



BIOACADEMY 2008

3.-5.9.2008, Lednice

FINAL REPORT



1. Introduction

The main topics of the 8th year of Bioacademy, held on 3rd-5th September in Lednice na Moravě, were new findings in science and research in organic agriculture and trends of development. The starting point of discussion was a shift in perception of organic farming from a marginal sector to the position of potential leader among systems of sustainable agriculture; another point of focus was the real reasons for low organic food production in the Czech Republic. Attention was also drawn to the necessity to communicate the danger that organic farming faces in co-existence with GMO production. The Scientific Conference included in Bioacademy for the first time this year, provided the opportunity for numerous European research institutions to present the latest results of their work.

Besides the diverse specialist programme and concurrent scientific conference, Bioacademy also offered a forum for farmers and other organic specialists to meet. It has become a tradition for these people to come to Bioacademy, especially from Central and Western Europe, and it is precisely this exchange of information and contact between Eastern and Western Europe that is the main aim of the conference. Bioacademy also included a practical part – excursions to organic farms. The event was held under the auspices of IFOAM EU Group, the Czech Minister of Agriculture, Mr Petr Gandalovič, the Czech Minister of the Environment, Mr Martin Bursík and the Austrian Minister of Agriculture and the Environment, Mr Josef Pröll.

2. Aims of Bioacademy

Bioacademy has become a traditional event held in the premises of the Horticultural Faculty of Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry (MZLU), and is one of the most important conferences on organic farming (OF) in the Central and Eastern European region. Besides providing an opportunity to gain and exchange specialist information, Bioacademy is also an important meeting point for specialists and politicians from fields close to OF. Of special importance is the patronage of the European section of the worldwide federation of organic farming movements, IFOAM, and the regular participation of the President and Director of IFOAM EU GROUP.

The Coordination and Scientific Committee for Bioacademy 2008

The Preparation and Coordination Committee for Bioacademy consisted of representatives of the PRO-BIO and Bio Austria associations, the Ministries of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, Austria and Slovakia, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. Olomouc, Palacky University Olomouc and Mendel University of Agriculture.

The concept, aims and programme were drawn up in cooperation of specialists from FiBL Frick research institute for OF and from the IFOAM EU Group.

The Scientific Committee, consisting of representatives of FiBL, ISO FAR, universities and other European scientific and research institutions, selected the contributions for the Scientific Conference and proposed the programme for the conference.

The Czech PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers, based in Šumperk, fulfilled its traditional role in the preparation and realisation of the whole Bioacademy, while the Scientific Conference was organised by Bioinstitut o.p.s. Olomouc.

Target Groups:

- Multiplicators (advisors, teachers, governmental officials and NGO representatives)
- Scientific and research workers from the field of agriculture and OF
- Farmers, processors and traders
- Media

Conference Structure:

- Introductory plenary meeting, topics: Food, ecology and fairness: trends in research and vision for OF; OF in the EU from the point of view of IFOAM; ISO FAR – Platform for research in OF
- Conference for practitioners (A): Quality assurance and market production
- Scientific conference (B): New Developments in Science and Research on Organic Farming
- Poster presentations, informal meetings and organic food tasting
- Closing plenary meeting, topics: Organics: Local, Regional, Global – or all the same?
- Experience, trends and new priorities in OF development in Austria, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, organic farmers, the market and European policy, GMOs. Summary of conclusions of Bioacademy 2008
- Excursions - 3 optional routes (CZ, SK, A), topics: OF and organic food processing

3. Preparation of Programme and Implementation of Bioacademy 2008

Under the coordination of PRO-BIO and the leadership of specialist guarantors, a detailed programme of the whole Bioacademy 2008 was gradually created and proposed lecturers were addressed. Preparation of the Scientific Conference programme was coordinated by Bioinstitut o.p.s. and its Scientific Committee.

Interpreting services and Eastern European candidates were supported by AVALON Foundation. The main sponsors of Bioacademy were: Lower Austria Insurance and the "Ja! Natürlich Naturprodukte GesmbH" company. The Scientific Conference was organised by Bioinstitut o.p.s. and held for the first time in parallel with Bioacademy, was supported by the Central European Initiative (CEI).

Simultaneous interpretation of the specialist Bioacademy programme in four languages (Czech, English, German and Russian) was organised by BOKS agency. Simultaneous interpretation in Czech and English at the Scientific Conference was ensured by UZEI in cooperation with BOKS. Altogether, 14 interpreters and technical staff were involved in the event.

During the conference, participants and visitors had the opportunity to taste a number of Czech and Moravian organic foods – within refreshment breaks and also at the traditional ceremonial evening at Lednice chateau. For example Moravian Petřvald company provided an attractive presentation in their mobile organic kitchen, where they offered Moravian organic beef steaks cooked on site.

4. Bioacademy 2008 Statistics

The organisational team for the implementation of the event in Lednice consisted of 18 people (including students from secondary schools and universities).

242 people registered in advance on the Bioacademy 2008 registration portal.

Evaluation of attendance showed that, of the above number, 46 people were not present (some of these did not arrive and some did not sign in), and thus:

Bioacademy 2008 was host to a definite **195 participants from 24 countries**.

Participation according to individual countries and professions

(listed according to number)

CR	111	56.9 %
Austria	19	9.7 %
Slovakia	10	5.1 %
Germany	7	3.6 %
Poland	7	3.6 %

Albania	5	2.6 %
Ukraine	5	2.6 %
Croatia	3	1.5 %
Belgium	3	1.5 %
Switzerland	3	1.5 %
Norway	3	1.5 %
Canada	2	1.0 %
Estonia	2	1.0 %
Kosovo	2	1.0 %
Armenia	2	1.0 %
Moldavia	2	1.0 %
Slovenia	2	1.0 %
Finland	1	0.5 %
Jordan	1	0.5 %
Macedonia	1	0.5 %
Romania	1	0.5 %
Serbia	1	0.5 %
Great Britain	1	0.5 %
USA	1	0.5 %

These participants represented the following **individual branches** (according to number):

NGOs:	49	25.1 %
Science and research:	40	20.5 %
State administration:	18	9.2 %
Inspection and certification authorities:	16	8.2 %
Advisors:	14	7.2 %
Farmers:	10	5.1 %
Students:	8	4.1 %
Retailers:	7	3.6 %
Wholesalers:	2	1.0 %
Producers:	1	0.5 %
Others:	30	15.4 %

Participation in conferences:

Plenary meeting:	195 people	(100 %)
Conference for Practitioners (A)	114 people	(58.5 %)
Scientific Conference (B)	81 people	(41.5 %)

