



The Flemish Organic Research and Knowledge Network anno 2024



Strategic Plan Organic Food and Farming 2023-2027

Bio van boer tot bord:
5 x 5% Flemish ambitions



5 growth objectives by the end of 2027



5% **landbouwareaal**: het areaal onder biologische productie neemt toe tot 30.000 ha tegen eind 2027

Organic production area



5% **omzetwaarde van de biologische dierlijke productie**: de omzetwaarde van de biologische dierlijke productie groeit naar 5% van de omzetwaarde van de gezamenlijke dierlijke productie (met inbegrip van zuivel)

Turnover value for organic animal production



5% **biolandbouwbedrijven**: minimaal 5% van de landbouwbedrijven zijn biobedrijven tegen eind 2027

Organic farms



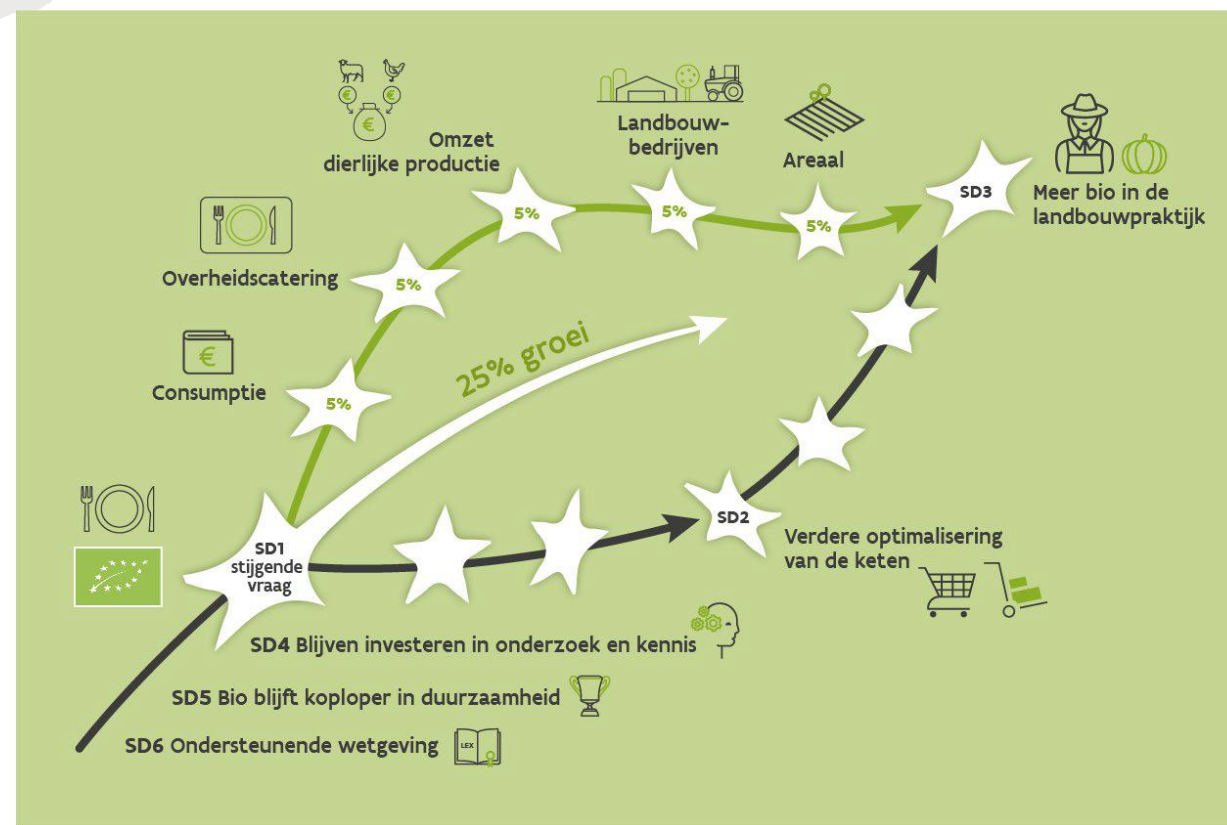
5% **bioconsumptie**: het volume van de bioconsumptie groeit tot 5% van de totale consumptie tegen eind 2027

Organic consumption



5% **bio in overheids catering**: bio maakt 5% uit van de overheids catering tegen eind 2027.

