



# Bionext and the new European legislation

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# Organic in the Netherlands

1. Bionext organisation
2. Development organic in Netherlands
3. Our vision on the new EU organic legislation



Part 1

# Bionext organisation

# Bionext from farm to fork: unique organisation in organic agrofood



Bionext connects the organic foodchain

# Bionext is based on 3 pillars

- Organic farmers (800 out of 1600)
- Organic processors/trade (100 out of 1900)
- Organic shops (200 out of 310)



And a network of consumers (20.000)

# Organiser of the Bio-beurs

- Dutch organic Trade Fair
- Agriculture, food and non-food, technology
- Over 10,000 visitors in two days
- For organic farmers, producers and trading companies, retailers, chefs and restaurateurs



**BIOBEURS**  
De biologische vakbeurs

Wednesday, January 17th, 11.00 - 21.00  
Thursday, January 18th, 10.00 - 19.00

# EU-bio and NL-EKO quality

EKO = transparency in sustainability developments



**Verification + Impact:**  
EKO license & EKO label

**Sustainability Standard**

**Technical  
Commission**

**Certification + Output:**  
EU organic logo

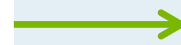
**EU regulation**

**Skal**

EU regulation



# Connected with organic sector in Europa



Farmers group



IGOP (Processors group)





