

The FiBL Residues Working Group at a glance

The FiBL Residues Working Group provides solutions to ensure the integrity of the organic sector.

Research

- ✓ Information on residues and contamination risks associated with specific substances and their metabolites
- ✓ Crops, food and feed at risk
- ✓ Contamination pathways along the supply chain
- ✓ Assessment of risk-management practices

Support for the organic sector

- ✓ Avoidance or reduction of residues and contaminants in organic products
- ✓ Technical guidance for target stakeholders
- ✓ Advisory and training services
- ✓ Guidance on best practices for farmers, processors and traders



Almost 20 years
of experience with residues.
More than 25 practice-oriented and scientific publications.

Further information & contact

Please find more detailed information online or contact us directly.



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Team

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About FiBL

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL is one of the world's leading institutes in the field of organic agriculture. FiBL's strengths lie in its interdisciplinary research, innovations developed jointly with farmers and the food industry, and rapid knowledge transfer.

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FiBL Residues Working Group

Scientific expertise and advisory services for residues in organic food and feed



Challenges facing the organic sector

Organic farming prohibits the use of synthetic pesticides. However, due to the widespread and intensive use of these substances in conventional production, traces of synthetic pesticides as well as other contaminants sometimes end up in organic products.

The new EU organic legislation requires operators at every stage of production, preparation and distribution to take precautionary measures to avoid the presence of unauthorised substances. Identifying potential risks and defining adequate precautionary measures requires expert knowledge from farmers, processors, traders, retailers, certifiers and authorities. Experience shows that not all actors have the same level of know-how and need more guidance on the practical implementation of the EU organic regulation. At the moment the handling and follow-up on residue cases in organic food and feed are not always harmonised across the EU.

Sampling and analysis have become important tools for quality assurance, as well as to protect organic production against fraud. However, many residue cases are not related to fraud, and the identification of the most likely causes is challenging and requires expert knowledge.

FiBL has developed long-standing expertise in the field of residues and contaminants and can provide science-based solutions and support to different stakeholders. In order to address the unsatisfactory situation for the entire supply chain of organic food and feed, FiBL has initiated the Residues Working Group.

Our expertise

- ✓ Identification of contamination pathways, e.g. from packaging materials, machinery or pest control activities
- ✓ Identification of preventive measures and in-depth analysis of unavoidable contamination values
- ✓ Background information on selected substances such as phosphonate, biphenyl, anthraquinone, chlorpyrifos, o-phenylphenol, phosphine and mineral oils (MOSH, MOAH, POSH)
- ✓ Methodological advice on sampling and analysis
- ✓ Risk assessment in relation to contamination with unauthorised substances

Our services

We provide tailor-made solutions for different needs and cases to different target groups such as farmers, processors, retailers, traders, control bodies/certifiers and authorities. The services are provided to individuals and groups. Our services include:

Consultancy and advice

Factsheets providing background information

Training and training materials

Technical guidance