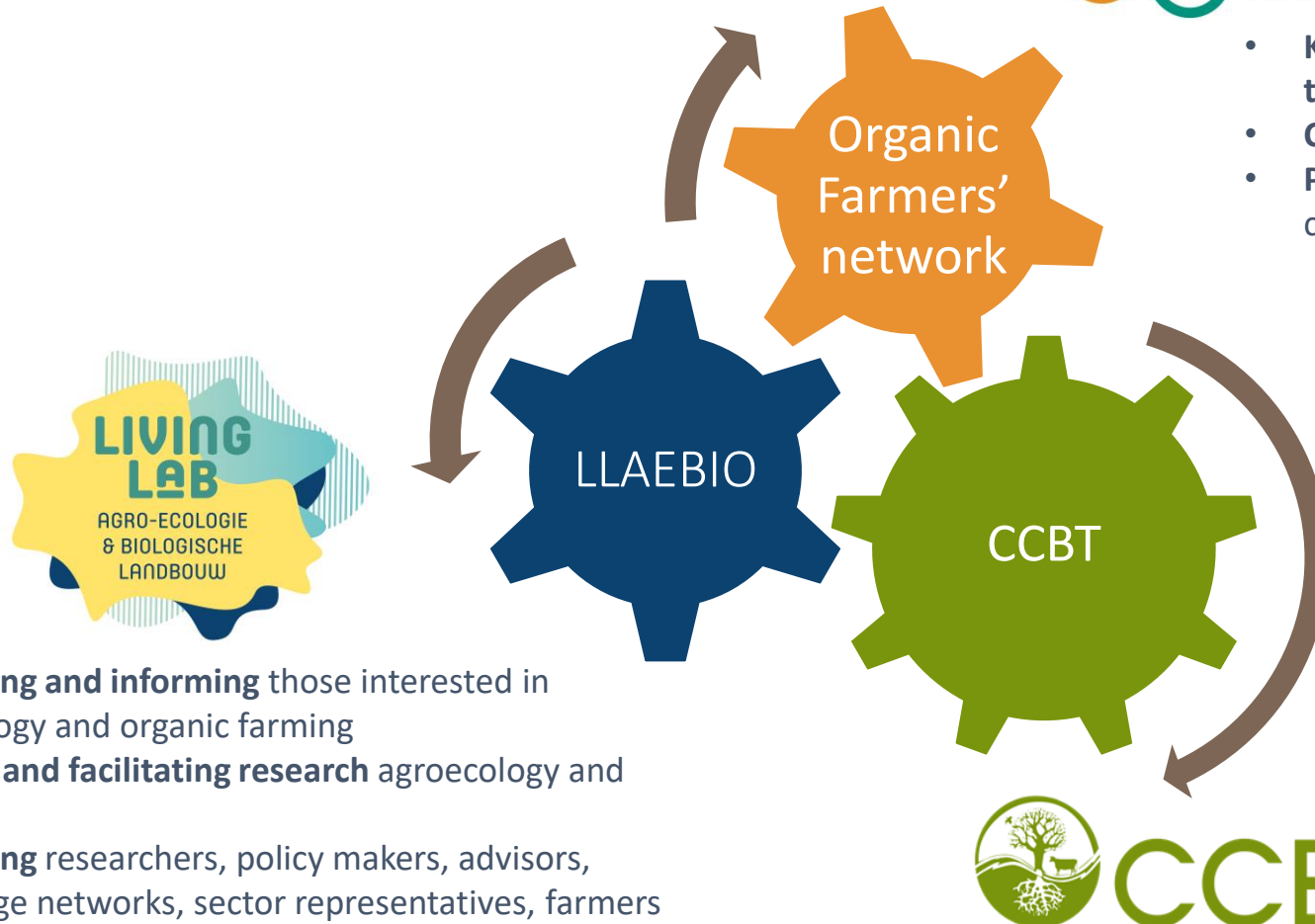
Organic public catering



Strengthening the Flemish Organic Research and Knowledge Network as a hub for demand-driven research