# Connected with organic research in Europa



Bionext is national platform of TP Organics

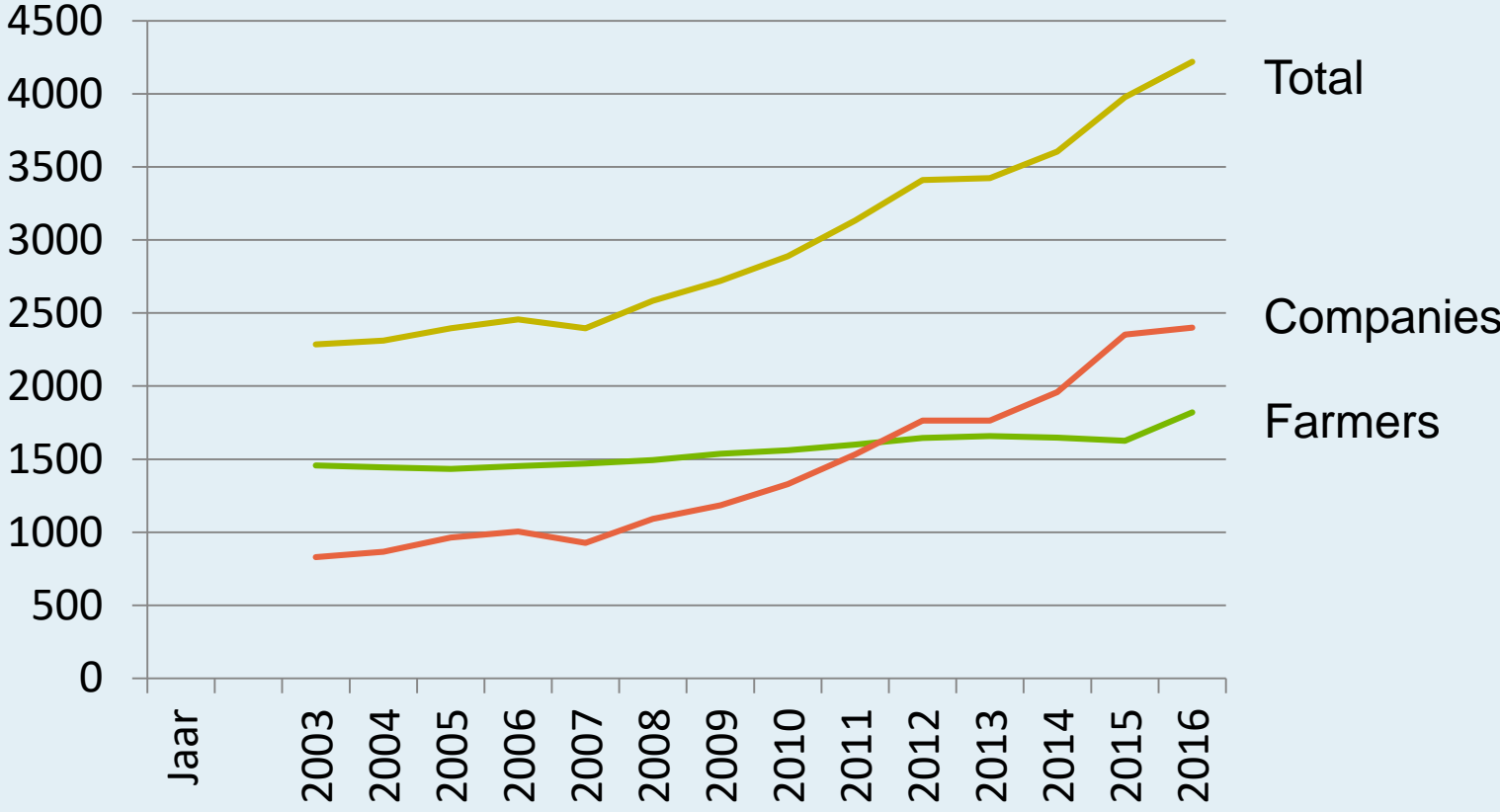




Part 2

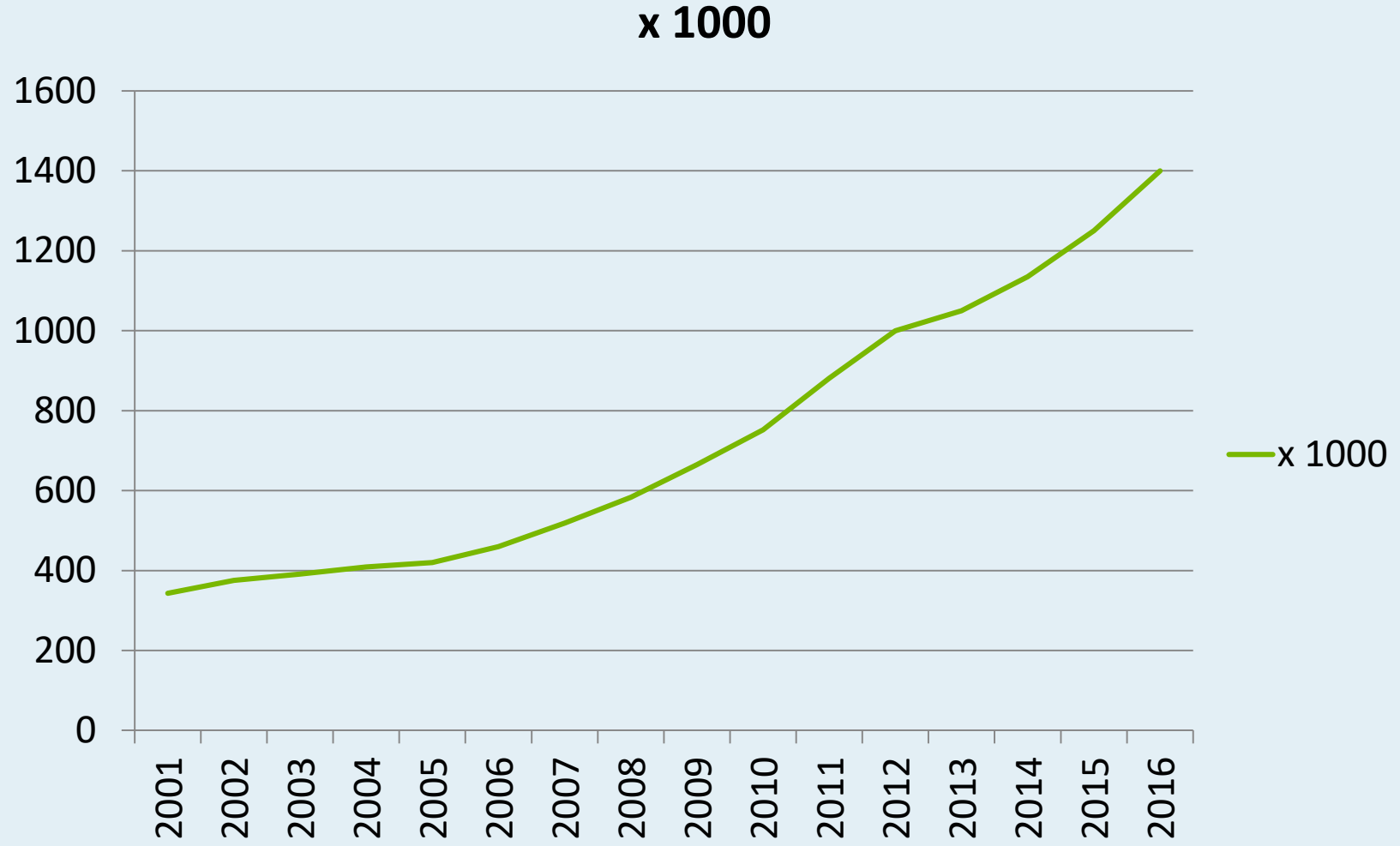
# Organic in the Netherlands 2001-2016

# Organic farmers & companies in NL

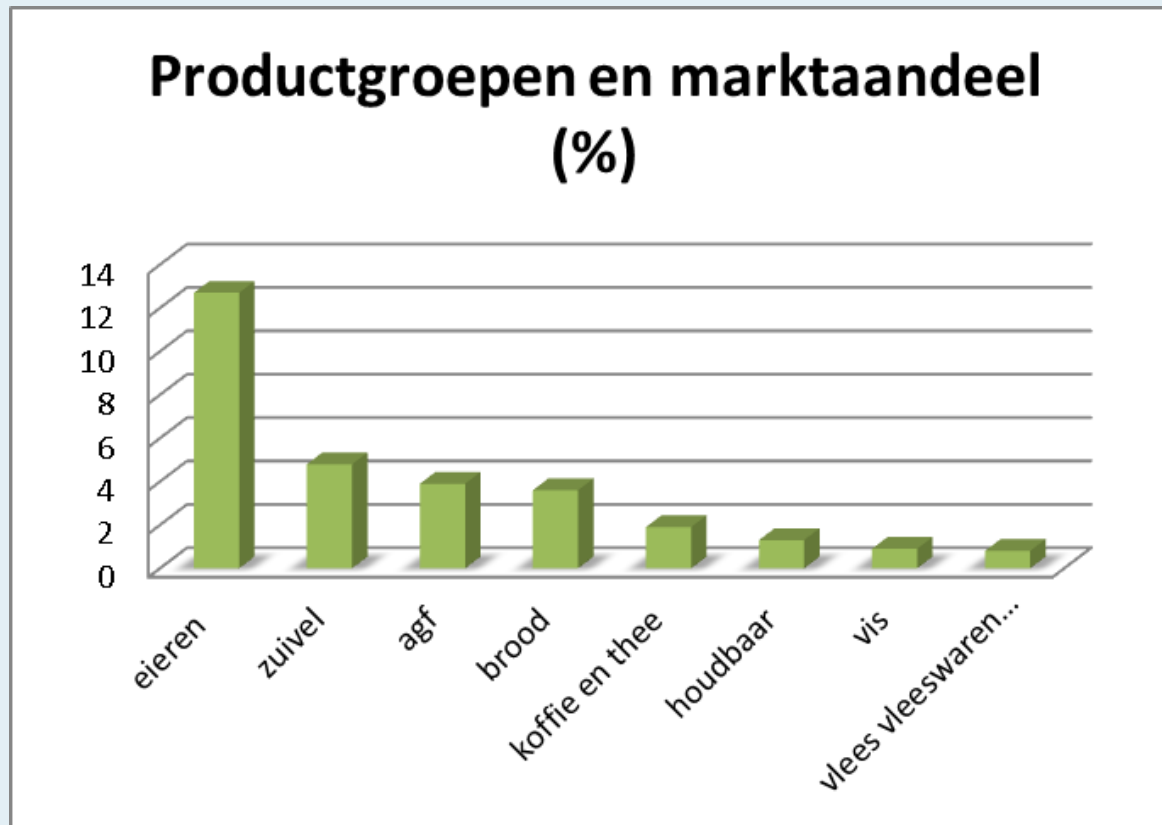




# Organic sales in the Netherlands



# Market share per category



# Organic sales per channel



# Market 2008-2017

- Trends:
  - Doubling sales in 6-7 years.
  - Strong developments in supermarkets since summer 2014