5. Programme:

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF BIOACADEMY 2008

WEDNESDAY 3rd September 2008

INTRODUCTORY PLENARY MEETING

Great Hall of Horticultural Faculty MZLU, Lednice
Persons in charge: Michael Piatti, Marco Schlüter
Speaking languages: Czech, English, German, Russian

9:30 – 9:35 am

Bioacademy 2008 Opening

Petr Kucera, Dean of the Faculty of Horticulture of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, Lednice, CZ

9:35 – 9:45 am

The main current topics in the development of organic farming in the EU 2008/2009 from points of view of IFOAM
Francis Blake, President of IFOAM EU Group

9:45 - 10:10 am

Vision for an Organic Food and Farming Research Agenda to 2025: Organic Knowledge for the Future

Urs Niggli, Director of FiBL Frick, CH

10:10 – 10:20 am

ISOFAR - Platform for research in organic farming

Daniel Neuhoff, ISOFAR - International Society of Organic Agriculture Research, D

10:20 – 10:30 am

Break

WEDNESDAY 3rd September 2008

CONFERENCE FOR PRACTITIONERS (A)

Quality assurance and market production

Great Hall of Horticultural Faculty MZLU, Lednice
Persons in charge: Otto Schmid, FiBL
Speaking languages: Czech, English, German, Russian

Block 1: Future challenges for organic agriculture?

Persons in charge: Otto Schmid, FiBL

10:30 – 10:55 am

Food and Agro energy production in organic farming - undesirable or sustainable options?

Winfried Schäfer, MTT, Vihti, FIN

10:55 – 11:20 am

How ecological are different agro-energy concepts? Mixed crops and energy utilization

Hans Paulsen, Institute of Organic Farming, Westerau, D

11:20 – 11:45 am

Organic farming policy instruments in Central and Eastern European countries - possibilities and barriers

Andrea Hrabalová, Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information, Brno, CZ

11:45 – 12:00 am

Discussion with speakers

12:00 am – 1:30 pm

Lunch

Students canteen

WEDNESDAY 3rd September 2008

Block 2: New EU Regulation EC 834/2007 - implications for quality assurance and market production

Persons in charge: Marco Schlüter, IFOAM EU

1:35 – 1:55 pm

Eu Regulation EC 834/2007 and its implementing rules for organic production, labelling and control – what will change?

Maria Fladl, DG Agri EU Commission, Brussels, B

1:55 – 2:40 pm

Implications of the new EU Regulation (EC) 834/2007 on organic production for control

Brigitte Dierkes, GfRS, Göttingen, D

2:20 -2:45 pm

Quality assurance: how to avoid residues on farm level and in the organic food chain

Otto Schmid, FiBL, Frick, CH

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Discussion with speakers of the session

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Coffee break

3:30 – 3:55 pm

Securing quality, tracking and tracing of organic produce from production to trade-food supply chain management and market perspectives for arable crops

Dirk Vollertsen, Bioland, D

3:55 – 4:20 pm

The future outlook for marketing organic products in the Czech Rep.; The establishment of the marketing company PRODEJ-BIO Frantisek Chlad, PRODEJ-BIO s.r.o., Sumperk, CZ

4:20 - 4:45 pm

Cultivation technology of winter oilseed rape

Josef Skerik, Union of Oilseeds Growers and Processors, Prague, CZ

2:45 – 3:00 pm

Discussion with speakers of the session

THURSDAY 4th September 2008

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS (for both conferences A and B)

Great Hall of Horticultural Faculty MZLU, Lednice

Person in charge: Martin Leibl

Speaking languages: Czech, English, German, Russian

8:45 -9:15am

Reasons of stagnation of the organic production in CR – Presentation of conclusions and outputs from NAZV Project

Roman Rozsypal, Brno, Coordinator EPOS, CZ

9:20 – 9:50 am

Development of organic farming in Ukraine

Eugene Milovanov, Organic Federation of Ukraine, Kiev, UA

Room AA1 of Horticultural Faculty MZLU, Lednice

Person in charge: Juraj Cubon

Speaking language: Slovakian

8:00 – 9:50 am

Workshop „Processing and sale of organic products from farms“

Organizer: Zuzana Homolova, Ekotrend Slovakia

THURSDAY 4th September 2008

CONFERENCE FOR PRACTITIONERS (A)

Quality assurance and market production

Block 3: Market production of special crops

Persons in charge: Otto Schmid, FiBL

10:00 – 10:30 am

Development of the market potentials for organic vegetables – the example of the “Adamah” Farm in Austria

Gerhard Zoubek, Glinzendorf, AT

10:30 – 11:00 am

Success factors for the development of organic vegetable markets

Martin Lichtenhahn, FiBL, Frick CH

11:00 – 11:30 am

Innovative plant-protection technology in organic vegetable- and fruit-growing and in organic viticulture

Milan Hluchy, Biocont Laboratory, Brno, CZ

11:30 – 12:00 am

Discussion with speakers

12:00 am – 1:00 pm

Growing vegetables in organic farming, practical discussion for farmers

Martin Lichtenhahn, FiBL, Frick, CH

12:00 am – 2:00 pm

Lunch

Students canteen

THURSDAY 4th September 2008

CLOSING PLENARY MEETING AND DISCUSSION ON MAIN

THEMES

Great Hall of Horticultural Faculty MZLU, Lednice

Person in charge: Michael Piatti, Marco Schlüter

Speaking languages: Czech, English, German, Russian

2:00 – 2:20 pm

Organics: Local, Regional, Global – all the same?

Bernward Geier, Colabora-let's work together, D

2:20 – 2:30 pm

Non-monetary support for organic agriculture

Bettina Brandtner, Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, A

2:30 – 2:35 pm

Organic agriculture in Slovakia – experiences and movements

Rudolf Trebatický, Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, SK

2:35 – 2:40 pm

Trends and perspectives of organic food processing in Slovakia

Andrea Jurčáková, Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, SK

2:40 – 3:10 pm

New priorities in Action plan for Development of Organic Farming in the Czech Republic

Jiří Urban, Deputy Minister of agriculture, CZ

3:10 – 3:40 pm

Organic farmers in Europe between the market development and Brussels agriculture policy in 2008

Thomas Dosch, Chairman of Bioland - the German Organic Farmers Union, D

3:40 – 4:10 pm

GMO – the unbelievable David and Goliath story of farmer Percy and Monsanto

Percy Schmeiser and his wife Louise, Canada are currently winners of the Alternative Nobel Prize, Canada

16:10 - 16:40

Discussion

16:40 – 17:00

Bioacademy 2008 Declaration, summary of conclusions of the whole conference

Jiri Urban, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, CZ

ACCOMPANYING EVENTS

3rd September 2008

Moravian wine tasting and refreshment in Valtice wine cellar

Bus departures to Valtice at 6:15pm (18:15) - at 6:45pm (18:45) - at 7:15pm (19:15)

8:00pm (20:00) – 9:00pm (21:00)

Wine tasting: Valtice local wines

9:00pm (21:00) – 10:30pm (22:30)

tasting

Social event and refreshment continuation of wine

Bus departures back to Lednice at 10:30pm (22:30) - at 11:15pm (23:15) - at 0:00pm (24:00)

4th September 2008

Festive closing evening with folklore music and organic dinner

6:30pm (18:30) – 6:45pm (18:45) - Festive closing speech in Lednice Chateau with organic wine toast

6:45pm (18:45) – 7:30pm (19:30) Classical music concert
7:30pm (19:30)- 8:30pm (20:30) Organic dinner
8:30pm (20:30)- 11:00pm (23:00) Folklore evening with cembalo music, dance, barbecue etc.