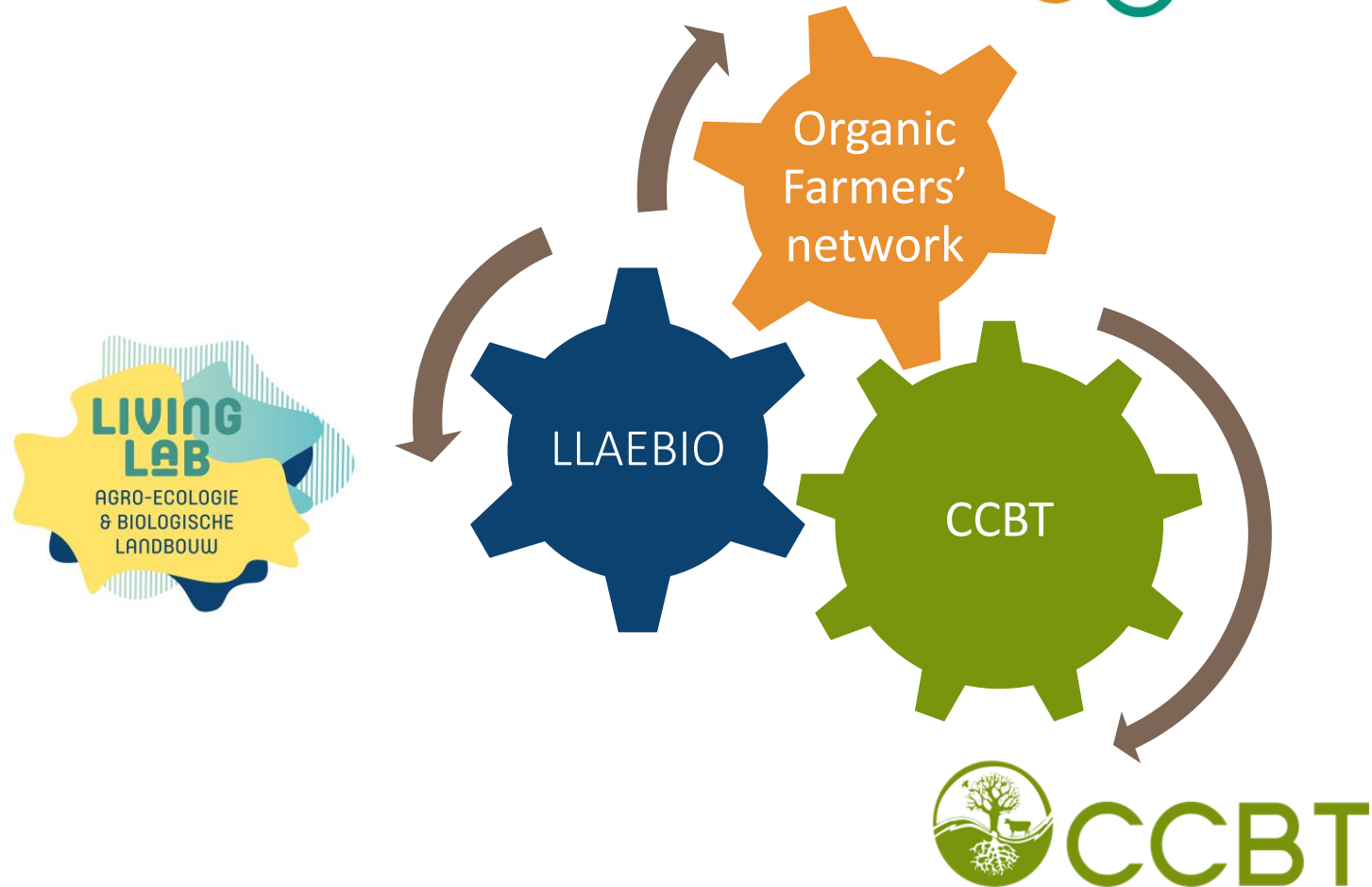


- **Knowledge exchange among farmers by sector or theme** (10 farmer networks)
- **Collecting knowledge needs from farmers**
- **Participation in European and Flemish projects** (co-creation)



- **Connecting and informing** those interested in agroecology and organic farming
- **Advising and facilitating research** agroecology and organic
- **Connecting** researchers, policy makers, advisors, knowledge networks, sector representatives, farmers

- **Coordination organic practical research** of 8 experimental research centers
- **Communication of research results** tailored to farmers
- **Funding of KT practical research** driven by organic sector



Strengthening the Flemish Organic Research and Knowledge Network as a hub for demand-driven research

Four ambitions to support an efficient knowledge policy in Flanders:

- ✓ To increase support for and recognition of research on organic food and farming in Flanders.
- ✓ To improve understanding of the research needs of the organic sector and address them.
- ✓ To optimise the use of research and knowledge exchange capacities for the organic sector.
- ✓ To disseminate and exchange research results and knowledge.

collaboration to best facilitate the matching of knowledge needs from the organic sector (farmers, market participant(s), policy or legislators) with research!



Organic Farmers' Networks (BBN): Farmers in the driving seat



coordinator- facilitator : An Jamart

Sector specific BBN :

- Vegetables, long chain
- Arable crops
- Short chain farms
- flowers
- Small fruits
- Goats
- Dairy cattle
- Poultry
- Beef cattle
- Pigs
- Greenhouse crops
- Cold greenhouse crop production



Other sector groups:

- Vakgroep Biofruit (Pome & stone fruit)

