



Ulla Bertelsen
CORE Organic coordinator



Making a difference on the farm:

CORE Organic ERA-NET brings organic research closer to practice across Europe

The CORE Organic research network finances research projects that span the entire organic food chain. One of its key goals is to make organic research results usable in practice, so that they can have a real impact on the organic agricultural sector.

ERA-NETs (European Research Area Networks) are networks of funding agencies that coordinate transnational research programmes in Europe. The ERA-NET CORE Organic started in 2003 and is now in its third period of funding from the European Commission. CORE Organic requires all its funded projects to upload their scientific publications to the open-access database Organic Eprints, which is the 6th largest archive on agricultural research in the world, used by more than 6,500 researchers, farmers, advisers and teachers every day. Articles are available in English but those that are directed at farmers and advisory services are also published in the national languages, making them very accessible.

CORE Organic coordinator Ulla Bertelsen is convinced that CORE Organic and the EIP-AGRI share a lot of common ground and could learn from each other.

Ulla, which similarities do you see between CORE Organic and the EIP-AGRI?

Ulla: "I've met EIP-AGRI Service Point staff in different places in Europe, and am happy to see that the European Commission is making efforts to create a bridge between research and practice. At CORE Organic, we share the same focus on sharing results with different European stakeholders but especially with people from practice. We want farmers and other end users to be involved in research and innovation efforts, to ensure that research results are

relevant and applicable on farms. Our goals are very similar, and while we work in organic agriculture, many of our research results could also benefit conventional farmers. Applying organic practices in livestock health management or soil and weed management, and learning how to reduce the use of pesticides, for instance, could have economic and other advantages for them as well."

"We want end users to be involved in research and innovation efforts, to ensure that research results are relevant and applicable on farms."

**- Ulla Bertelsen,
CORE Organic coordinator -**





Visit the CORE Organic website and the Organic Eprints archive to keep track of project results: <http://www.coreorganic2.org/> - <http://orgprints.org>
Read the article from the latest CORE Organic seminar in Stockholm, where scientists from all over Europe exchanged results and ideas: <http://www.coreorganic.org/Pages/Artikler/MeetingStockholm.html>



Inspirational idea

How do you think the EIP-AGRI and CORE Organic can complement each other and enhance their impact?

Ulla: "Several CORE Organic members have participated in EIP-AGRI Focus Groups, and we're encouraging them to apply. We also plan to integrate the results and recommendations from the EIP-AGRI Focus Group on Organic Farming in our next project calls and use the results in our network. We've uploaded our projects into the EIP-AGRI database and hope this will enable people to find project partners. The EIP-AGRI is in turn helping to spread the results of CORE Organic projects through its newsletter and through the AgrInnovation magazine, for instance. We're always looking for different ways to reach end users, which is why we look to the EIP-AGRI Service Point for inspiration. Collaboration is useful, and we could learn from each other." ●

Healthy strawberries thanks to 'flying doctors'

The BICOPOLL project is an example of one of the projects funded through CORE Organic II. It shows that honeybees and bumblebees can help protect strawberry crops against grey mould, one of the most common diseases causing crop loss. Researchers placed tiny doormats filled with beneficial microbe spores at the entrance of beehives. The bees' legs are coated with the spores when they leave the hive in search of flowers. Project coordinator Dr. Heikki Hokkanen explains: "The bees apply the spores exactly where and when needed. Biocontrol via bees can provide a real solution for organic and conventional strawberry farmers." Marketable yields in organic strawberry farming often increased by over 50% when bees were used to apply biocontrol agents to the strawberry flowers, while pollinating them at the same time. Currently over 10% of berry growers in Finland use the 'flying doctors', but this is expected to rise rapidly due to a new environmental support scheme for horticulture in Finland. Commercial uptake is also starting in other countries such as Estonia and Sweden.

► More on Bicapoll: <http://coreorganic2.org/bicapoll>

Interested in learning more?

Download our EIP-AGRI brochure on ERA-NETs at:

► <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/content/eip-agri-brochure-research-innovation-across-eu-borders>.

Read and download our EIP-AGRI brochure on Organic Farming at:

► <http://bit.ly/1Htv3Yf>

Share your ideas!

Register to the EIP-AGRI website at www.eip-agri.eu to find and share inspiring project results that could help you and others to build a successful innovation project. We especially welcome projects with results that are applicable in the field!

