



# English Organic Action Plan

**Building strong domestic and export  
markets for UK organic products**

**Organic Congress – 16<sup>th</sup> November**



0271/9139

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## 1. Build domestic organic supply chains

### Action

- **Challenges securing UK-sourced inputs and products.**
- **There is a need to ensure improved collaboration within supply chains to address product and information gaps.**
- **The organic sector, led by the Organic Trade Board, will work with processors, traders, retailers and caterers to establish a series supply chain co-ordination groups.**

### Conditions

- **Planned outputs and outcomes:** 5-10 supply chain co-ordination groups established
- **Owned by:** Organic sector, led by Organic Trade Board
- **Delivered by:** Organic sector working with key food businesses
- **Resources/funding required:** TBC
- **Funding source:** RDP successor (supply chain measures)
- **Priority:** High
- **Timing:** Immediate – to prepare for and address Brexit challenges
- **Links to Policy:** Agriculture Bill: Aid to Producer Organisations and Supply Chains and data collection
- **Key asks of Government:** Identify avenues by which these actions may be facilitated/resourced

## 2. Identify and understand key risks in critical product categories

### Action

- Identify the key risks involved in organic production in those product categories where there is a shortage of UK production
- Where there is an imbalance between supply and demand that is caused by the perceived or actual additional risks of organic production and infrastructure weaknesses, this will clearly limit the willingness of farmers to convert their production and supply chain businesses to invest.
- Consequently, it is essential better to understand the nature, scale and impact of the risks.

### Conditions

- **Planned outputs and outcomes:**
- **Owned by:** Organic sector businesses in the whole supply chain for products that are in short supply – wholesale, retail, manufacturing and processing
- **Delivered by:** Organic sector businesses, research and innovation partners (ORC, Agricolology, Innovative Farmers).
- **Resources/funding required:**
- **Funding source:**
- **Priority:**  
High
- **Timing:** Short to medium term
- **Links to Policy:**
- **Key asks of Government:**

### 3. Invest in supply chain infrastructure and efficiency measures

#### Action

- **Building on the outcomes of 1., invest in infrastructure and supply chain efficiency measures to enable increased organic production, processing and marketing of those product categories where there is a shortage of UK production.**

#### Conditions

- **Planned outputs and outcomes:** TBC
- **Owned by:** TBC
- **Delivered by:** Organic sector businesses in the whole supply chain, particularly groups (including cooperatives) of primary producers and first-stage processors/manufacturers
- **Resources/funding required:** TBC
- **Funding source:** Defra through rural development investment, with matched investment from organic sector businesses and producer groups
- **Priority:**
- **Timing:** Medium to long term
- **Links to Policy: Agriculture Bill:** Aid to Producer Organisations and Supply Chains and data collection
- **Key asks of Government:** Prioritisation of organic supply chain initiatives and investments

## 4. Encourage increased retailer engagement with organic offerings, including specialist independent outlets

### Action

- In comparison with key competitor countries, many retailers have very limited organic offerings, and there are very few examples of specialist organic outlets, whether small-scale or at supermarket scale.

### Conditions

- Planned outputs and outcomes: TBC
- Owned by:
- Delivered by:
- Resources/funding required:
- Funding source:
- Priority:  
High
- Timing:  
Short to medium term
- Links to Policy:
- Key asks of Government:

## 5. Develop UK organic export opportunities

### Action

- **The government Action Plan for Food and Drink includes campaigns across 18 countries to boost exports by £2.9 billion.**
- **Organic food could play a part in Food and Drink Federation's 'Food & Drink UK' project, which identifies market development, global market intelligence, training, guidance and mentoring, as key to building export capability.**
- **These key elements are already within the scope of Soil Association Certification's Export Support Programme but further collaboration between organic trade organisations, export trade organisations and government is needed.**
- **To do this, we need to:**
  - Establish an ongoing data capture for export
  - Confirm and progress key target markets,
  - Establish clear red lines for trade negotiations to ensure domestic organic
  - Build a programme of support and activity

### Conditions

- **Planned outputs and outcomes:** TBC
- **Owned by:** Organic Sector led by Organic Trade Board and SA Cert Export Support Programme
- **Delivered by:** OTB, UK CB's, Defra, AHDB, Board of Trade, BEIS, FCO, DIT and UK Chambers, Export Trade Associations (FDEA, FDF) - co-ordinated by a UK Organic Export project team from the key bodies, working directly with the designated Govt department leads
- **Resources/funding required:** TBC
- **Funding source:** Industry and relevant government support programmes
- **Priority:** High
- **Timing:** From early 2019
- **Links to Policy:** Trade and export policies
- **Key asks of Government:** Ensure organic sector is well represented in UK food and agriculture export initiatives

## 6. Establish an Organic Market Data Observatory

### Action

- **Across the board there is need for improved access to organic market data to support businesses in their investment decision making –**
- **The sector needs**
  - **a better ability to understand supply availability and potential threats,**
  - **knowledge about retail demand and consumer behaviour, and about export opportunities.**

### Conditions

- **Planned outputs and outcomes:** Annual report on UK organic sector + monthly market data update
- **Owned by:** Organic sector, led by ORC
- **Delivered by:** ORC working with CBs, businesses, AHDB, Defra Stats, Kantar, Nielsen etc.
- **Resources/funding required:** TBC
- **Funding source:** Defra, AHDB, commercial funding
- **Priority:** High
- **Timing:** From 2019
- **Links to Policy:** Agriculture Bill: Aid to Producer Organisations and Supply Chains and data collection
- **Key asks of Government:** Provide pump-priming investment to get initiative started

## 7. Ensure the quality and integrity of imports - trusted sourcing

### Action

- It is critical that if the UK is to trade on the highest standards those organic products entering the country should be of the necessary standard and of the highest integrity.
- It is, therefore, necessary that while reviewing the availability of organic products from third countries that there is a robust process for assessing the risk presented by that supply chain.
- Beyond the regulatory framework there is also a requirement for a protocol that ensures any concerns or issues that do arise are communicated quickly and effectively to the UK supply chain. This would help facilitate the on-going identification of preferred sources.

### Conditions

- Planned outputs and outcomes: TBC
- Owned by:
- Delivered by:
- Resources/funding required:
- Funding source:
- Priority:  
High
- Timing:  
Short to medium term
- Links to Policy:
- Key asks of Government:

## 8. Registering organic imports

### Action

- Currently the EU Commission undertakes a number of critical roles with regard to organic imports.
- the development of the new UK TRACES NT electronic system, is critical as is the identification of organic products specifically
- There will also be a requirement to facilitate access to TRACES by third countries alongside the auditing of national and private bodies responsible for standards, accreditation & certification. This will be required for all of the current EU equivalent states, including US.
- There will, also, be a requirement to assess CBs operating in third countries thus facilitating the accreditation, certification & standards, application, audit, maintenance & publication of list of equivalent CB for products coming

### Conditions

- Planned outputs and outcomes: TBC
- Owned by:
- Delivered by:
- Resources/funding required:
- Funding source:
- Priority:  
High
- Timing:  
Short to medium term
- Links to Policy:
- Key asks of Government: