

Organic Action Plan for Denmark
Working together for more organics



Preface

Organic products have derived from biodynamic idealism in small health food stores to a natural and ordinary shopping choice in supermarkets.

This development did not come out of the blue. It is the result of cooperation between farsighted farmers, organisations and politicians that has turned Denmark into the world's leading country for organics. We will continue to strive for this ambitious goal.

With a new Organic Action Plan for Denmark, the Danish government will further develop and enlarge the organic production.

Our aim is to double the organically cultivated area by 2020 from the 2007 level. We need to engage all relevant actors in Denmark to achieve this ambitious goal.

The government wants the public sector to lead the way. Therefore, we speed up the transition from conventional to organic production on publicly owned land and we continue our efforts to support public kitchens to go organic. As a result more than 800,000 people will benefit from healthy, organic meals served every day in canteens, hospitals and nurseries.

Furthermore, we strengthen the knowledge of organic food and organic production in primary schools and in agricultural education. We also focus on research in new organic solutions and on creating space for new experiments. And we invest in new export drivers and information to increase the sales of Danish organics nationally and globally.

Consumers' demand for organic food is higher than ever before. Today 97 percent of all Danes know the national organic logo, which can celebrate its 25 years anniversary in 2015, and eight percent of all food sold in Denmark is organic. This is the highest percentage in the world and the share is rising. Danish organic export has also risen by more than 200 per cent since 2007. This holds great potential for the future.

We will now unite our efforts to further develop organic production and consumption for the benefit of the environment, our nature, animal welfare and future generations.

Dan Jørgensen
Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries



1.0 An increased export effort

Even in times of global financial challenges there has been a significant and worldwide growth in the demand for Danish organic products. This holds great potentials. The government therefore upscales its work for further exports of Danish organics.

How the Danish government will promote exports of organics:

- In 2015-2018 the government allocates € 4,5 million to support a variety of export activities for the Danish organic business sector.
- The Danish government will focus its collaboration with embassies and the national dialogue forum for organics exports.
- The Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries will take part in export promotions and trade fairs for organics.
- The government reinforces the dialogue with public institutions on strategic export markets where Danish organic producers have the capacity to benefit from new market potentials.
- The government works to ease export of Danish organic products to China.

- The Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries strengthens the export efforts including organic export by recruiting new personnel to this task.

The government is calling on organic businesses to:

- Apply for the EU sales promotion subsidies to expand the export effort for organic food products on new promising export markets.





2.0 Let's go organic

The consumer's demand for organic food is rising and the potential remains large. The government promotes domestic demand.

The government will promote sales in Denmark:

- In 2015-2018 the government allocates more than € 3.3 million for sales promotion on the domestic market.
- The government works to simplify the control requirements of common EU regulation for supermarkets to use organic raw materials.

The government will push public kitchens to go organic:

- In 2015-2018 the government allocates almost € 8 million to support public kitchens to significantly increase their use of organic raw materials
- The government offers advice to public institutions wishing to change their kitchens to be organic.

The government will support more organics in public food purchases

- In 2015-2016 the government allocates almost € 3 million to advise public sections responsible for purchasing and supply of foods.
- Through the project 'Smart Food Purchases', the government continues the dialogue with the major public supply provider to ensure more organic food purchases.
- The government will begin a dialogue with the Partnership for Public Green Purchasing (POGI) for setting new targets for the purchase of organic foods by the local and regional administrations.

The Government will promote the organic food brands

- The government will further promote the organic food brand for restaurants, cafes and canteens meeting requirements for the use of organic raw materials.



3.0 Working together for more organics

Denmark's efforts to promote organics are spread across many public institutions. The government strengthens its efforts by gathering actors for a joint move for more organic production.

The government will promote organics across ministries:

- The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries coordinates cross-ministry collaboration to promote organics in all ministries' policies.

The ministries' land areas and kitchens

- The government strengthens collaboration between institutions to speed up the transition to organic production on publicly owned land, and to increase the use of organics in public canteens.
- The Ministry of Defence launches a pilot project in order to introduce more organics in their canteens.
- The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries registers the annual growth of organically farmed land owned by the state.

- The Ministry of Health collaborates with regional authorities in order to increase the share of organics in hospital canteens.

More organics in agricultural training

- The government collaborates with the institutions of agricultural education to further promote organic production in the training of farmers.

Private foundations and organics

- The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries will provide know-how and experience to non-profit foundations in their work with organics.

How the government will promote organics in local municipalities and schools:

- The government will host a workshop for all municipalities about future organic partnerships.
- The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries will publish annual digital maps of all organic fields.

- Aarhus University has been commissioned to map the extent of organic production and its potential for groundwater protection.
- The government will continue the substantial level of subsidies for schools distributing organic fruit and vegetables.
- The government will increase educational activities in connection with schools' distribution of organic fruit and vegetables.
- The government wants to raise the number of schools working with organics, by providing inspirational materials on organics and sustainability.

The government calls on:

- Local authorities to continue their efforts towards more organics on publicly owned lands, in public kitchens and in education.
- Schools to include organics in education, for instance through organic cultivation of school gardens, visits to organic farms, focusing on organic products in school kitchens, or studying and comparing conventional and organic production forms.

The government will promote organics in the EU:

- The government works to ensure that it does not become more complex to have an organic production and that flexibility is maintained.

