

# Thematic Workshop 4:

## Think Tank Organic Research

### Socioeconomic Research Gaps to further improve organic farming with regard to societal and environmental changes

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Language of workshop: English and German

This Workshop will start with a short overview about main results of Socioeconomic Research funded by the Federal Scheme for Organic Farming (BÖL) regarding the last 10 Years. BÖL is located in the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) in Bonn, Germany.

The workshop's main objective is to discuss and generate together with the workshop participants still existing socioeconomic research gaps in the field of organic farming. Afterwards we will try to prioritize the discovered research gaps with regard to societal changes, loss of biodiversity, water management and climate change.

All over Europe, including Germany it is the aim to make farming fit for societal as well as environmental changes including climate change. Research, especially socioeconomic research findings in the field of organic farming can be a good basis to enable society to conquer rising environmental problems like loss and damage of biodiversity and water resources. In addition, the use of chances like e.g. local and regional food systems, humus rich soils, a large variety of food plants or diverse agroforest systems can be more often found in organic production and have the potential to benefit society as a whole as well as vulnerable environmental systems on which society depends.

The format of this workshop for a 1.5 hours slot includes one or two Impulse Presentations, which are the basis for the following discussion of still existing socioeconomic research gaps in organic farming. Depending on the number of workshop participants, the discussion will be held in one group or if there are more participants, the group will be divided. The Workshop-Facilitator speaks English as well as German. If there would be enough German-speaking participants, there could be one group in German and one in English.

The main questions for the discussion would be:

1. What knowledge is still needed to conquer recent societal and environmental challenges and to use chances?
2. Which knowledge gaps do you see in socioeconomic research in the field of organic farming?

3. Which research questions and conclusions could be drawn in order to fill these knowledge gaps?

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