



Organic Knowledge Network on Monogastric Animal Feed OK-Net EcoFeed

EIP-AGRI articles 3rd project year

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Document Versions

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Executive summary

This deliverable is part of the Horizon 2020 project - OK-Net EcoFeed, Work Package 1 – Project management and promotion, led by IFOAM Organics Europe.

The overall aim of OK-Net EcoFeed (Organic Knowledge Network on Monogastric Animal Feed) is to help farmers, breeders and the organic feed processing industry in achieving the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed for monogastrics, in particular pigs, broilers, laying hens and parents of broilers and laying hens.

This present deliverable D1.9 “EIP-AGRI articles 3rd Year”, reports on the activities done to create visibility of the project with the EIP-AGRI network ([European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural productivity and Sustainability](#)). In the 3rd and last year of the project, 4 articles were published in the EIP-AGRI newsletter. These include a project update, the promotion of the Organic Farm Knowledge survey, an article on the handbook “A tool improving health and welfare of pigs” and a news item on the OK-Net EcoFeed final conference.

I. Introduction

The OK-Net EcoFeed project description states that OK-Net EcoFeed will provide 2 articles per project year to ensure good visibility in the EIP-AGRI Network. These objectives were successfully achieved during the third year of the OK-Net EcoFeed project. Indeed, IFOAM Organics Europe has provided 4 articles for the EIP-AGRI newsletter and website. The first article, "[Final project year for OK-Net EcoFeed: 100% use of organic and regional feed for organic pig and poultry farmers](#)", was published on the [EIP-AGRI news](#) on the 16th of June 2020. The second and third articles, "A tool improving health and welfare of pigs" and the "[Organic Farm Knowledge survey](#)" were published in July 2020, [edition 83 of the EIP-AGRI newsletter](#), which focussed on animal health and welfare. Finally, news items promoting and disseminating the [OK-Net EcoFeed Final conference](#) were published in the EIP-AGRI event [calendar](#) and [newsletter in January 2021](#). The articles promoting the Organic Farm Knowledge survey and the OK-Net EcoFeed Final conference were also published on the [OK-Net EcoFeed project website](#) and disseminated through project partners' networks and social media. The details and full articles can be found in this deliverable D1.9 "EIP-AGRI articles 3rd project year".

II. Project update article: "Final project year for OK-Net EcoFeed: 100% use of organic and regional feed for organic pig and poultry farmers"

At the start of the OK-Net EcoFeed in 2018, the article "[New project launched for organic pig and poultry farmers to find solutions for 100% use of organic and regional feed article](#)" was published on the EIP-AGRI website to communicate the launch of the project to the EIP-AGRI network. Since then, the relationship with the EIP-AGRI network has been reinforced by the OK-Net EcoFeed contribution to numerous news items. As the end of the OK-Net EcoFeed project approached, the article was updated on Tuesday, 16 June 2020 to consolidate the OK-Net EcoFeed project within the EIP-AGRI network. The full "[Final project year for OK-Net EcoFeed: 100% use of organic and regional feed for organic pig and poultry farmers](#)" article can be read in the following subchapter.

II.1 Final project year for OK-Net EcoFeed: 100% use of organic and regional feed for organic pig and poultry farmers

Since the start of the project in 2018, OK-Net EcoFeed has been helping organic pig and poultry farmers to achieve the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed.

A key objective of organic farming is that animals are fed with feed produced on or near the farm. Yet, this is difficult to achieve in large parts of Europe. Organic feed and livestock production are concentrated in different regions. Animal feed has to be imported from regions where the animals are raised, and they can be at quite a distance. The problem is most challenging for protein feed, and organic protein is sometimes not available at all.

Bram Moeskops, OK-Net EcoFeed project coordinator said: "Increasing the availability of organic and regional feed will further improve the sustainability of organic agriculture. For the past 2 years OK-Net EcoFeed has worked with farmers, breeders and the organic feed industry to make practical solutions available to improve the use of organic and regional feed."

Lindsay Whistance, Senior Livestock Researcher at the Organic Research Centre said: "The OK-Net EcoFeed project is highly participatory, engaging pig and poultry farmers as well as other important stakeholders across Europe in research and problem solving. Innovation Groups are currently running trials that best fit with their regional potential and opportunities".

Among the outcomes of OK-Net EcoFeed are the [OK-Net EcoFeed Knowledge Synthesis](#), which describes innovative resources of protein feed for organic monogastric animals (pigs, layers and broilers) and several videos showing the experiments carried out by the OK-Net EcoFeed Innovation Groups. All the videos including [“Feeding Insects for Organic Layers”](#), [“Organic Poultry production in Denmark”](#) and others are available on the [OK-Net EcoFeed website](#).

The knowledge collected by OK-Net EcoFeed, including practice abstracts and videos, is available on the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#). Organic Farm Knowledge hosts a wide range of tools and resources for farmers and farm advisors. The platform also serves as a virtual meeting place for cross-border and peer-to-peer learning. It provides 'ready-to-use' knowledge that can help improve production methods in organic farming. More than 200 tools are available in 13 European languages.

Visit the [OK-Net EcoFeed website](#) for the latest project updates.

OK-Net EcoFeed is coordinated by IFOAM EU and involves 19 partners from 11 countries throughout Europe. The project is financed by Horizon 2020.

