Welcome to the Public Conference "Evaluating inputs for organic farming – a new system"

Otto Schmid







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Goals of today's conference

- Present the project's proposals (presentation ca. 15 minutes, afterwards 15 minutes discussion)
- Seek general feedback from the audience in the afternoon panel discussion

After the conference:

- All presentations will be on the Project website www.organicinputs.org
- Amend proposals and submit them to the European Commission



Overview about morning programme

10.30 Welcome

Otto Schmid, FiBL, Daniele Tissot, DG RESEARCH,

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"

Francis Blake, SA

12.00 "New criteria for inputs", Cristina Micheloni, AIAB

12.30 Organic sandwich lunch



Overview about afternoon programme

14.00 "Putting the criteria into practice"

Christopher Stopes, ECO-S

14.30 Case studies: hydrolysed proteins,

Chris Koopmans, LBI

15.00 Case studies: spinosad

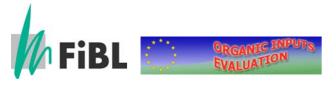
Bernhard Kromp, LBGIBA

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Panel discussion, Moderated by Otto Schmid

16.50 Concluding remarks, Francis Blake

17.00 End of conference



Focus

ATTENTION

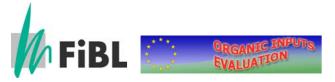
The main focus in the project and today Conference is on the areas within Organic Agriculture, which we can directly influence, and not on the wider political framework for general registration of inputs



Summary of key questions

Procedure:

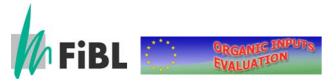
- Is the proposed process an improvement compared with the existing process?
- Does the expert panel fulfil a useful role?
- Does the expert panel have the right composition?



Summary of key questions II

New Criteria in Article 7

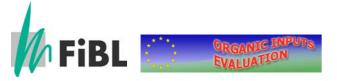
- Are the revised criteria acceptable and if yes do they reflect the principles of organic agriculture?
- If so, do we still need the non-contact clause (only for synthetic products) and the traditional use category?



Summary of key questions III

Criteria Matrix

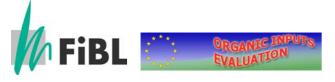
- Is the scoring helpful?
- Can the application & evaluation procedure respect:
 - wide range of conditions,
 - traditions,
 - organic farming systems,
 - values & attitudes of all stakeholders?



Summary of key questions IV

Case study Hydrolised proteins

Were the critical issues identified and evaluated effectively, bearing in mind the multiple origins, manufacturing methods and uses?



Summary of key questions V

Case study: Spinosad

How should the scoring distinguish between environmental/health hazards (potential risk) and the actual risks (taking into account restrictions on use)?



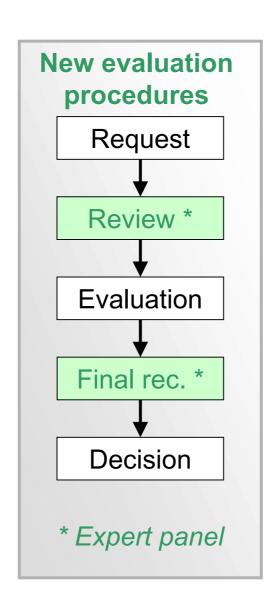
Summary of our proposal



Amend article 7

- Origin
- Manufacture
- Necessity
- Environment
- Human health
- Socio-economic impact
- Org. farming principles

Cover also products for other purposes



New evaluation tool

- criteria matrix
- Application
- Evaluation
- Comparison
- Definitions

Final panel discussion

The purpose of this discussion is to reflect on:

- The general approach we have taken
- The changes to Article 7 we propose
- The criteria matrix as a useful tool
- Unresolved issues
- The next steps

