

BIOFACH WORLD'S LEADING TRADE FAIR FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND VIVANESS 2024

COLLABORATIVE AND FUTURE ORIENTED RESULTS

by Kim Assaël

[BIOFACH – World's Leading Trade Fair for Organic Food has seen the global organic community in action](#) from 13 to 16 of February 2024 in Germany combining a full programme of events with great success.

BIOFACH is the important business and emotional event for the organic sector since 1990 and the meeting place for the organic sector trade visitors coming from hundreds of countries, with regional, national and international stakeholders from the entire value chains which every year meet to forge a more sustainable future.

In 2024 the international fair for organic food has attracted almost 35,991 visitors from 128 countries and there has been an impressive total of 2,550 exhibitors from 94 countries (shared with VIVANESS), defining industry trends in addition to product trends.

It confirms to be a diverse exhibition program with a wide range of products inviting visitors to explore organic food and industrial trends, with a focus on holistic circular systems and regenerative agriculture based on organic farming, that are of growing importance to protect climate and to care for personal and planetary health.

The event's international patron IFOAM *Organics International*, and national supporting organization, the German Federation of Organic Food Producers (BÖLW) decided on one topic focus of the 2024 congress is *Food for the Future: [Women's Impact on Sustainable Food Systems](#)*. As underlined by IFOAM Organic Europe & IFOAM Organics International during the BIOFACH's congress in the sessions focusing on policy, regulation, and research, women have a central role for their multifunctional approach in territorial activities at local level, as usually happens in organic territories in Europe, shaping the performance of Bio-Districts or Ecoregions. Those territories in fact become hubs of sustainable community development through the crucial contribution of women's traditional knowledge of the local food system, their know-hows for health and food security, experienced agroecological practices, gastronomy culture, farm-tourism hospitality. It is of a good



wish that Bio-districts for example in Germany (Öko-Modellregionen, Bio-Musterregionen) and in Italy (Distretti biologici), have already become an integral part of organic action plans to achieve the political goals for organic farming on the EU, national and federal state level

In addition to the main theme concerning the transformative power of women *in the food sector* which was discussed by almost 700 listeners, the congress also put the spotlight on political framework conditions, the future of the organic specialist trade and retail segment –the backbone of the organic sector- and the use of organic food in out-of-home and communal catering, addressing the question of how agroecology can help shape a food system in which all stakeholders are truly equal.

The VIVANESS congress program has offered exciting insights into the latest scientific findings and industry during all four days of the event, with industry stakeholders exploring highly topical issues for the natural and organic personal care sector and future developments in all forums.

BIOFACH recognises the potential of the government’s strategy of incorporating more organic food into out-of-home catering and has covered this increasingly important market more extensively than ever this year. The programme focused on market developments in Germany and the rest of Europe, Germany’s new Organic Out-of-Home Catering Regulation ([Bio-AHVV](#)), the nutritional transformation of the kitchen, and regional value-added chains.

The Sstadtlandbio forum has also covered the important issue of organic food in the communal catering segment (public procurement law and strategies for making more organic food choices) exploring ways in which towns and communities can promote high-quality yet cost-effective organic dining options in community catering establishments while supporting regional producers.

The German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture has set the ambitious target of 30% organic food in public kitchens by 2030, a challenging goal, with funding schemes, for the out-of-home communal catering and hospitality sector. It is a nationwide initiative certifications and new regulations designed to increase the number of organic ingredients in out-of-home and catering and cut food waste where in 2022 the organic component was just 2% (Source: BÖLW Industry Report 2023).

The ambitious target - which can only be achieved through a strong organic retail sector with its regional supply chains and SMEs- has been discussed in the sessions of the Fachhandel Forum (in German) exploring topics like market developments, new communication and marketing tools, and the recruiting of new staff to deal with the retail’s sector challenges.

During the Congress another session was dedicated to join the European Technology Platform (ETP) for organic food & farming TP Organics celebration of the Science Day, introduced in collaboration with IFOAM Organics Europe. The Sustainable organic food innovation Labs, have been one of the 2024 new initiatives developed in the framework of the European Union Horizon Programme, involving a large network of actors and encompassing the whole value chain and benefits for members.



[BIOFACH World](#) has had a global presence with another seven BIOFACH events in China, India, Japan, South America, Thailand, the USA and Saudi Arabia, year after year bringing together around 4,500 exhibitors and more than 150,000 trade visitors.

With a total of 171 sessions demonstrated the future-oriented focus of the congress. Targeted questions, for example on current market developments and trends or political and legal framework conditions, were answered for the 8,000 interested visitors and once again proved to be a forward- looking forum for the sector. It represented a highly relevant political message to give the organic food and natural and organic cosmetics community a platform to focus on how organic products contribute to food security and sovereignty for important exchanges and for actively shape the ecological transformation.

The [digital platform](#) of BIOFACH offers a networking and archive space that combines the best of BIOFACH on-site with the digital world. For all press releases, photos and news, further information is available in the BIOFACH and VIVANESS that already announces the next global event in the series, to meet again from 11 to 14 February 2025.

In a complex scenario like the current one, in which attention to the environment and sustainability are increasingly important factors, purchasing decisions are decisive and it becomes important to enhance the benefits that agroecological transition involves in the protection of biodiversity, soil fertility, food safety and the health of people and the environment, with a view to the well-being for future generations.

To know more

[BIOFACH 2024 website](#)

[BIOFACH Newsroom](#)

[World News Update | BIOFACH](#)

[BIOFACH congress programme 2024 | BIOFACH](#)

[TP Organics' Science Day at BIOFACH 2024 – event review | TP Organics](#)

[Another Successful Year Representing Organic Voices at BIOFACH 2024 | IFOAM](#)

[The World of Organic Agriculture 2023](#)

<https://www.biofach.de/en/all-about-the-exhibition/biofach-world>
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