The partners of OK-Net EcoFeed are:

- IFOAM EU (Belgium)
- ICROFS (Denmark)
- FiBL (Switzerland)
- Organic Research Centre (UK)
- The Soil Association (UK)
- ITAB (France)
- IFIP (France)
- CRAPL (France)
- ITAVI (France)
- FNAB (France)
- Bioland & Bioland Beratung (Germany)
- AIAB (Italy)
- SLU (Sweden)
- Danube Soya Austria & Danube Soya Serbia, Ecovalia (Spain)
- Universidad de Córdoba (Spain)
- CIHEAM Bari (Italy)

III. Organic Farm Knowledge survey

The Organic Farm knowledge survey was promoted by EIP-AGRI services and published in their [newsletter in June 2020](#). The [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) (OFK) hosts a wide range of practical knowledge and tools for organic farmers and advisers that help improve farming practices. It also aims to serve as a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning, knowledge exchange among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe. Originally set up in the framework of the OK-Net Arable project, the Organic Farm Knowledge platform is currently being developed further by the project OK-Net EcoFeed.

The survey was launched to better understand users' needs and preferences and to collect information to further develop and improve the OFK platform.

The survey consisted of two parts:

1. Testing Organic Farm Knowledge.
2. Evaluating Organic Farm Knowledge

Find the full article shared with the EIP-AGRI services and disseminated via project partners' networks and social media in the subchapter below. While the related news item published in the EIP-AGRI news on Monday, 15 June, 2020 can be found [here](#).

III.1 Share your views about Organic Farm Knowledge!

Do you know the online platform Organic Farm Knowledge? We would like to hear from you what you think about it! Your input and suggestions are invaluable when it comes to improving the platform.

Organic Farm Knowledge hosts a wide range of practical knowledge and tools for organic farmers and advisers that help improve farming practices. It also aims to serve as a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning, promoting the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe.

Originally set up by ICROFS (International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems) in the framework of the OK-Net Arable project, Organic Farm Knowledge is currently being developed further by the project OK-Net EcoFeed. Both projects are coordinated by IFOAM EU and are funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The third core partner of the Organic Farm Knowledge platform is FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture).

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and share the link widely with your networks. Deadline is 10 July. Your feedback will help us to improve the platform's user-friendliness and usefulness for end users and to turn it into a unique hub for knowledge about organic farming in Europe.

The survey is available in the following languages:

- English (EN)
- Bulgarian (BG)
- Danish (DK)
- Dutch (NL)
- Estonian (ET)
- French (FR)
- German (DE)

- Hungarian (HU)
- Italian (IT)
- Spanish (ES)

If you want to test the platform before responding to the survey, a guidance is provided here.

For more info please contact: organic-farmknowledge@fibl.org

IV. A tool improving health and welfare of pigs

The handbook "[A tool improving health and welfare of pigs](#)" was published on the Organic Farm Knowledge (OFK) platform in 2015 and translated into Serbian by OK-Net EcoFeed in 2020. The handbook is targeted to organic pig farmers and it is currently available in several languages, including English, German, Czech, French, Italian, Dutch and Albanian.

EIP-AGRI Operational Groups on animal health and welfare

Search through over 300 Operational Groups working on this topic on the [EIP-AGRI Operational Groups database](#).

Check out some videos from these projects and more on the [EIP-AGRI Youtube channel playlist](#) on animal health and welfare. If you would like to add your video to the playlist, please get in touch servicepoint@eip-agri.eu.



A tool improving health and welfare of pigs

This handbook developed as part of the CoreOrganic II project ProPig and published on the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#), summarises the expertise of farmers, consultants, scientists and technical literature for maintaining the health of pigs. It is currently available in several languages, including English, German, Czech, French, Italian, Dutch, Serbian and Albanian. Download the full handbook [here](#).

An article to promote the handbook was published in the [EIP-AGRI newsletter in July 2020](#), which specifically focussed on animal health and welfare. Published on Tuesday 14th of July 2020, it reached more than 7000 people.

The handbook is available free of charges on the [OFK platform](#).

Figure 1. Screenshot of the OK-Net EcoFeed news item published in the EIP-AGRI newsletter (edition-83-july-en)

V. OK-Net EcoFeed final conference: "Improving sustainability and welfare in organic poultry and pig production", 25-26 January 2021, online"

The OK-Net EcoFeed final conference "Improving sustainability in organic poultry and pig production" was held online due to the Covid-19 containment. The event took place on the 25th and 26th of January 2021 and it was a joint effort of 4 projects: [OK-Net EcoFeed](#), [PPILOW](#), [FreeBirds](#) and [POWER](#). It attracted about 200 attendees including researchers, students, farmers, advisers, policy makers and European Commission representatives with interests in organic farming. The dissemination of the event was carried out via a variety of channels including social media, project's partners efforts and news items published on the [IFOAM Organics Europe](#) and EIP-AGRI newsletter. In particular, the final conference was promoted in the EIP-AGRI [calendar](#) and [newsletter \(edition-89-jan2021\)](#). The deliverable linked to the OK-Net EcoFeed final conference is [D.12 "Press release for the final conference"](#) and can be found on the OK-Net EcoFeed project website.



A number of events have been postponed or transformed into online events due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19. Have a look at our events calendar for more information.

Figure 2. Screenshot of the OK-Net EcoFeed news item published in the EIP-AGRI newsletter (edition-89-jan2021)

VI. Conclusions

Over the course of the 3rd year OK-Net EcoFeed project, IFOAM Organics Europe has produced and published 4 articles in the EIP-AGRI newsletter further strengthening the relations with the EIP-AGRI Service Point and reaching the stakeholders in the EIP-AGRI network. It is estimated that more than 25.000 people were reached during the last year of the project. OK-Net EcoFeed acknowledges that the established relationship with the EIP-AGRI Service Point has been of crucial importance. Furthermore, the OK-Net EcoFeed multi-actor approach has greatly benefitted from the dissemination partnership between IFOAM Organics Europe and the EIP-AGRI Service Point.