5th September 2008

Excursions

Route Czech Republic (departure 7:30am, arrival 4:00pm)

Growing of naturally fungus-resistant varieties of wine and wine-tasting – vineyard EBEN, Lednice
Organic processing of herbs – tea, spices, oils - Sluneční brána (Sonnentor), Čejkovice

Route Slovakia (departure 7:45am, arrival 6:00pm)

Organic farm of Mr. Hamara in Klatova Nova Ves – cultivation of cereals, root-crops and fodder crops.
Cattle, sheep, goats and horses. Milk processing - certified producer of special organic sheep dairy products.

The Department of Alternative Plant Production (VURV) Piestany. Excursion on experiments and on alternative plant production, ecological land-farming systems, integrated systems, methods of plant cultivation, utilization of biomass for non-productive purposes etc.

Route Austria (departure 8:00am, arrival 6:00pm)

Organic food in public catering? in Vienna

Visit to the hospital facilities for organic catering in Emperor Franz Josef Hospital, Vienna

C+C Pfeiffer wholesale network and logistics company visit to their logistics centre, discussion and refreshment in the company restaurant

WEDNESDAY 3rd September 2008

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (B)

New Developments in Science and Research on Organic Farming

DP1 Lecture Hall HF MZLU, Lednice

Person in charge: Borivoj Sarapatka, Bioinstitut, o.p.s.

Speaking languages: English, Czech

Block 1: Cereal production, cultivar trials

10:30 – 10:50

Root distribution of winter wheat cultivars as affected by drought

Schweiger, P.

10:50 – 11:10

Effects of organic wheat cultivation in wider rows on grain yield and quality

Capouchová, I., Bicanová, E., Petr, J., Krejčířová, L.

11:10 – 11:30

Effect of three preceding crops on yields and qualitative characters of winter wheat in organic farming system in the years 2006-2007

Klimeková, M., Lehocká, Z.

11:30 – 11:50

The ability of various winter wheat genotypes to suppress weeds in consideration of their developmental dynamics and morphological traits in an organically managed field

Petrásek, R.

11:50 – 12:10

Yield formation in wheat (Triticum aestivum L.) in ecological agriculture

Petr, J., Vavera, R., Mičák, L.

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch in Students canteen

Block 1, 2: Fertility management, plant protection

13:30 – 13:50

Yield and quality of crops from organic mixed cropping systems with oil crops

Paulsen, H. M., Matthäus, B., Seling, S.

13:50 – 14:10

Viennese Programme of Contracted Nature Conservation „Biotop Farmland“: avoiding weed problems in conservation fallows by sown wildflower mixtures

Kromp, B.

14:10 – 14:30

Effects of landscape infrastructure and conversion to organic farming on carabid beetle communities

Veselý, M., Šarapatka, B.

14:30 – 15:00

Discussion

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 15:50

Effects of climate change on the dispersion of white grub damage in Austrian grassland

Hann, P., Grünbacher, J., Trska, C., Kromp, B.

15:50 – 16:10

New approaches to regulate wireworms (Coleoptera: Elateridae) with special emphasis on organic farming

Brunner, N., Trska, C., Kromp, B.

16:10 – 16:30

Phytocenotic characteristics and yield in ecological herbage

Daugeliene, N., Žekoniene, V., Gavenauskas, A.

16:30 – 16:45

The Evaluation of Stubble Catch Crops

Káš, M., Hermuth, J. & Haberle, J.

16:45 – 17:00

Discussion

THURSDAY 4th September 2008

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE (B)

New Developments in Science and Research on Organic Farming

8:00 – 10:00

Poster presentations - Foyer of the Scientific Conference Hall, building "D"

Block 3: Quality, consumers

DP1 Lecture Hall HF MZLU, Lednice

Person in charge: Borivoj Sarapatka, Bioinstitut, o.p.s.

Speaking languages: English, Czech

10:00 – 10:20

The unique properties of red clover in the diet of ruminants

Steinshamn, H.

10:20 – 10:40

Structural changes in organic farming in Norway, and farmers' reasons for opting out

Koesling, M., Løoes, A. K., Flaten, O., Lien, G.

10:40 – 11:00

Challenges and benefits of integrating livestock and organic grain production in the Inland Northwest, U.S.

Bramwell, S., Carpenter-Boggs, L., Huggins, D., Reganold, J.P.

11:00 – 11:20

Estonian consumers' awareness and attitudes to organic food

Pehme, S., Luik, A.

11:20 – 11:40

Advanced strategies in assessment of bio-products quality & safety

Schulzová, V., Hajšlová, J., Krajčová, A., Drábová, L., Zachariášová, M.

11:40 – 12:00

The content of bioactive compounds in organically and conventionally produced fresh tomato and tomato juices

Rembalkowska E. , Hallmann, E.

12:00 – 14:00

Lunch in Students canteen

6. Proceedings and conclusions of Bioacademy 2008

Introductory plenary meeting, Wednesday 3rd September 2008

Minutes taken by: Karolína Dytrtová, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. Olomouc

The main current topics in the development of organic farming in the EU 2008/2009 from the point of view of IFOAM

Francis Blake, Chairman of the British Soil Association and President of IFOAM EU Group

In his speech Mr Francis Blake summarised the work of IFOAM EU Group over the last three years, during which they have worked hard revising the new EU Regulation (analysis, publicity, consultation with the organic sector in member countries and constant pressurising of authorities to amend and improve the regulation).

The whole process consists of four stages: The new EU Regulation No. 834/2007 was approved in July 2008 (stage 1) and its implementation rules were brought in June 2008 (stage 2), the new implementation rules will include: aquaculture, seaweed, yeast and wine (stage 3 – not yet complete) and it will be necessary to complete the unfinished areas - poultry, review of inputs and processing rules (stage 4).