Basic conditions for Farmers' Network based on trust



Farmers at the driver's seat/ownership

Continuity

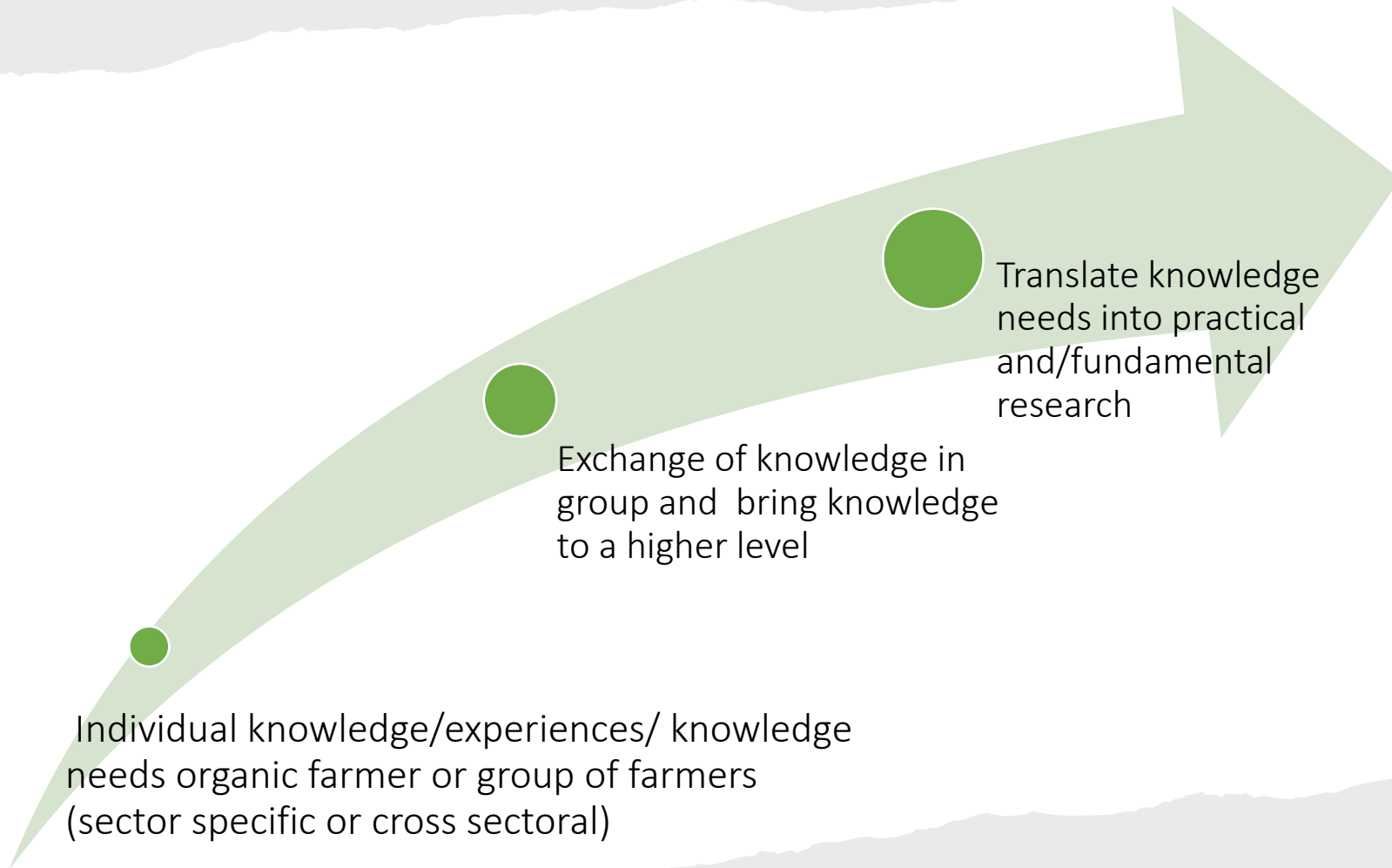
Trust

Cocreation

System thinking

Reciprocity: give and take knowledge

How does the Organic Farmers' Networks work?



Basic Actors

- **Farmers** (organic, in conversion, potential organic farmers)
- facilitator,
- Thematic experts
- ...

Role Facilitator- BioForum

- Person of trust
- filtering needs
- bringing expertise together
- Engage researchers and help to translate needs to researchers/policymakers
- If needed, set up new research projects

Animal production



An Jamart,



Liên Romeyns



Paul Verbeke



*Wim Govaerts,
adviseur*

- **Dairy cattle:** coordinator- facilitator : An Jamart – Wim Govaerts, Stijn Pauwelyn (Inagro)
- **Beef cattle:** Coordinator- facilitator : Paul Verbeke
- **Goats** coordinator- facilitator: An Jamart- Wim Govaerts
- **Poultry :** Coordinator-facilitator : Liên Romeyns
- **Pigs :** Coordinator-facilitator : Paul Verbeke, & Liên Romeyns

Together with Inagro, Wim Govaerts&co, ILVO – Living Lab Veehouderij (Pluimveeloket, Varkensloket, Rundveeloket)

Crop production



coordinator- facilitator : An Jamart

- *Vegetables open air – Arable crops* *Long chain*
- *Vegetables open air – Arable crops* *Short chain*

Technical expert: Lieven Delanote (Inagro)

external expertise:



*Lieven Delanote,
Inagro*

- *Vegetables covered crops cold glass*



*Sander Flerackers,
PSKW*



*An Van de Walle,
Viaverda (covered crops)*

Fruit/small fruit production



coordinator- facilitator : An Jamart



*President: Gaia Firth,
De Fruittuin*

- *Small fruits*

External expertise:



