

Resolucija ekološkega gibanja za sistemski pristop k inovacijam in trajnosti - Ohraniti ekološko kmetijstvo brez GSO.

Resolucija evropskega gibanja za ekološko hrano in kmetovanje, sprejeta na generalni skupščini IFOAM Organics Europe 21. junija 2023.

Evropsko gibanje za ekološko kmetijstvo ponovno potrjuje svoje stališče, da mora postopek ekološke pridelave tudi v prihodnje ostati brez gensko spremenjenih organizmov (GSO), vključno z GSO, pridobljenimi z novimi genskimi tehnikami (NGT). Ekološki rejci, kmetje, predelovalci, certifikacijski organi, trgovci in trgovci na drobno zahtevajo ohranitev svobode izbire, da ostanejo brez GSO. Zato je treba ohraniti načelo označevanja in sledljivosti iz veljavne zakonodaje, ki omogoča prepoznavanje GSO v celotni dobavni verigi, in ga uporabljati za vse NGT.

Zlasti genski inženiring se uporablja za legitimizacijo patentov za semena in živali. Izvzetje genskega materiala, zaščenega s patentom, iz sledljivosti bi vse subjekte v verigi preskrbe s hrano zaradi pomislekov o kršitvi patenta izpostavilo precejšnji pravni negotovosti glede tega, kaj lahko ali ne smejo storiti z rastlinami in živalmi, s katerimi delajo. Vedno večje število patentov za posebne lastnosti in genski material ogroža inovativni evropski model gojenja, ki temelji na blažjih oblikah pravic intelektualne lastnine, ki omogočajo kroženje genskega materiala. To bi povzročilo škodljivo koncentracijo in korporativni nadzor v semenarskem sektorju, povezan s poslovnimi modeli iz kemične industrije.

Evropski zeleni dogovor, Strategija Od vil do vilic in Strategije EU za biotsko raznovrstnost upravičeno postavljajo ekološko kmetovanje v središče prehoda k trajnostnim prehranskim sistemom, pri čemer je cilj razširiti evropska kmetijska zemljišča v ekološki pridelavi na 25 %. To je dobrodošlo in nujno priznanje okoljskih koristi ekološkega kmetovanja, manjše odvisnosti kmetov od zunanjih vnosov in odporne preskrbe s hrano za našo družbo.

Ekološko gibanje odločno obsoja napade na Strategijo Od vil do vilic in zavajajoče trditve, da bi zmanjšanje uporabe sintetičnih pesticidov in obnovitev narave onemogočili Evropi zagotoviti prehranske varnosti. S pametnimi spremembami pri rabi zemljišč in agroekološkimi inovacijami, skupaj s spremembo prehranjevanja in vrst proizvodnje, lahko evropski kmetje proizvedejo dovolj hrane in hkrati varujejo naravne vire.

Zdravo okolje s cvetočo floro in favno nad tlemi in pod njimi je ena najdragocenejših dobrin človeštva in temelj našega prehranskega sistema. Mi vsi smo njegovi koristniki, ki smo zadržani tudi za odgovorno upravljanje narave. To vključuje tudi uporabo previdnostnega načela ter načela skrbi, zdravja, ekologije in pravičnosti, ki temeljijo na celostnih, agroekoloških pristopih.

Da bi naši prehranski sistemi postali resnično trajnostni, se moramo izogniti kratkoročnim rešitvam, ki zahtevajo veliko vložka in vključujejo spodbujanje posebnih tehnologij z nedokazanimi koristmi ter morebitnimi nenamernimi učinki in tveganji. Genski inženiring s svojimi trenutno še vedno praznimi trajnostnimi obljubami kaže ozek in kratkoročen pogled na zapletene izzive prehranskih sistemov. Osredotočenost na določene gene ali lastnosti ne upošteva pomena interakcij med pridelki in njihovim okoljem ter geofizikalnih lastnosti, vključno z zdravjem tal, in simbiotičnih odnosov z drugimi vrstami. Takšno razumevanje kmetijskih sistemov ni tista vrsta inovacij, ki jih Evropa nujno potrebuje zaradi različnih okoljskih izzivov.

Nasprotno pa ekološko kmetovanje dosledno zagotavlja odporne agroekološke sisteme, ki upoštevajo kompleksnost interakcij v naravi. Ekološko kmetijstvo dokazano koristi biotski raznovrstnosti, blažitvi podnebnih sprememb, dobrobiti živali ter številnim drugim okoljskim in družbenim izzivom. Ekološko gibanje je že desetletja glavno gonilo na naravi temelječih

regenerativnih sistemov agroekoloških inovacij. EU ima vodilni položaj v svetu pri razvoju ekološkega kmetijsko-živilskega sistema s politikami, ki omogočajo konkurenčne prakse za ekološko krmo in živila ter krmo in živila brez GSO. Če bi šli po poti držav izvoznic GSO, bi izgubili ta vodilni položaj na področju ekološke pridelave in agroekoloških inovacij.

Ekološki pridelovalci želijo še naprej izpolnjevati svojo zavezo do potrošnikov in zagotavljati proces pridelave oz. proizvodnje brez gensko spremenjenih organizmov. Potrošniki so večinoma in upravičeno še vedno skeptični glede koristi novih GSO. Morebitna deregulacija nekaterih NGT bi ogrozila zaupanje potrošnikov v celovitost dobavne verige ekološke hrane, odvzem pravice potrošnikov do informacij o uporabi NGT pa bi spodkopal zaupanje v postopek odločanja v EU.

