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Programme

The conference will focus on organic farming and how to maintain and improve its integrity. It will broaden participants' understanding of quality issues and aims at bridging obstacles from production throughout the value chain to companies having to cope with consumers concerns.

The conference will take place parallel to the organic trade fair Ecology Izmir on two days (April 13-14) with plenary plus parallel sessions. Key speeches are invited by the organizers in plenary sessions. The parallel sessions are **open for contributions until February 24**. Sessions on training are organised jointly with the German-Turkish Cooperation Programm Organic Agriculture. Sessions on textile and fibre are organised in cooperation with Textile Exchange.

Topics

- Quality assurance in production, processing and trade
- Residue monitoring
- Anti fraud activities
- Product chain responsibility and traceability
- Education and training regarding these topics
- Organic fibres and sustainable textiles

Conference languages are Turkish and English, with simultaneous translation; in case of sufficient interest also Russian.

Excursions to organic producers and processors are organized on April 12 and 15, 2012.

4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on the **organic sector** development in **Central/Eastern European** and **Central Asian** countries



April 13 - 14, 2012
excursions on April 12 and 15

Organic farming - how to maintain and improve its integrity

Venue: Izmir trade fair, hall No. 3

website: <http://turkey.organic-conference.info>

Organizers



Why this conference?

It is the 4th of a series of conferences focussing on the organic sector development in Central/Eastern, Central Asian and neighbouring countries. The conference is meant as a place to network, to meet new partners and trade contacts in a region not easy to access. It presents an excellent opportunity to learn about recent developments, to promote companies activities and to increase recognition. It is an ideal meeting point for all important stakeholders active in the organic sector in the targeted region. It offers the opportunity to learn from each other by reaching out to the leading personalities of the organic sector internationally and in the region.

In the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus agriculture plays an important role. Most of the inhabitants live in rural areas. Huge farms contrast with small scale subsistence farming. Some of the best soils worldwide are located in the region, but also areas of heavily degraded agricultural land. The countries have to cope with effects of intensive use of agrochemicals, soil salinity, desertification and water scarcity.

It is organic agriculture that offers the most sustainable solution for developing the agricultural sector and provides food security with least negative impacts on the environment. Organic farming offers solutions for sound rural development. It provides healthy food, maintains and creates jobs. High quality organic foods are market openers for both national and international markets. This is especially viable for rural areas disadvantaged by policy, technology and globalisation.

Conference objectives

Organic products can be trusted. The inspection and certification regime is the best the food industry at large has ever experienced. But scandals and fraud cases weaken the integrity of organic.

Some issues which may later result in fraudulent actions have their beginning in the failure of successfully implementing organic principles in farming or at any other point of the food chain.

Experiences and challenges in organic quality assurance along the product chain will be discussed from the point of view of producers, processors, and certifiers.

„With its geographic position Turkey is the perfect trade and business location linking the markets of Central Asia and Eastern Europe as well as to the European Union and other international markets. Turkey has a long history of organic agriculture and exporting of organic.“

Atila Ertem, ETO Association
www.eto.org.tr

„Organic should and must be the prevailing system of agriculture globally and in the near future. If not, we are not acting responsibly.“

Gerald A. Herrmann, Organic Services GmbH
www.organic-services.com

„Organic production and trade in the target region will only have a future if consumers trust it and the sector manages to maintain and improve the integrity of organic. Training and education in quality issues are as crucial as anti fraud initiatives are.“

Dr. Eugene Milovanov, Organic Federation of Ukraine
www.organic.com.ua

Registration and participation fees

The participation fee covers the entrance to Ecology Izmir trade fair, admission to all sessions, a conference bag including paper, pen and conference proceedings, refreshments during coffee breaks and two lunches.

Early registration: 90 €

70 € for non EU/NA

After February 29: 180 €

120 € for non EU/NA

Cash payment: 190 €

130 € for non EU/NA

Conference dinner and participation at excursions are charged for separately.

Registration is possible at the conference website.

Contact & information

For participants: Mrs. Özge Çiçekli

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General: Mrs. Susanne Krause

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<http://turkey.organic-conference.info>

Accommodation

Blocks of rooms at special rates are set aside for conference participants at several hotels. Conference participants are asked to directly book the hotel mentioning "organic conference" to get the special price.

For the hotel list and further details, please check the conference website.