

Farmer principles of health (ORC)

Iain Tolhurst, Richard Gantlett, Adrian Steele, John Pawsey, Mark Measures
Chair - Anja Vieweger (ORC)

1. 16 farmers from the UK, Germany and Austria have agreed 10 key statements to improve health in organic agricultural systems.
2. Need slow and careful rolling out of these with a wider group of farmers.
3. 'Intuition and Self Observation' was identified as particularly crucial for running a healthy farm. This needs to be addressed and talked about more.
4. Human health is top of the list for consumers/citizens; need to make use of this when 'communicating and selling' healthy products and their life-story.



Breeding for organic arable, which way forward? (ORC)

**Gemma Clarke (Cope Seeds), Edith Lammerts van Bueren (Louis Bolk Institute)
Chair - Bruce Pearce (ORC)**

- 1. Need to find different measurement systems beyond just yield.**
- 2. Nutritional quality is an important priority for breeding**
- 3. Need to (re)build a community-based breeding programme that can respond to farmers' and consumers'/citizens' needs; need to make breeding rentable as well.**
- 4. Conventional seed companies have to be involved and are willing.**
- 5. Diversity in crops is important to better cope with climate change**



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Arable weed surgery (OK-Net Arable)

Jos Pelgröm (Man@Machine), Lynn Tatnell (Weed biologist, ADAS),
Adrian Steele (WO Steele and Sons), Stephen Moss (Stephen Moss Consulting)
Chair - Ambrogio Costanzo (ORC)

Priorities for annual weeds:

1. Harvest seed management
2. Plans for lack of frost? Can cause a major problem...
3. Band cropping and spring cropping
4. Grazing sheep
5. Tool box for climate change needs to be expanded and more flexible
6. Competitive crops

Priorities for perennial weeds:

1. Strong crop rotation and systems approach – including leys
2. Need a long-term strategy and recognise trade offs
3. Raise awareness on risks before they become an emergency: GET TO KNOW YOUR WEEDS! Reproduction strategy, morphology, weak points in lifecycle etc. (e.g. creeping thistle = cut into small pieces, target pre-flowering and during hot dry periods)

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Diversifying arable systems (ORC)

Ambrogio Costanzo (ORC), Josiah Meldrum (Hodmedods)
Chair - Sophie Alexander (Hemsworth Farm)

1. Increased crop diversity can enhance resilience, ecosystem services and produce nutritious food for new local markets
2. Diversification pathways include:
 - Reintegration of underutilised crops – e.g. emmer, einkorn and rivet and neglected varieties (especially OPVs)
 - Integration of new novel crops – e.g. quinoa, lentils, chickpeas, breeding for UK conditions
 - Mixed cropping e.g. intercropping wheat and beans
 - Populations and evolutionary breeding
3. Need to reshape cropping systems, learning and adapting: alternative harvest, cleaning and processing... opportunity for collaboration between farmers.
4. Encourage home grown protein to reduce dependency on N inputs and improve diets (less meat) e.g lentils, chickpeas, blue peas



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Silvo-arable agroforestry (Woodland Trust)

Stuart Holm (Woodland Trust), Paul Burgess (Cranfield University)

Chair - Jo Smith (ORC)

- 1. More research into the profitability of fruit, woodfuel and timber-based silvoarable systems is needed.**
- 2. Options to maximise grants such as integrating wildflower mixes.**
- 3. Need to be more creative about what we are combining rather than just trees and cereals.**