Putting the new regulation into practice will be quite complicated; its interpretation will have to be unified.

IFOAM EU Group will work on a dossier on the new Regulation which should serve as a “guide”, it is hoped that this will be ready by Biofach 2009.

Besides the work on the regulation, another new development is the establishment of an organic research technology platform on which IFOAM EU cooperate with ISOFAR.

Food, ecology and ethics: trends in research and vision for organic farming

Urs Niggli, Director of FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland

Mr Urs Niggli introduced a newly elaborated document – an agenda for the OF technology platform (TP) “A Vision for Organic Food and Farming to 2025”. He explained that there are many technology platforms in Europe which significantly affect European research (many of them focus on biotechnology), but none of them include organic agriculture. These are consortiums which include research institutes, industry, authorities, NGOs etc. they have a great influence on forming topics within the 7th Framework Research and Science Programme. The first platform was established in 2002, at present there are 29 of them. However, none of them includes agriculture as a complex of ecological and socio-economic systems and therefore IFOAM EU and ISOFAR decided to establish their own OF TP.

Mr Niggli's vision: organic farming and food production will determine the direction and make discussion on sustainability easier.

ISOFAR – platform for OF research

Daniel Neuhoff, ISOFAR - International Society of Organic Agriculture Research, Germany

Daniel Neuhoff introduced ISOFAR organisation, founded on 30th June 2003 in Berlin.

Their main aim is to promote, encourage and support research in all areas of Organic Agriculture by facilitating global co-operation in research, methodological development, education and exchange of knowledge, supporting individual researchers through membership services and integrating the public in the research process.

ISOFAR's most significant activity of the year was the 2nd Scientific Conference within the IFOAM Organic World Congress, entitled ‘Cultivating the Future Based on Science’, in Modena, Italy, 18 – 20th June 2008.

Conference for Practitioners A: Quality assurance and market production

Guarantee: Otto Schmid, FiBL Frick research institute for OF, Switzerland

Minutes taken by: Andrea Hrabalová, ÚZEI, Brno, CR

Section 1 "Future challenges for organic agriculture?"

1. Winfried Schäfer (MTT Agrifood Research, Vihti, Finland): Food and agroenergy production in organic farming - undesirable or sustainable options?

The presentation clearly stated that foodstuffs are so valuable that they should not be burned. This means that organic farming should not focus on energy crop production but produce high quality food in an environment-friendly way.

Moreover, production of energy from biomass is not competitive compared to other techniques – solar technology being the most effective. Therefore two options were given as a method of sustainable use of energy: using solar energy and economizing on the use of energy in general.

2. Hans Marten Paulsen (Institute of Organic Farming in the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (vTI), Westerau, Germany): How ecological are different agro-energy concepts? Mixed crops and energy utilisation

The presentation summarised various possibilities of increasing so-called climate efficiency in organic production. Interesting results were obtained from trials growing mixed crops (oil crops and others) which increased the efficiency of organic agriculture – the relative yield was higher and weed resistance was better.

The conclusion emphasised that organic cultivation of energy crops need not be in competition with food production, but their combination can improve the overall efficiency of organic agriculture. Thus, only mixed crop concepts, integrating both organic food and energy production, will be able to meet the demands put on organic farming in the future.

DISCUSSION:

1. Is there a possibility of also applying the presented findings (e.g. mixed sowing, optimization of technology, biomass utilization) to conventional agriculture?
A: There is certainly potential in conventional farming but we have no data on this situation – no trials have been carried out so far.
2. The question is whether to support – recommend or not recommend energy crop cultivation and whether it poses a threat to organic farming?
A: It is definitely good to diversify energy sources. To study and explore all possible versions of energy production including those which cannot be implemented now but may be realistic in the future. To involve other sectors – engineering... and farmers themselves – for their practical advice and experience.

3. Andrea Hrabalová (Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information, Kotlářská 53, 602 00 Brno, Czech Republic): Organic farming policy instruments in Central and East European countries: possibilities and barriers

The presentation included basic statistical data on organic farming (OF) development in 8 Central and East European countries (CEECs) and dealt in detail with 3 policy instruments: acreage payments, other OF-supporting measures within the framework of the new Rural Development Plans and Action Plans for OF.

The conclusion is that the main and often only, tool for OF development is acreage payments. CEECs are lagging behind in implementing other supportive measures and we lack a unified concept of OF support. Moreover there is imbalance between measures oriented towards supply and demand. To stimulate further OF development it will be necessary to: adjust acreage payments to motivate farmers towards commercial production of organic food; implement other policy instruments emphasising the demand; ensure supportive activities (advisory services, training etc.) – all integrated into one unified action plan.

DISCUSSION:

1. Do CEECs have any programmes to support energy crop production which are related to OF support?
A: No, there are independent programmes, but not relating to OF support.

Section 2 „New EU Regulation EC 834/2007 - implications for quality assurance and market production“

4. Maria Fladl (*organic farming policy officers, DG AGRI, Brussels, Belgium*): EU Regulation (EC) 834/2007 and its implementation rules for organic production, labelling and control - what will change?

The presentation summarised the reasons for the revision and the main changes in the content of the Regulation including the DG AGRI work plan for the forthcoming period. The new EU Regulation 834/2007 will come into force on 1.1.2009. The first package of implementation rules relating to production, labelling and inspection will be published in October 2008.

Among others, the tasks include: completion of the second package of implementation rules for import of goods, elaboration of implementation rules for entirely new fields (yeast, wine...), discussion and solutions to comments and requirements from individual member countries, an information campaign on the new Regulation and a public competition for proposals for a new EU logo etc.

DISCUSSION:

1. When can we expect the implementation rules or more information on the wine section?

A: The implementation rules are complete and are being translated. The Czech version should be ready by now but all language versions will be published together.

2. Will there be an obligatory EU logo? How will private logos be used, e.g. BioAustria?

A: Yes, the EU logo will be obligatory from 1.7.2010 and other, private logos will be allowed in addition, on condition that their size and visibility are comparable.

5. Brigitte Dierkes (*GfRS Gesellschaft für Ressourcenschutz mbH, Göttingen, Germany*): Revised EU Regulation (EC) 834/2007 on organic production: Implications for inspection and certification

The presentation introduced some of the important changes in the rules for OF inspection and certification as a result of the revision. Generally, inspection will remain the same but new instruments will be added, such as: introduction of inspection according to areas of risk, introduction of “organic critical points (OCP)” for processors and manufacturers (not for importers and traders), harmonization of certificates, extension of the period between inspections for traders of packed products or the reduction of situations where authorization is required from an inspection body prior to certain activities.