- The government works to further harmonise EU regulations.
- The government works to include nature and climate requirements in EU regulations.
- The government works to strengthen animal welfare in EU regulations.
- The government works to introduce requirements for the packaging of organic foods.
- The government continues to strive for a strict control of organic products and simple requirements for retailers of organic products.
- The government works to ensure that the European Commission initiates information campaigns for the promotion of the European organics logo both in the EU and globally.
- The government works to ensure that the European Commission facilitates increased market access for organic products in non-member states, for instance through negotiations for free trade agreements.



4.0 Developing the organic business sector

New technology and new ideas are necessary for the continued growth of organics. Therefore the government supports the organic sector with resources for the development of expertise and investments in new technologies.

The government supports organic producers:

- In 2015 the government allocates more than € 1.6 million for general educational activities and skill development.
- In 2015 the government allocates almost € 5.4 million for investments in organic agricultural production.

Government supported advisory service for organic products and local green sales efforts:

- In 2015-2016 the government allocates more than € 1.3 million to the advisory service for organic products.
- In 2015-2016 the government allocates almost € 1.1 million to projects promoting local sales and development of organic products.

The government develops the organic sector:

- In 2015 the government allocates more than € 3 million to the Innovation Fund Denmark for investments in organic research.
- In 2015 the government allocates € 4 million to the green development and demonstration programme (GUDP) and the International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS).
- The government contributes to solve the challenges of organic production in collaboration with universities.
- The government launches a knowledge synthesis concerning the beneficial effects of organics in society



5.0 More and greener organic producers

To double the Danish organic production area in 2020, the transition to organic production must be speeded up. The government strengthens the development and existing work of alternative forms of ownership and operation.

The government will promote development:

Conversion, preservation, sustainability and experimental organics

- In 2015-2018 the government allocates € 3.6 million to support supervision of conversion, preservation and sustainability on organic farms, and to subsidize experimental organic projects.
- The government allocates more than € 1.3 million a year to support the development potentials and competitiveness of organic agriculture through the Fund for Organic Agriculture.
- From 2016 the government will work to allocate further € 670,000 a year to organic projects with special priority, financed by the agricultural funds.

The government subsidizes the organically formed land:

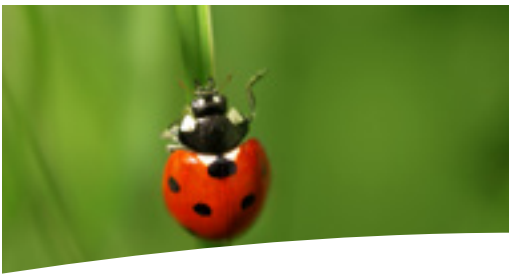
- The government launches a targeted subsidy model, the Organic Land Subsidy Scheme; with a basic subsidy of almost € 117 per hectare a year.
- The government will continue giving a supplement of € 161 per hectare a year to the Organic Land Subsidy Scheme for land areas under conversion to organic production, for the first two years of the conversion.

General guidance

- The government will strengthen the information about subsidies to organic producers in 2015.

The government works with alternative forms of ownership and operation:

- The government will appoint a working group of representatives of the authorities, the industry, financial institutions, researchers and other relevant actors. The working group should monitor existing projects and identify barriers to the establishment of new forms of ownership and operation.



6.0 A more resilient organic production

Organic agriculture has higher production costs and often faces greater challenges than conventional farming. The government will therefore help those parts of the organic sector that are particularly challenged and further ease their access to new types of fertilizer and fodder.

The government supports production of plants, fruit and berries:

- From 2015 the government will introduce a supplement of € 67 per hectare a year for organic areas with reduced use of nitrogen.
- From 2015 the government will introduce a supplement of more than € 537 per hectare a year for organic areas used for fruit and berry production.

Better prevention of damage by pests and vermin

- The government has earmarked € 160,000 in 2015 to promote applications for permits to use alternative pesticides or for reimbursing part of the fees for the permit.

- The government works to include more natural substances on the positive list of the EU's organic regulation and thereby facilitate their approval for preventing pests and vermin on organic fields.
- During 2015 the Ministry of the Environment changes regulation to exempt certain pesticides, which can be used in organic farming, from the requirements of a pesticide certificate.

The government improves recirculation of nutrients:

- The government appoints a working group in order for the authorities, the industry and organisations to cooperate on the increase of organic producers' access to plant nutrients, including source-separated household waste and organic waste from the service sector.
- The government will uncover the possibility for recirculating nutrients to organic farming.
- In connection with its resource strategy, the government will study more closely how nutrients, including phosphor, in organic waste can be used better in organic farming.

- The government works for the recirculation of nutrients extracted from urban wastewater and the like, to be reused in e.g. organic production.

The government promotes the development of organic protein-rich fodder:

- The government will ensure continued Danish participation in the PPP project in 2015-17.
- In 2015 the government allocates almost € 700,000 for the development of organic species and species tests under the green development and demonstration programme (GUDP).

The government will promote the development of organic pig production:

- In 2015 the government allocates more than € 500,000 to the development of organic pig production.
- The government sets up a committee in 2015 to promote breeding, production systems and sales of organic pig production.
- The Ministry of Environment supports a flexible approval scheme for special stabling systems for organic producers to reduce ammonia evaporation and for breeding systems to reduce the run-off of nutrients from pens.



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Karin Møller-Olsen

**The Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Fisheries
of Denmark**

Slotsholmsgade 12
DK-1216 Copenhagen K

Tel. +45 33 92 33 01
fvm@fvm.dk www.fvm.dk