  - Stabilisation in organic shops since summer 2014
  - Fresh is main driver
  - Processed food is runner up



Part 3

# Our vision on the New European organic legislation



# Bumpy proces

- March 2014:

**IFOAM EU PRESS RELEASE: ORGANIC SECTOR CONCLUDES ORGANIC REGULATION PROPOSAL IS INADEQUATE**

Brussels, 06/05/2014 – The organic sector discussed the legislative proposal for a [new organic EU](#)

- June 2017: 3 years of advocacy work: Big improvements in proposed text: many sector demands included in draft text
- Better to continue than stop

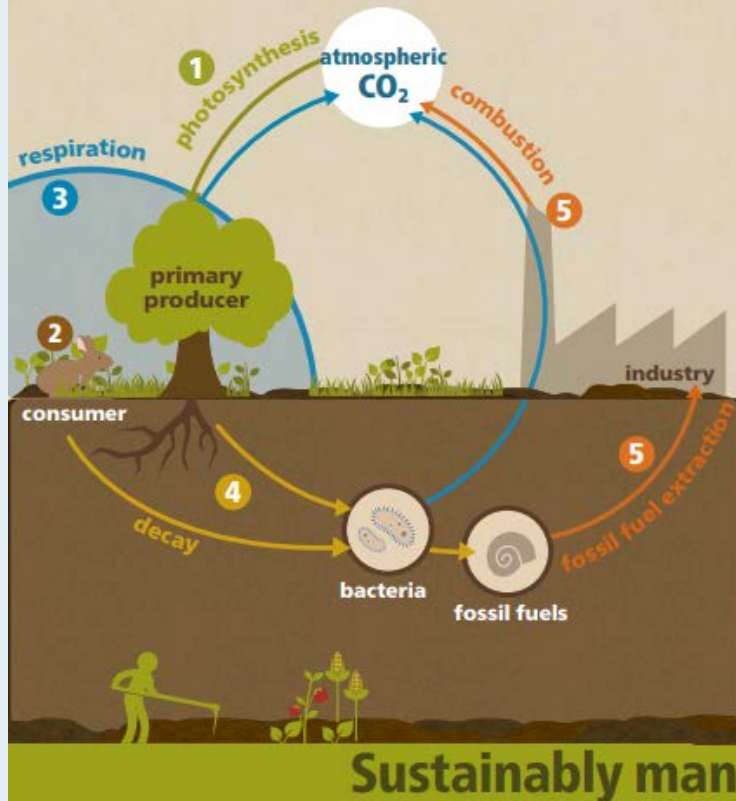
# Important improvements

- Soil-related production principle is strengthened
- No decertification limit for residues, but improved guidance on producer and controlbody responsibilities

# Soil bound crop production

## Soils and the Carbon Cycle

The carbon cycle is the exchange of carbon (in various forms, e.g., carbon dioxide) between the atmosphere, ocean, terrestrial biosphere and geological deposits.