DISCUSSION:

1. Wouldn't it be easier to have certification for a product than for the process?

A: Yes, it would, but this doesn't work in all cases. A certificate for a certain crop limits farmers if they intend to change the planned crop. Inspection organisations focus on checking the farm as a whole and it is up to the farmer to put the right labels on the final products.

2. What will the harmonised certificates look like?

A: The implementation rules for import have not been published yet (expected in two months) but a unified design of certificates is recommended to simplify checking.

3. What will it be like to import from 3 countries (a list of equivalent countries)?

A: We do not know yet – see the previous answer.

6. Otto Schmid (*Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick, Switzerland*): Quality assurance: how to avoid residues on farm level and in the organic food chain

The presentation dealt with the question: “How can legal regulations or rules determining limits for contamination in organic food be set?” and also: “How can residues be avoided at farm level?”

It is not easy to assess infringement of the rules, due to various sources and causes of contamination. There are different methods of approach: setting a threshold limit for residues (Italy, Austria), action levels (BNN, Germany) or evaluating each case individually (Switzerland).

DISCUSSION:

1. Is it possible to use a method similar to that of assessment of GMO presence?

A: Personally, I am not sure whether setting certain limits is favourable. Moreover the level of detection in individual laboratories differs. Detailed overall analysis is recommended.

2. Detection of the source of contamination is difficult. How can unintentional contamination from general pollution be identified from intentional?

A: Yes, it is difficult. A “hybrid” approach is recommended: set limits and carry out detailed analysis including further criteria of the specific case.

3. **A common question:** Revision of the Regulation will bring changes in the process of inspection – aiming to harmonize inspection. In addition, some competencies will be transferred from inspection authorities to governments. How will organic inspection check government activities in this field?

A: The reason for transferring some competencies to governments was excessive variation in interpretations by inspection authorities. Even with one unified Regulation, some things will still be interpreted differently. It is certainly a serious issue and therefore we will try to prepare instructions for member countries on how to carry out inspection.

7. Dirk Vollertsen (Bioland, Augsburg, Germany): Securing quality, tracking and tracing of organic produce from production to trade - food supply chain management and market perspectives for organic foodstuffs

The presentation described the main activities of the Bioland Association. Considering the increasing international organic trade, transparency of product origin and authenticity of certificates has become a very important factor. Bioland has a supply system which tracks and traces the quality and origin of products from the farmer to the consumer. This system includes the farmers’ organisation and advisory services as well as optimization of transport and storage, communication with processors and services for traders.

DISCUSSION:

1. What is the situation regarding acknowledgment of other inspection authorities’ certificates (e.g. KEZ...)?

A: Everything depends on the international cooperation of the market. Usually Bioland people check the farm, and then it doesn’t matter who does the inspections.

2. Which institutions can provide certification according to Bioland standards?

A: There are only a limited number of organizations who have a contract with Bioland and are therefore allowed to certificate farms according to Bioland standards.

8. František Chlad (PRODEJ-BIO s.r.o., Šumperk, Czech Republic): The future outlook for marketing organic products in CZ – the establishment of the marketing company PRODEJ-BIO s.r.o.

The presentation introduced PRODEJ-BIO s.r.o. – a new joint marketing company, its aims and the advantage of membership for both suppliers and buyers. The presentation concluded with a summary of the main issues in organic sales which negatively affect this newly founded organization. These problems include e.g.: non-transparency and market spontaneity in organic trade, considerable fluctuation in prices, Czech farmers’ lack of trust in marketing companies, unwillingness of farmers to accept and fulfil obligations, lack of understanding, ignorance of the advantages of silent partnership.

DISCUSSION:

1. What is your present range of goods and what do you recommend that farmers grow?

A: With regard to the recent establishment of the company we currently offer cereals and legumes. From the point of view of sales, rye is considered to be a stable crop. Spelt wheat is in demand this year but the same situation may not apply next year. Peas are also in demand, as well as field pea and buckwheat but these depend on the farmer’s ability to grow them.

A: From Bioland’s point of view, if there is a functional sales company, selling any crops should not be a problem. The important thing is to make a collective decision in advance, about what will be grown.

9. Josef Škeřík / Daniel Nerad (Union of Oilseeds growers and Processors, Prague, CZ) Cultivation technology of Winter Oilseed Rape (Brassica napus L.) within organic agriculture

The presentation focused on the assessment of the possibilities for organic cultivation of winter oilseed rape. The trials carried out proved that in optimal conditions the yield of organic oilseed rape can be comparable to that of the conventionally grown variety. It is important to use a suitable preceding crop, choose an appropriate rape variety, sow a higher amount of seed and grow the rape in wide rows. The conclusion was that winter oilseed rape is a prospective crop for organic farming with a wide range of use and existing demand, but the economic aspect of its cultivation still remains a barrier.

DISCUSSION:

1. What is a suitable time for sowing oilseed rape and how should it be included in the crop rotation system?
A: We sowed it between 15th and 30th August. In conventional farming oilseed rape is sown every 3 years but that is with the help of fungicides. In organic farming the cycle is 5-6 years, or 4 years if the field is left fallow for one year.
2. Did the projects also deal with further processing?
A: Not yet, but Bioland has a demand for approximately 3000 tons of organic rapeseed. However, so far there is a difference between the purchasing price – around 11,000 CZK/ton and the real production cost of about 14,000 CZK/ton.
3. How good is the quality of rapeseed oil and its general potential for the future?
A: With regard to its cultivation, rapeseed oil has a very high quality and is very healthy (also confirmed in tests by Unilever), comparable to virgin olive oil. It is a shame that it is more often used as an ingredient in organic fuels and very little is used for human consumption.
As for its future – the truth is that growing oilseed rape is complicated and expensive, otherwise it would be much more widespread. On the other hand it seems to be a suitable component in crop rotation and also good animal fodder. Therefore it certainly has great potential.

Section 3 “Market production of special crops and quality assurance”

10. Gerhard Zoubek (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft Familie Zoubek, Glinzendorf, Austria*): Development of the market potential for organic vegetables – the example of the “Adamah” farm in Austria

The presentation introduced ADAMAH organic farm, founded in 1997 and their experience with the sale of organic vegetables. The farm has about 70 hectares of land near Vienna and employs approximately 70 people during the main season. The farm’s turnover in 2007 was 5 million Euros and this figure is still growing.

Since 2002 they have been operating a vegetable box system. Customers can order, via telephone, post or internet, a certain type of box containing fresh, local and seasonal organic products. They started deliveries with 60 boxes, nowadays they distribute up to 4000 boxes every week, half of the produce coming directly from Adamah and the rest from neighbouring farms. The price of boxes varies, according to contents, from 13 to 22 Euros (not including delivery). Moreover, the farm builds a relationship with consumers, organizing festivals and excursions twice a year.

