



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Département fédéral de l'économie,
de la formation et de la recherche DEFR
Agroscope



EXCELLENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Organisational Regulations of the Swiss National Forum for Organic Research

Adopted on 17 June 2015 on the occasion of the joint session of the Executive Boards of Agroscope and FiBL in Changins.

1. Tasks and Objectives

The Swiss National Forum for Organic Research is a stakeholder platform replacing the previous Agroscope–FiBL Bio-Koordinationsgremium (= Organic Agriculture Coordinating Panel) and the ART Bioforum Ackerbau/Futterbau (= Forum for Organic Arable Farming/Forage Production). Agroscope, BioSuisse and FiBL are the organising institutions of the National Forum for Organic Research. The Forum has a Management Committee with a Coordination Unit, both of which are appointed in equal numbers from the three sponsoring organisations. The Forum has a national focus, and covers all research fields associated with organic agriculture. Its tasks are as follows:

1. Organising a structured dialogue between research users, research providers, further research partners and donors.
2. Early recognition of the most important research needs of the Swiss organic farming sector.
3. Setting the main priorities of organic research.
4. Monitoring Swiss organic research, and gearing research to the needs of practitioners and advisers.
5. Evaluating the implementation of inputs into research.
6. Promoting networking between researchers as well as between research providers and users on both an institutional and personal level.

2. Organisations/Panels

2.1 *Swiss National Forum for Organic Research*

2.1.1 *Composition*

The composition of the platform shall reflect the research needs of all users and suitably represent research providers (via Coordinating Committee members). The National Forum for Organic Research meets at least once a year, and several times a year if necessary. If needed, thematic subgroups will be formed.

1. Representatives from practice and the advisory sector: The arable farming, forage production, special crops, animal husbandry and socioeconomics fields as well as the three linguistic regions shall be appropriately represented. Representatives of official bodies will continually gather research concerns.
 - Members of the dissolved ART Organic Arable Farming/Forage Production Forum.
 - Representatives of Bio Suisse specialist groups
 - Representatives of organic advisory services

2. Members of the Management Committee
3. Members of the Coordinating Committee
4. Members of the Coordination Unit
5. FOAG Representatives
6. Delegates of further research providers as guests (ZHAW, HAFL)
7. Further representatives of the sector may be consulted.

The chairmanship of the National Forum for Organic Research is held by the respective Chairman of the Management Committee, and rotates annually. The Chairman can delegate tasks to the Coordination Unit. 2015 chairmanship, FiBL; 2016, ISS; 2017, Bio Suisse, and so on.

2.1.2 *Tasks*

1. Determining research needs from practice, and assessing their urgency.
2. Identifying and prioritising the need for action, relaying this information to the Coordinating Committee, and monitoring implementation.
3. Ensuring appropriate inclusion of practitioners in the research projects.
4. Direct or indirect support in financing. Note, however, that the financing of research is primarily a matter for the research institutes.
5. Support in planning and running the Organic Research Conference (every two years).
6. Ensuring exchange with the Bio Suisse Knowledge Committee.

2.1.3 *Activities of the National Forum for Organic Research*

1. A joint session of the National Forum for Organic Research, at least once a year.
2. A public conference (every two years).
3. Transparent documentation of the Forum's activities at a suitable location on the Internet (e.g. subdomain at bioaktuell.ch).

2.2 **Management Committee**

2.2.1 *Composition*

- Managing Director of Bio Suisse
- Director of FiBL
- Director of the Agroscope Institute for Sustainability Studies ISS

The chairmanship of the Management Committee rotates annually. The Chairman of the Management Committee serves simultaneously as the Chairman of the National Forum for Organic Research.

2.2.2 Tasks

1. Developing strategy for the Forum for Organic Research.
2. Appointing members of the Forum for Organic Research.
3. Appointing members of the Coordination Unit.
4. Specifying the number of sessions of the Forum for Organic Research, as well as the topics of the sessions.
5. Identifying the need for action yielded from the meetings of the Forum for Organic Research and from stakeholder surveys.
6. Relaying the need for action to the Coordinating Committee, and monitoring implementation.
7. Ensuring contact with the senior management of Agroscope and FiBL as well as with the Chairman and administrative office of Bio Suisse.