Ekološko gibanje je zelo zaskrbljeno zaradi morebitnega izvzetja tako imenovanih "konvencionalnim podobnih" pridelkov NGT iz pravnega okvira EU za GSO, kar bi jih izvzelo iz obveznosti identifikacije in sledljivosti. To bi de facto pravno gledano omogočilo uporabo teh NGT v ekološki pridelavi, ne da bi zagotovilo pravna in tehnična sredstva za identifikacijo teh proizvodov. To ogroža pravico in svobodo kmetovanja brez teh tehnik ter celovitost ekoloških proizvodov.

Pomembno je, da se obremenjujoče breme zagotavljanja pridelave brez gensko spremenjenih organizmov ne sme prenesti na izvajalce, ki ne želijo uporabljati NGT, saj bi to znatno oviralo razvoj ekološkega kmetijstva v Evropski uniji.

Politike Evropske unije se morajo osredotočiti na odporno agroekologijo s sistemskim razumevanjem trajnosti. Obljube o pričakovanih koristih NGT ne opravičujejo slabitve uspešnega previdnostnega načela EU in standardov EU za varstvo okolja ter izbiro kmetov in potrošnikov.

Zato ekološko gibanje poziva k ohranitvi sistema identifikacije in sledljivosti, da bodo imeli ekološki in konvencionalni izvajalci pravico in svobodo nadaljevati proizvodnjo brez gensko spremenjenih organizmov v celotni dobavni verigi.

Resolution of the organic movement in favour of a system-based approach of innovation and sustainability – Keep Organic GMO-free.

Resolution from the European organic food and farming movement, adopted at IFOAM Organics Europe General Assembly on 21.06.2023.

The European organic agricultural movement re-affirms its position that the organic production process should remain free of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in the future, including GMOs derived from New Genomic Techniques (NGTs). Organic breeders, farmers, processors, certifiers, traders, and retailers demand the preservation of their freedom of choice to remain GMO-free. To that end, the principle of labelling and traceability enshrined in the current legislation, which allows for the identification of GMOs throughout the supply chain, must be maintained and applied to all NGTs.

Notably, genetic engineering is used to legitimise patents on seeds and animals. Exempting genetic material protected by a patent from traceability would expose all operators in the food supply chain to significant legal uncertainty as to what they can or cannot do with the plants and animals they work with due to patent infringement concerns. The increasing number of patents on specific traits and genetic material is a threat to the innovative European breeding model, which relies on lighter forms of intellectual property rights that allow for the circulation

of genetic material. This would lead to a harmful concentration and corporate control in the seed sector connected with business models from the chemical industry.

The European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork, and the EU Biodiversity Strategies rightfully put organic farming at the core of a transition to sustainable food systems, with a target to expand European agricultural land under organic production to 25%. This is a welcome and necessary recognition of the environmental benefits of organic farming, for less dependency on inputs for farmers, and a resilient food supply for our society.

The organic movement strongly condemns the attacks against the Farm to Fork Strategy and the misleading claims that reducing the use of synthetic pesticides and restoring nature would not allow Europe to ensure its food security. With smart changes in land use and agroecological innovation, combined with a shift in diets and types of production, European farmers can produce sufficient food while safeguarding natural resources.

A healthy environment with a prospering flora and fauna above and below the soil is one of humanity's most precious goods and the bedrock of our food system. We are its beneficiaries, tasked with responsible stewardship towards nature. This also includes the application of the precautionary principle, and the principle of care, health, ecology, and fairness rooted in holistic, agroecological approaches.

To make our food systems truly sustainable, we need to transition away from input-intensive, short-term fixes, which include the promotion of specific technologies with unproven benefits and potential unintended effects and risks. Genetic engineering with its currently still empty sustainability promises exhibits a narrow, and shortterm view of the complex challenges of food systems. A focus on specific genes or traits does not account for the importance of interactions between crops with their environment and geophysical properties, including soil health, and symbiotic relationship with other species. This understanding of agricultural systems is not the type of innovation that Europe so desperately needs in the face of various environmental challenges.

Contrarily, organic farming consistently delivers resilient agroecological systems, taking into account the complexity of interactions in nature. Organic agriculture has proven benefits for biodiversity, climate change mitigation, animal welfare, and many other environmental and social challenges. The organic movement has been for decades a main driver for nature-based regenerative systems of agroecological innovation. The EU has a leading position in the whole world in the development of an organic agri-food system, with policies enabling competitive practices for organic and GMO-free feed and food. Following the road of GMO exporting countries would entail losing this leading position in organic production and agroecological innovation.

Organic operators want to continue to fulfil their commitment towards consumers to guarantee a GM-free production process. Consumers are largely and rightfully still sceptical of the benefits of new GMOs. A potential deregulation of certain NGTs would threaten consumers' confidence in the integrity of the organic food supply chain, and taking away consumers' right to information on the use of NGTs would undermine confidence in the EU decision-making process.

The Organic movement has severe concerns about the potential exemption from the EU legal framework on GMOs of so-called "conventional-like" NGT crops, which would exempt them from identification and traceability. This would de facto, legally speaking allow the use of these NGTs in organic production, without providing legal and technical means to identify these

products. This poses a threat to the right and freedom to farm without these techniques and to the integrity of organic products.

Importantly, the cumbersome burden of ensuring GM-free production must not fall on operators who do not wish to use NGTs, as this would significantly hinder the development of organic agriculture in the European Union.

European Union policies should focus on resilient agroecology with a systemic understanding of sustainability. Promises of expected benefits of NGTs do not justify watering down the successful EU precautionary principle and EU standards on environmental protection and farmer and consumers' choice.

Thus, the organic movement calls for the maintenance of a system of identification and traceability, so that organic and conventional operators have the right and freedom to continue producing GM-free throughout the entire supply chain.