DISCUSSION:

1. Where do you get organic seed?
A: We purchase seed. We do not want to compete with seed producers, but we are interested in cooperation and the possibility of trying different varieties and creating our own types.

11. Martin Lichtenhahn (*Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, Frick, Switzerland*): Success factors for the development of organic vegetable markets

The content of this presentation was a general summary of factors affecting success on the organic market with the focus on newly emerging markets for organic fruit and vegetables.

The main success factors are: continuity and availability of products, variety of products on offer, quality of products, presentation of products during sale, packaging of products and communication.

The last factor mentioned was the general support of companies on the market including financial support of investment and also technical support and advisory services including further assistance such as ensuring access to necessary inputs suitable for organic farming.

DISCUSSION:

1. Do these factors also work in conventional farming? Or are different sales methods needed for organic and conventional farming systems?
A: The presentation describes factors for successful marketing in general and therefore they also apply to conventional farming. They mainly focus on developing markets. There is probably a difference in organic farming, where more communication is needed.

**12. Milan Hluchý (Biocont Laboratory, s.r.o., Brno, Czech Republic):
Innovative plant-protection technology in organic vegetable and fruit growing and in organic viticulture**

The presentation described very clearly the difference in availability of various plant protection agents for organic production of special crops in selected countries: Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. In comparison to Switzerland the availability of plant protectors permitted in organic farming is significantly poorer in the other countries, especially plant protectors for orchards and vegetables. In such conditions farmers are disadvantaged and subsidy-supported organic orchards often do not produce any fruit.

The conclusion of the presentation outlined possible directions for future development of registration of these auxiliary plant protectors: a) introducing government subsidies, thus accelerating the registration process, b) defining 3 zones within the EU and approving plant protectors according to zones, c) complicating the whole process and making it more expensive if these auxiliary agents are regarded as pesticides.

DISCUSSION:

1. What is the situation regarding registration of Cocana plant protector (also suitable for viticulture)?

A: The required tests have been carried out and we have applied for approval from the Czech State Phytosanitary Administration.

2. Why can't we use plant protectors permitted in Austria?

A: Unified registration is not yet possible. There are 3 possible directions - see presentation. Registration itself is expensive because local testing is required as well as other documentation. This process cannot be easily cancelled, as other organisations have a financial interest in the registration process.

Final requests for further development of the organic sector:

- Support the transfer of knowledge and experience
- Support registration of OF inputs
- Support specialist training for advisors in organic farming and the development of a structured advisory service including support of research in organic farming
- Ensure that OF is discussed at a higher political level
- Farms must be supported in their investment, BUT it must be done through uncomplicated measures (without bureaucracy), their implementation of which will be rapid and institutional assistance with applications will be ensured
- Everyone involved must take responsibility for OF and its further development

Morning section, Thursday 4th September 2008

Minutes taken by: Karolína Dytrtová, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. Olomouc

"Causes of stagnating organic production in CZ "- presentation of project outputs

by EPOS - Association of Advisors in Organic Farming, Roman Rozsypal

According to Mr Rozsypal the proportion of imported organic foodstuffs is 65% of retail turnover and the increase in consumption is 80% covered by imported produce. He defined the reasons for stagnation of Czech organic production as: small arable acreage, inefficiency of organic agriculture, fragmented production, ineffective marketing, subsidies being the only instrument to affect the system of land management, non-implementation of Action Plan for OF Development. He concluded that acreage payments, even if significantly differentiated in EAFRD, probably will not bring a noticeable change in the structure of organically farmed land (increase in arable land percentage). He sees this as a weak point of Czech organic farming, because cereal production determines not only the production of bread, pastries, pasta and other organic foodstuffs of plant origin, but also the poultry, eggs, pork and other meat products that the market lacks. According to Mr Rozsypal we cannot expect

the situation to change in a few years with organic cattle-farms returning or converting to dairy production, because such changes require massive investment in cattle sheds, milking and dairy plants, and especially problems with employees (care of animals and milking) and increased work costs (salaries and compulsory insurance).

“Development of organic farming in Ukraine”

Eugene Milovanov

Eugene Milovanov presented the basic structure of organic farming in Ukraine. The current total acreage of organically farmed land is 280 872 ha and, in 2006, 80 organic farms were registered. In 2007 the National Programme for the Development of Agriculture was adopted, including the aim of achieving a 10% OF share of the total production. This year, an international conference on OF and its development was held in Kiev for the first time.

Scientific Conference

„New Trends in Science and Research in Organic Farming”

Guarantor, presenter and author of the summary: Bořivoj Šarapatka, Palacky University Olomouc, CR

Since 2000, Bioacademy has become a meeting point not only for workers in agriculture but also for specialists and researchers. This led the organizers to make a change in the character of the conference with the introduction of a scientific part dealing with the current issues of research in the field of organic agriculture.

The broad topic of New Trends in Science and Research in Organic Farming was chosen for the whole Bioacademy 2008 and, at the scientific conference specialists from various fields exchanged the latest findings from research within this agricultural system including issues of landscape and other elements of the environment. Every lecture and poster presented at the conference was recorded in the form of a 4-page scientific article which was defended before an international team of experts and published in the Bioacademy Abstract Proceedings. This publication comprises of 34 scientific articles (17 of which were presented as lectures, the rest as posters – some of them including a brief verbal summary) divided into 3 sections. The themes of the sections were: Cereal production and cultivar trials, Fertility management and plant protection, and Quality, consumers. Each lecture was followed by a discussion, in which a number of details and uncertainties were explained. Divided according to countries, there were 13 contributions from the Czech Republic, 6 from Austria, 5 from Poland, 2 from Norway, 2 from Slovakia, and 1 each from Estonia, Iran, Lithuania, Germany, Switzerland and the USA.

Participants in the scientific conference, together with those of the conference for practitioners, also took part in the introductory plenary meeting and a closing meeting of all participants of Bioacademy. According to their interests, they could also choose from the excursions on offer (Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia).

It is clear from discussions at the conference, from participants' reactions and from consultation with lecturers, that introducing the scientific conference to the format of Bioacademy was a good idea. We believe that it will attract an increasing number of participants from the specialist public, enabling us in future conferences to extend the range of contributions from even more countries, both inside and outside of Europe.