2.3 Coordination Unit

The management of the Coordination Unit rotates in a similar manner to that of the Management Committee.

2.3.1 Composition

- 1 Agroscope representative
- 1 Bio Suisse representative
- 1 FiBL representative

2.3.2 Tasks

1. Preparing strategy for the Forum for Organic Research.
2. Recommending members for the Forum.
3. Preparation for and follow-up to the meetings of the Management Committee, the Coordinating Committee and the Forum.
4. Preparing the biennial Organic Research Conference with the support of the participating institutes.
5. Compiling an overview of Agroscope and FiBL organic research activities ('Organic Report').

6. Conducting a joint stakeholder survey in coordination with the Management and Coordinating Committees.
7. Responding to enquiries from external agencies.

2.4 Coordinating Committee

The management of the Coordinating Committee corresponds to that of the Management Committee.

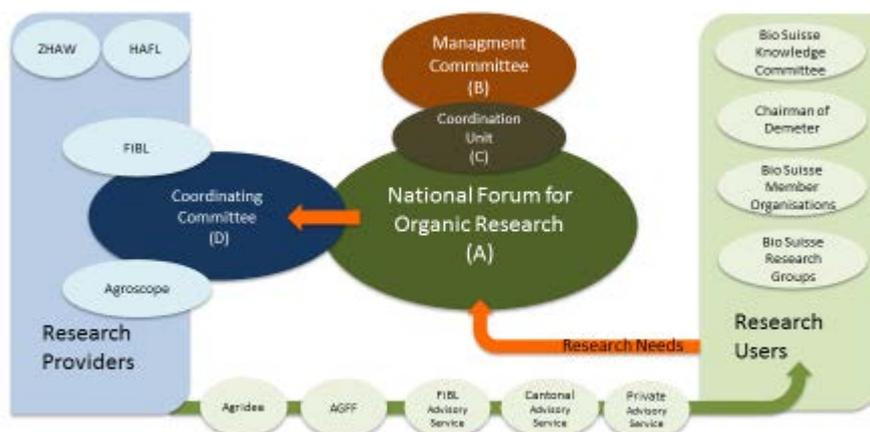
2.4.1 Composition

- Members of the Management Committee
- Members of the Coordination Unit
- Persons Responsible for Research, Agroscope
- Departmental Heads, FiBL

2.4.2 Tasks

1. Regarding the Work Programme or with newly emerging topics, determining who is active in which specialist areas doing what.
2. Mutual exchange of information on developments in research and in the research environment.
3. Organising a structured dialogue (e.g. stakeholder surveys); prioritising research concerns and assigning them to research providers.

Figure: The panels of the National Forum for Organic Research as well as further panels and institutions relating to organic research and advisory services



3. Reporting

An accountability report is produced once yearly by the Coordination Unit for the attention of the Management Committee, and submitted to the National Forum for Organic Research.

4. Financing

The costs of employed members are borne by their respective employers. Bio Suisse commissioners are compensated by Bio Suisse as part of their commission activities.

Remaining members are compensated according to the usual rates. The costs are split among the responsible bodies.

5. Term of Office

Members of the National Forum for Organic Research are elected for a period of three years.

Composition of the Panels (as at 18.01.2016)

Management Committee

- Managing Director of Bio Suisse (Daniel Bärtschi)
- Director of FiBL (Urs Niggli)
- Director of the Agroscope Institute for Sustainability Studies ISS (Paul Steffen)

Coordinating Committee

- Members of the Management Committee
 - Daniel Bärtschi (Bio Suisse)
 - Urs Niggli (FiBL)
 - Paul Steffen (Agroscope ISS)
- Members of the Coordination Unit
 - Fredi Strasser (Agroscope ISS)
 - Urs Guyer (Bio Suisse)
 - Thomas Alföldi (FiBL)
- Persons Responsible for Research, Agroscope:
 - Lukas Bertschinger (IPS)
 - Dieter Hess (ILS)
 - Hans-Peter Bachmann (IFS)
 - Stephan Pfefferli (ISS)
- Departmental Heads, FiBL:
 - Paul Mäder
 - Lucius Tamm
 - Florian Leiber
 - Matthias Stolze
 - Robert Obrist