

Nürnberg, Germany 14.-17.2.2023

# BIOFACH2023

into organic



PRESS RELEASE

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## **BIOFACH Congress 2023: Organic. Food sovereignty. True prices.**

- **How do organic products contribute to food security and sovereignty?**
- **How do true prices pave the path for an ecological transformation of the food and grocery industry?**

**For the next edition of the World's Leading Trade Fair for Organic Food, from 14 to 17 February 2023, the BIOFACH Congress will be focussing on "Organic. Food Sovereignty. True Prices." Following the one-off Summer Edition of BIOFACH and VIVANESS in July 2022, in February 2023 the international organic foods and natural and organic cosmetics community will be gathering again in person to kick off the year at the Nuremberg Exhibition Centre. The BIOFACH Congress will be concentrating on two key questions: How do organic products contribute to food security and sovereignty, and how do "true prices" – prices that include ecological after-costs – pave the path for the necessary transformation of the food and grocery industry?**

"To expand organics' contribution to sustainability further, and thus for the transformation of the food industry as a whole to succeed, the market's failure at using environmental resources must be put to an end at last. Only 'true prices' will make it possible to do business within the bounds our planet can support, leading to the success of a food and agriculture industry that is truly fit to serve our grandchildren. International organisations and government must make the most of organics' potential", said Tina Andres, Chairwoman of the Federation of the Organic Food Industry (BÖLW).

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“Current food pricing takes the ‘polluter pays’ principle and turns it upside down, making environmentally harmful products look ‘cheaper’ than they really are. So organic foods that present more honest costing are at a disadvantage. Which means that thus far, you can make a profit by doing business conventionally – even though it undermines the foundations of life for coming generations. The great market failure in food must be remedied with new systems for accounting, taxation and support. At the congress we want to discuss just how that might be done”, Andres added.

Marco Schlüter, Executive Director, IFOAM – Organics International: “Organic practices have demonstrated a clear ability to provide solutions and ensure a secure, sovereign food supply, because this sustainable way of doing business reinforces farmers’ autonomy and generates added value on a regional basis. The organic system’s contributions towards strengthening a secure, sovereign food supply in every region of the world will also be discussed at the 2023 BIOFACH Congress in light of the current crises.”

## **Food: Sovereign and secure**

The rising prices of energy and food show how fatal it is to depend on fossil fuel-based fertilisers. Meat production in the global north is not tailored to available grazing area, and also contributes to the rise of hunger in the south – which is why we must begin raising livestock on the basis of the space that’s available. Planting coffee or cacao in agroforestry systems demonstrates how much potential organic techniques have to offer in actively protecting the climate. What’s more, supply chains that are over-long, and thus especially vulnerable to disruption in times of crisis, prove how important it is to have stable, regional value chains.

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## **True prices can remedy market failures and facilitate transformation**

Ninety billion euros a year\* – agriculture in Germany causes that much damage to the general good that is not reflected in the price of food. That was the result of a study by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the concluding report of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture (ZKL) of Germany's Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). The cost is many times the sector's value added. The organic food industry can avoid doing most of this damage because it does business in a way that protects resources.

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the impact of the war on Ukraine, the energy crisis, the consequences of the climate crisis and species extinction – these are ratcheting up social and economic tensions around the globe. But organic products make the food supply more secure, thanks to their closed-loop economy, lower dependence on external inputs, and strong regional value chains. By operating in a way that conserves resources, organic practices reinforce biodiversity, enhance soil fertility, and protect the climate, yielding resilient cropping systems and food sovereignty.

The main theme of the BIOFACH Congress is arranged jointly each year by IFOAM – Organics International, the Federation of the Organic Food Industry (BÖLW), and BIOFACH.

If you're interested, you can find out more about the Congress at: [www.biofach.de/en/biofach-congress](http://www.biofach.de/en/biofach-congress).

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