Closing plenary meeting, Thursday 4th September 2008

Minutes taken by: Karolína Dyrtrtová, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. Olomouc

Non-financial support for organic farming – development of the organic sector in Austria

Bettina Brandtner - Lebensministerium, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment

Bettina Brandtner presented basic data on financial support for organic farmers in Austria. In 2008 the Ministry has provided payments to OF for: 151.087 ha of arable land, 219.065 ha of permanent grassland, 1.528 ha of orchard, 2.170 ha of vegetables. She emphasized that non-financial support is also very important. "Non-financial" means support which is not dependent on direct payments. Non-financial support affects public opinion in a certain way (public relations), represents political support, press reports issued by the Ministry, websites, campaigns, legislative foundations, encouraging consumer interest. Typical Austrian organic food consumers are: sports people, pensioners, families with children and housewives. Organic food sales: approximately 64% via market chains, 16% via specialised shops, 5% via kitchens, canteens, hotels (catering), 8% farmyard sales, markets, 7% export.

Organic farming in Slovakia – experience and trends

Rudolf Trebatický, Manager of the Department of Environmental Activities, Ministry of Agriculture, Slovak Republic

Rudolf Trebatický presented basic data on OF in Slovakia: on 31.7.2008, 360 farms with a total acreage of 140 081 ha were registered along with 54 organic food producers, 8 companies involved in collecting wild-growing fruit and herbs, 12 organic seed producers, 9 producers of organic feedstuffs, 25 traders of organic produce, 5 importers. The total acreage of organically farmed land is 7.37%. Experience in OF is both: positive (stabilised system – legislation, inspection, subsidies; organic food processing, market development, increase in sales points and shops, increase in range of organic produce on offer), but also negative (despite certain improvement, finalization of produce is still low, lack of information and awareness, farmers' criticism of strict legislation on farmyard sale and Cross Compliance checking). They intend to achieve 10% of acreage, preferably in areas of water source protection, improvement in promotion and support for research is necessary.

Trends and prospective for processing organic foodstuffs in Slovakia

Andrea Jurčáková – the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture

Aim: to ensure the production of safe, good quality organic foodstuffs for the Slovak population, at present 52 registered organic food producers in Slovakia, this is a 57.6% increase since 2006
Research and development: Centre of Excellence in Foodstuff Research – 13 scientific, research, inspection and private institutions – Biocentrum Modra is being discussed
Practical application of knowledge and findings is vital. There has been an increase in the range of organic products.

Organic: local, regional or global – and does it matter at all?

Bernward Geier, Colabora - let's work together, Germany

In his contribution, *Bernward Geier* contemplated where the organic sector is heading. He emphasised that the important thing is not to abandon ecological principles. Big players are entering the organic sector – multi-national concerns such as Nestlé (there are 10 multi-national concerns in the food industry and 9 of them are active in the organic sector), but the majority of consumers have no idea they are supporting the concern with their purchase. An important role is played by retail chains (e.g. Aldi sells the greatest quantity of organic potatoes). The rebirth of town markets and direct sale is necessary as well as cooperation with "slowfood" systems. BIO FAIR TRADE – it is essential to involve developing countries in OF development. Differences in prices are extreme in developing countries (in China ORGANIC is 400% more expensive, despite this China has many organic food shops). Education is vital – teaching the fact that profitability lies in processing and sales, not just in production. Egypt is a good example – 80% of tea of organic quality is sold on the Egyptian market

and only 20% is exported (previously the opposite situation applied). Small producers must be provided with good conditions. We, too, must act globally! Locally, regionally and globally!

Discussion after the first block of presentations:

A question for **Bettina Brandtner**: Is it possible to promote national BIO trademarks and those of national associations and national products within national campaigns co-financed by OF?

Answer: Yes, in Austria we promoted our national trademark and referred to the higher standards that are behind this logo.

A question for **Bernward Geier**: What do you think about subsidies in developed countries which practically make it impossible for developing countries to enter the market? Would it be fair to cancel such subsidies with regard to those poorer countries?

Answer: Subsidies are basically only good for supporting innovation. If you compare, for example, cotton production in California and in African countries, then subsidies are extremely harmful.

A question for **Bernward Geier**: How can organic produce feed the whole world?

Answer: This discussion is always about quantity. However, the amount produced doesn't matter, the important thing is that people are capable of feeding themselves and are enabled to do so, especially in developing countries. And this is where organic farming can help, as it is not so dependent on inputs.

New priorities for the Organic farming Development Action Plan in the Czech Republic

Jiří Urban, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic

Jiří Urban summarized the latest statistics which show some positive trends in OF development in the Czech Republic. For example, the greatest increase was in the number of medium-sized companies between 10-50ha acreage and also small companies below 5ha. But we cannot be complacent about improving statistics. There are still numerous issues to be resolved. At present, the most serious problem he can see is the lack of specialist structure in OF, in the areas of research, advisory services and sales. There is also a lack of good reasoning towards the state sector. There is good experience abroad of establishing so-called competence centres for organic farming. For example, in Czech state research institutes, research into organic farming is not given priority. Therefore it is essential to start work on the new OF Action Plan for 2010 and beyond. Mr. Urban intends to establish a working group of people, appointed directly by the Minister, who will analyze the situation and prepare the new Action Plan which should be ready in two years.

GMO – the unbelievable story of David (farmer Percy) a Goliath (Monsanto company)

Percy Schmeiser. Percy and his wife Louise are the current Alternative Nobel Prize winners, Canada

All their lives, the Schmeisers have been cultivating seed (their own oilseed rape varieties) for the area in which they farm. Mrs. Schmeiser worked as a seed researcher. In 1996 the first GM crops were approved in Canada (corn, oilseed rape, soya beans and cotton). In 1998 Monsanto company sued the Schmeisers for illegal use of Monsanto oilseed. The Schmeisers' fields had been contaminated by the Monsanto GM oilseed and now Monsanto claimed that they had used their seed. This was a dangerous precedent that took 7 years of legal proceedings until it reached the Supreme Court. It was finally concluded in March 2008 with an extrajudicial agreement and payment for cleaning the field (this means after 10 years of legal dispute, at a total cost of \$400,000 in legal fees).

There are already two crops in Canada which cannot be grown in organic quality – oilseed rape and soya. No co-existence is possible; the business activities of many farmers have been harmed, including bee keepers. It is not possible to produce organic honey in Canada, due to pollen contaminated by GM crops. Besides this, Monsanto runs its own police, watching farmers in case they grow GM crops without a licence, thus sowing the seed of suspicion among farmers and encouraging farmers to inform on each other.

