

## Triodos Bank's position on Food & Agriculture

Organic farmers work to achieve a harmonious balance between food production and nature. Non-organic farming and its products may be sustainable in one respect - for example, in relation to animal welfare - but organic agriculture is a systematic approach that's sustainable in all respects. That is why we only support organic businesses. Triodos Bank aims to change contemporary approaches to agriculture and food. We support organic entrepreneurs to expand their activities and market share, while taking up the wider responsibility for advancing the community through food, education, healthcare and ecological development.

This document puts forward the view of Triodos Bank on topics within food & agriculture. It includes our position and a description of our policy responses to these topics. This document applies to our entire organisation and all of its activities.

### Position on food & agriculture

The link between food and nature is underexposed, as well as the link with health. Organic agriculture recognises the relationship between the food we eat, our environment and our health. Our position on agriculture is based on the principles of organic agriculture formulated by the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM). IFOAM's vision presents a philosophy of agriculture as a living ecological social system and provides a set of principles, which are:

#### *The principle of health*

Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

#### *The principle of ecology*

Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles; work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

#### *The principle of fairness*

Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities (both among people and in relation to other living beings). The principle includes consideration for the social and economic wellbeing of all human parties involved, but also for the conditions and opportunities of life that accord with animals' psychology, natural behaviour and well-being.

#### *The principle of care*

Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Triodos Bank endorses the Business Benchmark on Farm Animal Welfare (BBFAW), which is designed to help drive higher farm animal welfare standards in the world's leading food businesses, including food retailers and wholesalers, restaurants and bars, and food producers and manufacturers. BBFAW is the first global measure of animal welfare standards in food companies and is designed for use by investors, companies, NGOs and other interested stakeholders.

Triodos Bank encourages companies active in agriculture to limit their water use and prevent water pollution. The use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers should be avoided and the emission of direct and indirect greenhouse gases and harmful substances should be minimised. In addition, high standards of animal welfare, with utmost respect for the Five Freedoms of animals, should be

maintained. Some forms of non-organic farming and their resulting products may be sustainable in certain respects, but truly organic agricultural practices require a systematic and multifaceted approach that is sustainable in all respects.

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