ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND ITS
BENEFITS FOR CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

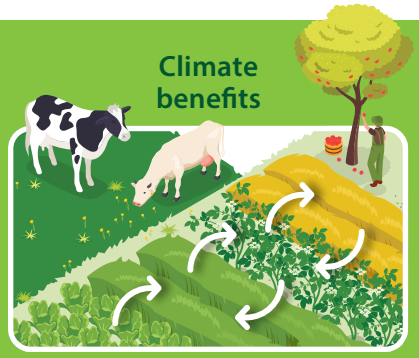
IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

Organic farming's systemic approach:
- Helps mitigating climate change
- Supports farmers' adaptation to climate change
- Creates resilient farming systems

All while it protects and improves biodiversity!

#OrganicIsPartOfTheSolution

Climate benefits

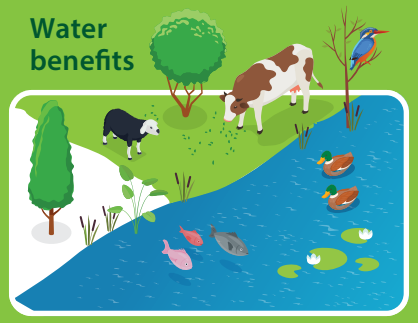


Reduced emissions by non-use of synthetic fertilisers
- ↓ 20% of global agricultural GHG emissions could be reduced using no synthetic fertilisers
- ↓ 40% less N2O emissions/ha
- ↓ Less dependency from fossil fuel intensive external inputs

Improved manure management
- ↓ 70% lower methane emissions
- ↓ 50% lower nitrous oxide emissions

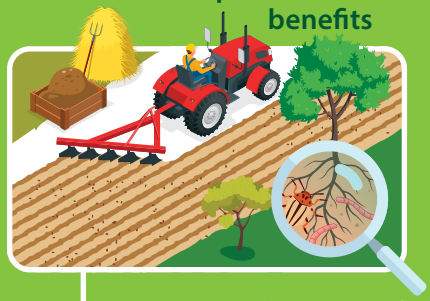
Reduced GHG emissions and increased carbon sequestration
- ↑ Additional 3.5 tonnes C/ha soil organic carbon stocks
- ↑ Additional 450 kg C/ha/yr carbon sequestration
- ↓ 15% less energy consumed per kg of product
- ⊕ More resilient to changing weather conditions
- ⊕ 1082 kg CO2 eq/ha/yr avg climate protection performance

Water benefits



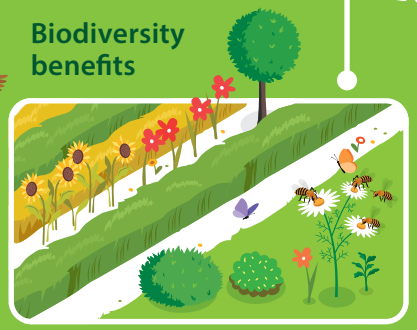
- ↓ 28-39% less nitrate leaching
- ⊕ Water bodies are protected from contaminants

Soil and plant health benefits



- ⊕ Improved soil quality and fertility
- ⊕ Better structure
- ↑ Higher humus content
- ⊕ Better soil aggregate stability
- ↓ 22% less soil loss
- ↓ 26% lower soil surface water flow
- ↑ Increased water infiltration rate by 137%

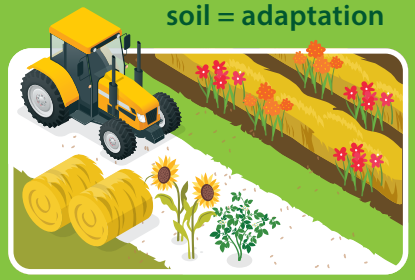
Biodiversity benefits



- ↑ 30% more species
- ↑ 50% more individuals
- ↑ 20-95% more plant species*
- ↑ 150% higher abundance of plant species*
- ↑ 23% more insect species
- ↑ 30% more pollinators

*in field and field margins

Biodiversity and healthy soil = adaptation



- ⊕ Increased biodiversity supports natural pest control
- ⊕ Stabler yields during drought periods
- ⊕ Increased adaptability to future environmental conditions

ORGANIC FARMING

Keeps animals with outside grazing areas and has clear rules on stocking densities

Aims for closed nutrient cycles without using synthetic pesticides and fertilisers

Includes beneficial management practices like crop rotations and organic fertiliser

Offers a diversity of farmland through mindful land use and protection of natural habitats

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References for above figures can be found in IFOAM Organics Europe (2022), Organic agriculture and its benefits for climate and biodiversity, https://bit.ly/3U25Xve / Nic Lampkin and Bruce Pearce (2020), Organic farming and biodiversity, IFOAM Organics Europe, https://bit.ly/3gsPtyL

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