European organic farmers between the developing market and Brussels' agrarian policy in 2008

Thomas Dosch, Chairman of Bioland association of organic farmers, Germany

Thomas Dosch began his contribution with a reflection on where organic production is heading and expressed the need to return closer to OF principles. "We must think of what we should do collectively and not live at the expense of others". He reminded that the word "agriculture" consists of agrarian culture, and doesn't mean industrial food production. What used to be a discussion on organic versus conventional foodstuffs, is now regional organic versus global organic (food transported long distances). There are two obvious strategies – one calculating what is cheaper and involving global purchase of food, the second focusing on regional produce. It is essential to be aware that the final price of most organic products is determined by large marketing companies which can be avoided if the whole supply chain is shortened. Thomas Dosch asked, "Do we only want to fill the shelves of retail chains?" We cannot leave the success of our organic produce only to the market – competition with conventional food is not fair, because conventional foodstuffs are produced at the expense of the environment, therefore they are cheap. We must be active on the European level – we have a newly completed Regulation, but that is only one of the building blocks. A current question is that of the CAP, the 2nd pillar is supposed to be reduced by 20%, which will probably mean less money for organic farming. Direct payments will be limited, but the crucial condition is that, in the future, organic agriculture is rewarded for public service such as protecting the quality of water sources, biodiversity etc. What then is expected of us? We must differentiate between markets, improve research, we must form more associations! There are more lobbyists in Brussels at the moment than European Government officials themselves! We must know how to assert and represent our interests in Brussels.

Press report:

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF BIOACADEMY 2008

Karolína Dytrtová, Bioinstitut, o.p.s. Olomouc

The main topics of the 8th Bioacademy held on 3rd – 5th September in Lednice na Moravě, CZ, were new findings in science and research on organic farming and trends in its development

The starting point of discussion was the shift of organic agriculture from marginal sector to the position of potential leader in the sustainable farming system and the real reasons for low production of Czech organic foodstuffs. Emphasis was put on the necessity to communicate the danger that organic agriculture faces in its co-existence with the GMO production system. A number of European research institutions presented the latest results of their research projects at the Scientific Conference which, for the first time, was a part of this year's Bioacademy.

Organic agriculture has no ambition to produce foodstuffs only for the chosen few. It aims to be a fully-fledged answer to key issues such as the change of climate, reduction of biodiversity or sufficiency in safe foodstuffs," said Urs Niggli, director of the Swiss FiBL, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, who introduced a newly prepared project by the European Technological Platform for Science and Research on Organic Agriculture. "Instead of endless cultivation of more and more 'perfect crops', organic agriculture strives to improve the whole agroecosystem," he drew attention to the principal difference in approach to problems such as the lack of drinking water or extreme weather fluctuation.

“Real co-existence of GM crops and organic agriculture is not possible,” said Thomas Dosch, chairman of the German Bioland Association of Organic Farmers, and pointed out the necessity to actively inform and educate farmers and specialists on the issue of such co-existence. In discussion participants shared the experience of Percy Schmeiser, the winner of the Mahatma Gandhi Award 2000 and laureate of the alternative Nobel prize 2007 (Right Livelihood Award) for protecting biodiversity and continuous defence of small farmers’ rights.

The contribution on the reasons for stagnating organic production in the Czech Republic pointed out the persistent problems in Czech organic agriculture such as its low efficiency, small arable acreage or

insufficient marketing. Without substantial changes in the system of support it will not be possible to achieve at least 60% Czech produced organic foodstuffs of the total organic consumption in the Czech Republic by 2010, which is the aim set by the “Organic Agriculture and Organic Food” programme of the Czech Ministry of Agriculture. “Methods of collecting, analysing, evaluating and interpreting data are not sufficiently established to be able to provide objective evaluation of results, especially relating to creation of jobs in rural areas, development of processing on farms or support of small family farms and their development. For this reason the measures adopted so far bring no desired change,” said Mr. Roman Rozsypal of EPOS Association of Advisors in Organic Agriculture. Systematic cooperation of specialist organizations with the Ministry of Agriculture should contribute to the resolution of individual problems.

New implementation rules relating to Council Regulation No. 834/2007 coming into force on 1.1.2009 were also presented at the conference. The use of the unified European logo will be obligatory from 1.7.2010. With regard to the new legislature, emphasis was put on the need to maintain the integrity of organic foodstuffs in relation to their basic value. There was also discussion on the approach of the organic movement to the issue of transporting organic food from developing countries versus the obvious social benefit to the country of the producer. A new sales company – PRODEJ BIO, founded by PRO-BIO Association in cooperation with the German BIOLAND Association was introduced to conference participants.

More than 200 guests from over 20 countries from all around the world took part in this year’s Bioacademy which was held under the auspices of IFOAM EU and the Czech Ministries of Agriculture and the Environment. The main organizers of Bioacademy were PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers and Bioinstitut, in cooperation with BIO Austria, with the specialist cooperation of FiBL and UP Olomouc. Financial contributions were provided by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, the Czech Ministry of the Environment, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, the Environment and Water Management and the Slovak Ministry of Agriculture. The main sponsors were “Ja! Natürlich Naturprodukte“, Lower Austrian Insurance and the Avalon Foundation.

7. Acknowledgement

Bioacademy 2008 could not have been successfully organized without the help of many organisations, institutions and individual people. We thank everyone who contributed to Bioacademy 2008 with financial means, organic food, lectures, presentations, interpretation, technical support, organisational work on preparation or during the actual event, and also to all those who participated in Bioacademy.



Děkujeme firmám, které sponzorsky přispěly svými bioprojekty a biopotravinami na občerstvení / We thank all companies who helped with refreshment for their organic products and organic food

České biopotraviny zajistil PRO-BIO Svaz ekologických zemědělců a dodal tyto členové svazu PRO-BIO / Czech organic food provided by PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers and supplied by the following PRO-BIO members:

Rodina Mádřlova / The Mádř family, Velké Bílovice - biovino / organic wine
 Rodina Peřinova / The Peřina family, Vinný sklep EBEN / Wine cellar EBEN - biovino / organic wine
 Pekařství Leština s.r.o. / Bakery
 Pavel Kyr, Heroltice - biovejce / organic eggs
 Rodina Kořáfova / The Kořář family - zelenina, ovoce, byliny / vegetables, fruits, herbs
 Rodina Komárkova / The Komárek family - zelenina / vegetables
 Bedřich Plíšek - ovoce / fruits

Zahradnické fakultě děkujeme za přípravu občerstvení a poskytnutí zázemí / We thank the Horticultural Faculty for their help with refreshment and their background

Raut pro Vás připravil Moravan, a.s. Peřivál / the buffet Raut was prepared by the Moravan, a.s. Peřivál

Final report compiled by: Jiřina Pavelková, PRO-BIO Association of organic farmers, on the basis of material by Karolína Dyrťová, Andrea Hrabalová, Bořivoj Šarapatka and Michal Kristýnek