the cereal sector) – A certifiers perspective**

WEDNESDAY 23RD JANUARY 2013 (cont.)

11.00 – 12.30 WORKSHOPS 4 (cont.)

CSAs and other community-based opportunities for professional growers

CSAs can take several forms but essentially they are either community led or grower led. A look at how grower led CSAs work and what advantages they can bring to an organic vegetable business. (Organised by OGA and OCW)

Phil Sumption (Garden Organic): **Chair**

Roger Hitchings (ORC): **CSA survival guide**

Ben Raskin (Soil Association): **Grower led CSAs in England**

Mike Westrip (Rhos Market Garden): **A growing experience of community support**

Pasture-fed for life

The Pasture Fed Livestock Association (PFLA) was formed to champion the virtues of pasture and to provide a distinct identity for livestock systems that are based purely and simply on pasture. This session will provide a detailed insight into what they do and why they do it. (Organised by PFLA)

Phil Stocker (National Sheep Association): **Chair**

John Turner (PFLA): **Background to PFLA and Pasture Fed certification**

Anna Bassett (PFLA): **The benefits of Pasture Fed production**

Dan Bull (Sheepdrove Organic Farm): **Why should farmers just feed grass to their cattle and sheep!**

EU Organic Regulation changes: implications for poultry producers

The development of EU organic poultry regulations has required much time and discussion, but they are still not finalized. What are the latest signals from Brussels and how will they impact on producers?

Becky Nelder (ORC): **Chair**

Chris Atkinson (Soil Association): **EU Regulation changes – the process and IFOAM position**

Nic Lampkin (ORC): **The EU expert group's report and recommendations on poultry standards**

Richard Kempsey (Stonegate): **A producer perspective on the effects of possible changes**

Making farming more sustainable – nutrients, carbon and public goods. Tools for the job

This session seeks to improve the understanding of what sustainable farming and growing is really about, to explain the use of the tools available, and to motivate farmers and advisers to use them. (Organised by IOTA)

Mark Measures (IOTA): **Chair**

William Waterfield (Consultant): **Farm assessments to develop the sustainability of organic farming.**

Laurence Smith (ORC): **Carbon benchmarking – the tools available and how they help reduce energy and emissions**

Christine Watson (SRUC): **Nutrient budgeting for managing rotations, manures and mineral fertilisers**

12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH

14.00 – 15.00 CLOSING PLENARY

The role of sustainable intensification and agroecology in achieving food security sustainably

As food prices rise around the world, food security is high on the political agenda. Sustainable intensification is advocated as a solution, but its meaning is much debated, with some advocating increased production ahead of curbing demand, reducing waste and environmental sustainability. What contribution can organic/agro-ecological approaches make in this context and how do we ensure an alternative voice is heard in the policy debate?

Lawrence Woodward (ORC): **Chair**

Nadia Scialabba (FAO): **Food security, sustainable intensification and the role of organic agriculture, agroecology and low external-input systems**

David Gould (IFOAM): **Sustainability begins at home – moving into best practice**

15.00 – 15.30 REFRESHMENTS and CLOSE OF MAIN CONFERENCE

15.30 – 17.00 Special open session: Developing a UK Innovation Platform for Agroecology

The proposed European Innovation Partnership element of the CAP reform Rural Development proposals could provide a unique opportunity for producers, researchers, advisers and others to come together to form 'operational groups' to drive forward a participatory research agenda with a focus on agroecological approaches to innovation. Building on the achievements of the IFOAM-led Organic Technology Platform (www.tporganics.eu) at EU level, the opportunity exists for a wide range of UK farming, environmental and other organisations to come together and create something similar that will help ensure that the most is made of the new opportunities. This special session is an open invitation to all interested to explore the idea and map a way forward.