

Workshop: The Organic Principle of Health in Practice

ORC Producer's Conference

22 January 2014

Anja Vieweger, Lawrence Woodward



Structure of this workshop

1. *Lawrence Woodward (Whole Organic Plus and ORC):*
The IFOAM Principle of Health: background and development

2. *Anja Vieweger (ORC):*
Reviewing and Developing Health Concepts for Ecological Agriculture: project results

3. Discussion!

Lawrence Woodward (Whole Organic Plus):

The IFOAM Principle of Health, Background and Development

Overarching aims of the discussion of health concepts in agriculture

- ✓ Live up to the principle of health
- ✓ Provide arguments
- ✓ Find viable concepts of health
- ✓ Find ways to assess health

Reviewing and Developing Health Concepts for Ecological Agriculture (HeCo-Eco)

Funded by the Ekhaga Foundation, Sweden

Project overview

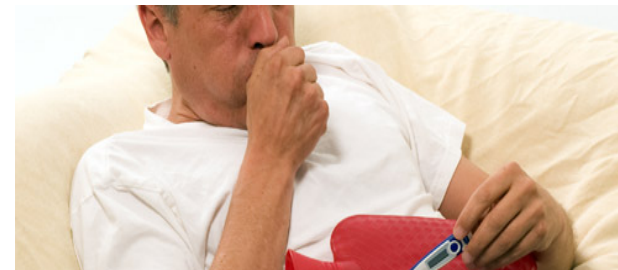
- March 2012 to December 2013
- Workshop 1: Concepts
- Text analysis
- Interviews
- Workshop 2: IFOAM principle
- Special Issue (JSFA)



Expert workshop 1: **Is the meaning of health the same in the domains of soil, plant, animal and human?**

The discussion on the meaning of health is at very different stages among the domains.

E.g. discussion on concepts and meaning of plant health is much less developed than on human health



Criteria of health according to the content analysis of 75 scientific papers (15 in each domain: soil, plant, animal, human and ecosystem health).

Term	TOTAL OVER ALL DOMAINS	SOIL	PLANT	ANIMAL	HUMAN	ECOSYSTEM
function	25	8	3	3	4	7
maintenance	19	6	4	3	3	3
productivity	18	9	3	4	2	0
resistance	17	3	7	4	1	2
resilience	16	2	2	2	3	7
capacity	14	6	1	0	2	5
sustainability	12	9	0	0	3	0
diversity	9	4	4	0	1	0
adaptation	8	1	1	0	4	2
dynamic	8	4	0	0	1	3
wellbeing	8	0	0	1	4	3
complexity	7	2	3	0	1	1
tolerance	7	1	2	3	0	1
ability to recover	6	2	0	1	1	2
balance	6	1	3	0	1	1
performance	6	2	1	1	1	1
provision	6	2	2	0	1	1
survival	6	3	3	0	0	0
vitality	6	4	2	0	0	0
equilibrium	5	0	1	0	1	3
immunity	5	0	1	1	2	1

Expert workshop 2: IFOAM Principle

- **Discussion of the clarity of the IFOAM principle text** in relation to the understanding of health.
- **Identification and initial discussion of possible impact paths for the principle of health:** (1) Practice; (2) Policy and Regulations; (3) Research.
- **How can these findings be implemented in practice?** Most important next steps.

Important next steps:

For Practice:

Focus on **best practice**, which farms are successful and why. Jointly investigate and define what best practise is with regards to health.

For Policy and Regulations:

Dialogue among disciplines and stakeholders, conducting a gap analysis, creating a **network of best practice farmers** and processors.

For Research:

Measuring and analysing components of health, a **reference system** is needed, and a working definition of the concept of health.



Discussion!