



Research Activity

Lindsay Whistance

# Overview



- European and UK research projects
- Focus on organic, engaging with non-organic systems looking to include agro-ecological practices
- Strong focus on participatory research: real time, real world trials
- Major programmes of research
  - Arable systems
  - Livestock systems
  - Agroforestry systems
  - Marketing
    - LCA
    - Biodiversity
    - Soil
    - Policy



# Organic markets and supply chains

## Functioning organic markets and economic resilience along the supply chain

- Eva Winter, Christian Grovermann, Joachim Aurbacher, Stefano Orsini, Freya Schäfer, Mariateresa Lazzaro, Francesco Solfanelli & Monika M. Messmer (2021) Sow what you sell: strategies for integrating organic breeding and seed production into value chain partnerships, *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 45:10, 1500-1527, DOI: [10.1080/21683565.2021.1931628](https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2021.1931628)
- Susanne Padel, Stefano Orsini, Francesco Solfanelli, Raffaele Zanolli (2021) Can markets deliver 100% organic seed and varieties in Europe? *Sustainability* 13 (18): 10305, DOI: [10.3390/su131810305](https://doi.org/10.3390/su131810305)
- Danilo Gambelli, Francesco Solfanelli, Stefano Orsini, Raffaele Zanolli (2021) Measuring the economic performance of small ruminant farms using balanced scorecard and importance-performance analysis: a European case study. *Sustainability* 13, 3321. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13063321>



### 2017 Organic Farm Management Handbook

- <https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/resources/the-organic-farm-management-handbook/>

# Arable



Populations research, mixed cropping, mulches, weed management

- **DIVERSify**: growing beyond monoculture. Crop trials across Europe: <https://plant-teams.org/#guidestoolboxes>

Brannan T, Bickler C, Hansson H, Karley A, Weih M, Manevska-Tasevska G (2023) Overcoming barriers to crop diversification uptake in Europe: a mini review *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 7: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2023.1107700>

- **DiverIMPACTS**: diversification through rotation, intercropping, multiple cropping, promoted with actors and value-chains towards sustainability <https://www.diverimpacts.net/>
- **Liveseed**: boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe <https://www.liveseed.eu/> - results and tools
- **Liveseeding**: organic seed and plant breeding to accelerate sustainable and diverse food systems in Europe <https://www.liveseed.eu/2022/liveseed-has-a-successor-the-liveseeding-project/>
- **Oper8**: alternative weed control <https://www.oper-8.eu/>

# Agroforestry



Value of trees to climate, landscape, people and farming systems

- **AFINET:** Agroforestry Innovation Networks: <https://agroforestry.net.eu/afinet/>
- **AGFORWARD:** Agroforestry that will advance rural development <https://www.agforward.eu/>
- **ELMS Agroforestry T&T:** Feedback from farmers to DEFRA – what they want. Interestingly, the more knowledgeable they become the narrower the information resources used but peer-to-peer learning always important. <https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Interview-analysis-1.pdf>
- **CPRE:** a review of ecosystem services from hedgerows and management recommendations <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/hedge-fund-full-report/>
- **Hedgerow management handbook:** <https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/resources/resource-library/productive-hedges-guidance-on-bringing-britains-hedges-back-into-the-farm-business-2/>

Smith J, Westaway S, Mullender S, Giannitsopoulos M, Graves A (2021) Making hedgerows pay their way: the economics of harvesting field boundary hedges for bioenergy. *Agroforestry Systems* 97: 291-303  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-021-00631-9>

**REFOREST:** Agroforestry at the forefront of farming sustainably <https://agroforest.eu/>

# Livestock



Extensive systems that promote health and welfare: 'lives worth living'

- **SOLID**: sustainable organic low-input dairying <https://farmadvice.solidairy.eu/>  
[https://farmadvice.solidairy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SOLID Farmer Handbook.pdf](https://farmadvice.solidairy.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SOLID_Farmer_Handbook.pdf)
- **iSAGE**: sustainable sheep and goat systems <https://www.isage.eu/>  
[https://www.isage.eu/wp-content/uploads/BREEDING-GENETICS No-4 NSA- Assessing-parasite-resistance-on-three-sheep-breeds UK.pdf](https://www.isage.eu/wp-content/uploads/BREEDING-GENETICS_No-4_NSA-Assessing-parasite-resistance-on-three-sheep-breeds_UK.pdf)
- **OK-Net EcoFeed**: 100% organic and regional feed for pigs and poultry  
<https://ok-net-ecofeed.eu/> Fact sheets, ration planner
- **Organic Plus**: reducing use of contentious inputs in organic agriculture  
<https://organic-plus.net/resources/> Including a link to sister project RELACS:  
improving inputs for organic agriculture <https://relacs-project.eu/>
- **Re-Livestock**: resilient livestock systems in the face of climate change (cattle and pigs) <https://re-livestock.eu/>

Kendall NR, Smith J, Whistance LK, Stergiadis S, Stoate C, Chesshire H, Smith, AR (2021) Trace element composition of tree fodder and potential nutritional use for livestock. *Livestock Science* 250:104560 DOI:  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.livsci.2021.104560>

# Tools and modelling

- Public Goods (PG) Tool

<https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/resources/resource-library/public-goods-tool/>

<https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/PG-Tool/>

- online, user-friendly version

## Public Goods Tool



# Further Links

- Tools, Fact sheets, Technical Guides, Tool Assessments, Research Articles
- Organic Research Centre:

<https://www.organicresearchcentre.com/resources/>

- Links to resource library, research, tools, Bulletins and Agrigology
- Shared, translated resources from other organic research organisations in Europe

- Organic Farm Knowledge Platform

<https://organic-farmknowledge.org/>

- Organic eprints

<https://orgprints.org/>



The Organic Farm Management Handbook

The Organic Farm Management Handbook is the only source of up-to-date information on the costs and performance of organic farming.



Wakelyns Agroforestry: Resilience through diversity

New review of the research and evidence gathered at Wakelyns where the late Prof. Martin Wolfe put his theories into practice.



Dock Control: Combining the best methods for successful control

The booklet was produced by FiBL and the English version was adapted by ORC, as part of the OK-NET Arable project



The Agroforestry Handbook

Written for farmers and advisors this book will help you assess the potential business benefits of agroforestry for your farm or client and to understand the possible benefits to the wider environment.



The Basics of Soil Fertility - shaping our relationship with the soil

English version of FiBL guide adapted by ORC available as a hard copy or to download.



Creeping Thistle - successful control in organic farming

English version of FiBL guide adapted by ORC available as a hard copy or to download.