



How to produce organic food in a polluted world?

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The global pesticide market has almost **doubled in the last 20 years** to a total value of **130.7 billion US dollars**.

The growing amount of pesticides used globally leads to a **rise in pesticide poisoning worldwide**.

The use of pesticides is **fatal for biodiversity**:
5 times lower plant species richness and about 20 times lower pollinator species richness compared to organic fields



Pesticide active ingredients usually **do not stay in the place they were applied**. They can seep into the soil and groundwater, become airborne, or by drift some can be found over 1,000 kilometres away.

Contrary to corporations' promises, the **cultivation of genetically modified plants has increased the use of pesticides** like glyphosate and the growth of resistant weed species.

<https://eu.boell.org/en/PesticideAtlas>



Recent studies

EU/NL: **170 different pesticides found in environment, animals and humans.** Most concentrations in **homedust in farms** (also organic farms, but less than conventional) **Glyphosate** most found.

- *Sprint research – EU funded*

NL: Pesticides increase **risk of Parkinson**

- *Professor Neurology Bas Bloem*

USA: Conventional fruit and vegetables with high residue levels do not benefit health. **Only fruit and vegies with low residue levels (organic) show 30-40% lower risk on Cancer and Cardio-Vasculair diseases.**

- *Helena Sandoval-Insausti a.o. – Harvard study*





Burden of contamination costs press on organic suppliers in EU:

- Est. 25-50 million Euro for analyses on organic supply
- Est. 100-200 million Euro for extra quality measures
- Est. 250-500 million Euro for "blocked goods under investigation" and devaluation by selling as conventional

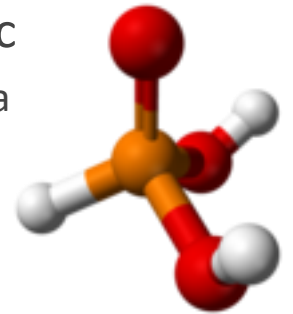
Risks and financial burdens of contaminations in organic tempers EU-ambition of 25% in 2030.





New scientific knowledge on Multiple Source Substance **Phosphonic Acid (PA):**

- PA is far more stable than thought
- PA can be formed by nature
- PA is very persistent, especially in roots of perennials
- PA is detected in over 90% of certain conventional and organic crops/products: almond (100%), wine (97%), mushrooms (97%), chickpea (96%), buckwheat (91%), Peanut (89%)



Happily PA is very low toxic

Source and data: Werner Nader - Eurofins

Actions:

- EU Commission: protect organic as the best system approach to reduce and eliminate environmental pesticides pollution in the long term (*instead of damaging organic by making organic responsible for contaminations caused others*)
- EU and National member states: support organic production and prohibit substances like glyphosate NOW
- CB's and operators: strengthen organic quality assurance in the whole chain together and rely on the system approach.
- Together: create platform for science based information on substances and contamination risks in organic (Q-Votum...)

Conclusions:

- **Organic is the only way out** of high pesticide pressure caused by conventional; 100% replacement needed for biodiversity and health!
- Organic is severely affected by harmful contaminations from conventional pesticides like glyphosate; the **polluter-pays-principle** should be applied.
- Substances like PA need a radical different approach: a **non-active-use level** is needed: 0,4 mg/kg

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