

# Climate Change Mitigation, Organic Agriculture and Human Health: Status Quo and New Data

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# SAFE: IDENTITY AND MISSION

**SAFE is an independent non-profit organization, which strives to protect and advance consumers' rights in EU food policy.**

**SAFE's main priorities are:**

- Strengthening EU consumers' voice in the food sector
- Raising public awareness and training citizens



# MEMBERS

SAFE Members are currently spread over 9 EU countries and collectively represent over 1,500,000 European citizens.

- National consumer organisations
- Vegan & vegetarian associations
- Health organizations
- Obesity associations
- Independent researchers, doctors, nutritionists
- Permaculture organisations





# ACTIVITIES

- Lobbying to ameliorate the EU legislative framework in the food sector
- Organising nutrition trainings
- SAFE has been awarded a LIFE Operating Grant



# THE LIFE PROGRAMME

The LIFE programme is the **EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action.**

Objectives:

- Contributing to the **implementation of EU environmental and climate policy and legislation**
- Co-financing projects with European added value





# SAFE'S PROJECT

In 2017, **SAFE** has been awarded a **LIFE Operating Grant** to co-finance its work programme covering four areas:

- STOCK-FREE ORGANIC FARMING
- PERMACULTURE
- FOOD WASTE
- FOOD PACKAGING





# 1. STOCK-FREE ORGANIC FARMING

- Any system of cultivation that excludes artificial chemicals, livestock manures, animal remains from slaughterhouses, genetically modified material and anything of animal origin such as fishmeal.
- According to the UN, **animal farming is responsible for approximately 18% of the total greenhouse gas emissions** (more than all means of transport combined).
- Animal farming is also the **biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions caused by the food system** (approximately a third of all emissions).



# CLIMATE OBJECTIVES

Stock-free organic farming techniques reduce greenhouse gas CO<sup>2</sup> emissions thanks to:

- **Reduced fossil fuel usage;**
- **Reduced use of fertilisers and weedkillers, pesticides and fungicides** (which consume fossil fuels and release large quantities of CO<sup>2</sup>).

Stock-free organic farming techniques can become **good practices of adaptation to climate change.**





# SAFE'S ACTIVITIES

- SAFE will organise a **European farmer-to-farmer training campaign on stock-free organic farming** targeting up to **80 farmers from four EU countries** (Belgium, UK, Italy, France).
- Each **Farmer Training Day** will include a visit to an organic farm, demonstration of stock-free organic production, discussion on the conversion to stock-free organic farming.
- Objectives:
  - Raising awareness;
  - Exchanging know-how and best practices;
  - Building farmers' capacities on stock-free organic farming.





## 2. PERMACULTURE

- Permaculture is a **holistic approach** recreating the complexity of an ecosystem while **removing motorization from crops**.
- It gathers **several plant varieties** which have **complementary properties** in the **smallest possible area** with different heights.
- With permaculture, human and energetic resources are used as efficiently as possible.
- Reducing extensive agriculture and the use of herbicides also limits soil erosion and pollution.





# ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

- Reducing pressure of farming activities on lands and increasing their fertility;
- Fostering reinforcement of the green economy in farming and agriculture;
- Enhancing eco-sustainability of agriculture, farming and food production;
- Ameliorating quality of the air in the countryside;
- Recreating biodiversity within the farm and in crops;
- Removing chemical input;
- Increasing farmers' lifestyle, bet for productivity.

# CLIMATE OBJECTIVES

- By diminishing motorization, permaculture contributes to a reduced footprint.
- In the long-term, reduction of the Greenhouse Gas emissions in the atmosphere thanks to:
  - Reduced fossil fuel usage;
  - Reduced use of fertilisers and weedkillers, pesticides and fungicides.
- Contributing to achieving the specific goal of Kyoto Protocol to promote sustainable forms of agriculture.



# SAFE'S ACTIVITIES

- SAFE will organise four Open House Days in permaculture farms in four Member States (Belgium, France, Slovenia and Bulgaria).
- Each local event will include:
  - **1 training session for 100-150 farmers**, to provide information on the benefits and functioning of permacultural farming and on how to shift from intensive to more sustainable food production;
  - **1 event for the public**, presenting permaculture to consumers through farm tours.





# 3. FOOD WASTE

- FAO defines food waste as **food loss occurring during the retail and final consumption stages** due to the behaviour of retailers and consumers.
- Globally, **one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted**, which amounts to about 1.3 billion tons per year.
- The carbon footprint of food produced and not eaten amounts to 3.3 Gtonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent: **food wastage is the largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions after the US and China.**





# FOOD WASTE IN THE EU

- In 2012, 100 million tons of food went to waste in the EU.
- These figures could rise to over 120 million tons by 2020, which equals **240 Mt of emitted CO<sup>2</sup>**.
- Food waste has a huge impact on the carbon footprint → Reduced food waste will contribute to decreased CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.





# SAFE'S ACTIVITIES

***“ONE MAN'S WASTE IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE”***

- SAFE will launch a **food surplus redistribution campaign in Brussels.**
- We will organise the collection of food surplus in retail shops and restaurants, which will be transferred to charity associations and the food bank of Brussels-Brabant.
- This pilot project should be replicated in 2019 in other cities across the EU.





## 4. FOOD PACKAGING

- Packaging is defined by Eurostat as “any material which is used to contain, protect, handle, deliver or present goods”.
- Packaging’s environmental costs include energy consumption and gas emissions in the air, water and soil.
- Reducing food packaging will contribute to the achievement of emission reduction targets set the Paris Agreement (COP21) and other international climate conventions.



# SAFE'S ACTIVITIES

- SAFE will organise an **awareness campaign** in two European capitals: **Brussels and Amsterdam**.
- These campaigns will be implemented in collaboration with local authorities and will reach an estimated 2,500 households.
- Each campaign will include:
  - **Guidelines for consumers;**
  - **Set of sustainable packaging;**
  - **Public launching event** in one organic supermarket;
  - **Assessment of the impact** through questionnaires.

## UN EMBALLAGE PLUSIEURS USAGES

PROJET DE DISTRIBUTION D'EMBALLAGES RÉUTILISABLES  
POUR UNE CONSOMMATION DURABLE



26 au 27 mai  
8-14h  
Marché de la Place Flagey  
Place Sainte-Croix, 1050  
Bruxelles

#EUGreenWeek

@SafeFoodEurope

#SAFEPackaging

www.safefoodadvocacy.eu





# Thank you for your attention!

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