**Sustainably managed soils**

1

Plants use CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, water from the soil and sunlight to make their own food and grow in a process called **photosynthesis**. The carbon they absorb from the air becomes part of the plant.

2

**Animals** that feed on the plants pass the carbon compounds along the food chain.

3

Most of the carbon the animals consume is converted into CO<sub>2</sub> as they breathe (**respiration**), and is released back into the atmosphere.

4

When the animals and plants die, the dead organisms are eaten by decomposers in the soil (**bacteria and fungi**) and the carbon in their bodies is again returned to the atmosphere as CO<sub>2</sub>.

5

In some cases, the dead plants and animals are buried and turn into **fossil fuels**, such as coal and oil, over millions of years. Humans burn fossil fuels to create energy, which sends most of the carbon back into the atmosphere in the form of CO<sub>2</sub>.

C




# Soil as a basis in the organic legislation

Definition taken up: **'soil-related crop cultivation'** means production in **living soil or in soil mixed or fertilised with materials and products allowed in organic production in connection with the subsoil and bedrock**

Phasing out of production above soil in Sweden, Denmark, Finland: max 10 years and only existing operations.

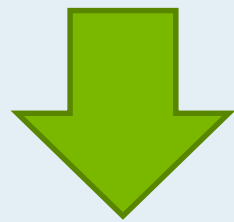
*Not regulated well: fertilisation should feed the soil that feeds the plant, so 100% fertigation systems should not be allowed.*

# Residue legislation

- organic farmers can't be forced to pay for contamination and pollution which is beyond their control
  - EU questionnaire: 42% EU citizens sees absence of chemical residues as high product quality
- 

# Wat does this mean for the future?

- The better the technique, the more residues will be detected
- Background levels of contamination are growing
- Different labs give different results



No organic agriculture possible in mixed areas (with non-organic agriculture)



# Improve the control system: shared responsibility

- Asking for a certificate is not enough
- Companies are responsible for the organic quality
- If they have a suspicion of non-conformity: companies should investigate. If suspicion is substantiated: notify CB. If not: good administration so that CB can check afterwards.
- More risk based control: both by the control bodies and the companies

→ how to prevent risks is the question: more knowledge on risks means one can better prevent.



# Annexes: time for an update

- Organic uses inputs which are bad for bees
  - Copper
  - Spinosad
- Les exceptions for non-organic ingredients
- More organic seeds



# Implementing and delegated acts

- Coming 2,5 years focus on the important details
- Around 60 implementing and delegated acts!



Part 4

Do it yourself: what can we do to improve the organic sector?



# Dutch organic sector unites against potato disease

- Aim: 100% organic late blight -resistant potatoes by 2020
- Voluntary agreement
- With 25 Dutch organic potato breeders, growers, and big supermarket chains
- to give robust varieties preference in the breeding, growing and selling stages
- And to stop the use of copper in the potato breeding (both as foliar fertilization and as a fungicide)

# Biotrust

- Webbased tool for organic risk assesment
- Developed by Bionext in cooperation with Aöl, Précon and ChainPoint
- Supported by Dutch Ministry of Economical Affaires





- Biotrust is NOT about rules and procedures; it is about ethics, responsibility, attitude and management commitment.
- We can NOT create a risk-free foodsystem
- We do have an **obligation** towards all the ones that rely on us to **do the uttermost** we can

# BioTrust process: 6 steps

## STEP 1: Define Risk Matrix

Likelihood

Impact



## STEP 2: Define General Product –Process Hazard

f.e. Contamination with conventional



## STEP 3: Modify Risk

Country Risk

Relationship risk



## STEP 4: Validate the Risk

Low

Medium

High

## STEP 5: Reduce the risks

Design an action plan

## STEP 6: Implement and evaluate acc. PDCA cycle



Happy to meet you online:

[www.bionext.nl](http://www.bionext.nl)

[www.bio-beurs.nl](http://www.bio-beurs.nl)

[@BionextTweets](https://twitter.com/BionextTweets)