



Public Conference

“Evaluating inputs for organic farming – a new system”

1st September 2005

Dear stakeholder

I am writing to invite you to a free public conference on 'evaluating inputs for organic farming – a new system'. We are holding this on Thursday 13th October 2005 at the Commission's Guimard, Rue de Guimard 10, room 0/1.

The conference is the culmination of an EU-funded Concerted Action project in which partners from all over Europe have been working over the last three years. We have:

- compiled information from many EU countries on the varying useages and legislative frameworks for fertilisers and soil conditioners and for plant protection products;
- identified the similarities and differences with a view to establishing a more harmonised approach;
- reviewed Article 7 of Regulation no (EEC) 2092/91 and made proposals for updating and amending it; and
- proposed clear procedures and criteria to assist the Commission in evaluating and approving these inputs.

In the conference, we will be presenting our conclusions of all this work and seeking feedback from you, as interested stakeholders. You will therefore be feeding into the last stage of the project, as we draw up our final recommendations to the Commission.

This topic goes right to the heart of organic farming. What we do and do not allow as inputs to organic farming are critical to its continuing integrity and success. It is vital that we strike the right balance between consumer trust and expectation on the one hand, and what is practical and necessary on the other. We need to honour organic principles but not hold back genuine progress. In this project, we have tried to recognise this heavy responsibility. We ask for your help to review, improve and refine our recommendations.

We look forward to welcoming you at the conference.

Francis Blake
Project Partner

Soil Association
Bristol, UK



Public Conference

“Evaluating inputs for organic farming – a new system”

Aim: To propose improved evaluation procedures for plant protection products, fertilisers and soil conditioners in organic agriculture.

Aimed at: Authorities, policymakers, organisations & other stakeholders working with organic agriculture.

Background: The proposals are the result of a three year EU-funded Concerted Action project ‘ORGANIC INPUTS EVALUATION’ (QLK5-CT-2002-02565). Organic experts throughout the EU have been meeting together to review the current evaluation procedures and to develop an improved system that both reflects the methodology of the EU and safeguards organic principles.

Date: Thursday 13th October 2005, from 10.30-17.00 h.

Location: Guimard Building, Rue de Guimard 10, Brussels, Belgium.

Costs: Free.

Registration: Please fill out and send back the registration form, and for any additional information, contact Andrea Rodriguez, IFOAM EU Group, c/o IUCN, 64 Blvd Louis Schmidt, 1040 Brussels. Tel +32 2 735 7381. E-mail: contact@ifoam-eu.org

Registration deadline: Thursday 15th September.

Further information: For more information on either the conference or the project, and to download earlier reports from the project, please visit: www.organicinputs.org.

Provisional Programme

<i>Time</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
10.30	Welcome	Daniele Tissot, DG RESEARCH Otto Schmid, FiBL
10.45	“Why change the existing system? Introducing the ORGANIC INPUTS EVALUATION project”	Bernhard Speiser, FiBL
11.05	“How does it affect the farmer?”	Marc Trapman
11.30	“A new transparent evaluation process” (presentation, followed by discussion)	Francis Blake, SA
12.00	“New criteria for inputs” (presentation, followed by discussion)	Cristina Micheloni, AIAB
12.30	<i>Organic sandwich lunch</i>	
14.00	“Putting the criteria into practice” (presentation, followed by discussion)	Christopher Stopes, ECO-S
14.30	Case studies: hydrolysed proteins	Chris Koopmans, LBI
15.00	Case studies: spinosad	Bernhard Kromp, LBGIBA
15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.00	Panel discussion	Moderated by Otto Schmid
16.50	Concluding remarks	Francis Blake
17.00	<i>End of conference</i>	