*PC Fruit: Renske Petré,
Adviseur bio*

- *'Vakgroep' Pome & Stone fruit*

External expertise: PCFruit



*An Gomand,
proeftuin pitfruit*



*Renske Petré,
Adviseur bio*

Flower production



coordinator- facilitator : An Jamart

External experts:



*Liesbet Blindeman
Viaverda*



*Ilse Delcour
Viaverda*

CCBT, Coordination Centre for practical research and knowledge exchange for the organic farmer

Carmen Landuyt
Coordinator - facilitator

Laura Golsteyn
Communication



Umbrella of 8 experimental research centres involved in organic research

- INAGRO, vegetables open air, arable crops, animal production
- Viaverda, covered crops and herbs (former PCG) & ornamental plants (former PCS)
- Pcfruit, pome and stone fruit, small fruits and berries
- Proefbedrijf Pluimveehouderij, poultry
- Proefcentrum Pamel, small fruits and berries
- PIBO campus, arable crops
- Proefstation voor de groenteteelt (PSKW), minor crops

2 main tasks:


- Coordination of practical research
- Communication to the (organic) agricultural sector



CCBT, 8 experimental research centres involved in organic research

Viaverda

- Kruisem
- Organic covered crops, herbs and innovative crops
- Advisor: An Van de Walle
- + office CCBT!




Viaverda:

- Destelbergen
- Organic flowers
- Liesbet Blindeman en Ilse Delcour




Proefstation voor de Groenteteelt:

- Sint-Katelijne-Waver
- Minor crops
- Sander Fleerackers




PROEFSTATION
VOOR DE GROENTETEELT

Proefbedrijf Pluimveehouderij:

- Geel
- Laying hens
- Ine Kempen





Inagro:



- Roeselare
- Organic arable crops and vegetables
- Organic experimental farm
- Department organic research and advise with 10 persons
- Advisor: Lieven Delanote
- Research coordinator: Joran Barbry








pcfruit:

- Sint-Truiden
- Stone and pome fruit, small fruits and berries
- Director Experimental garden: Jef Vercammen
- Advisor: Renske Petré

PIBO Campus vzw:

- Tongeren
- Arable crops
- Damien Xhonneux

CCBT, coordination of demand driven research

- Call for small organic practical research project for the 8 experimental research centres of CCBT (CCBT-projects) [Projecten | ccbt](#)
- Database research projects related to organic farming, [Onderzoeksdatabank | ccbt](#)
- **Network** of practical researchers, advisors and farmers
- Stimulating **demand driven research for the organic sector**

And more ...

- follow-up (fundamental) and applied research for organic sector
- Advice to policy makers, researchers and financiers about the needs of the organic sector.
- follow-up (EU) research calls for organic research
- Participation in EU platforms such as TP Organics



CCBT, research and knowledge tailored to the farmer

BIOpraktijk.be

- **BIOpraktijk**: practical information and research results for farmers (monthly newsletter, videos, social media ...)
- Organisation of events, study trips, training, ... **for organic farmers**
 - Annual trip abroad ([Tech&Bio Valence](#) (Sept 2023), Groundswell festival (June 2024) farm visits)
 - Biannual Networking day 'Techniek in bio tuinbouw' (19 september 2024 in Nijlen)
- Regular exchange with 'Groenkennisnetwerk Nederland'
- **Educations and trainings for organic farmers** (among others course organic small fruits, t, 'Boer Bricoleur': learn to build your own machinery)
- Participating in the EC platform **Organic Farm Knowledge**
- Social media: videos [Youtube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) ...



LLAEBIO, The Agroecology and Organic Agriculture Living Lab



Coordinator LLAEBIO – Dylan Feyaerts



*Hilde Wustenberghs,
Expertise sustainability indicators and
assessment*



*Jo Bijttebier,
Expertise agro-
ecology, living labs,
learning networks and
innovatie*



*Lieve De Cock,
Expertise research and
knowledge exchange
organic food and
agriculture*



A network open to all individuals and organizations who wish to support the development of agroecology and organic farming in Flanders.

- Everyone interested in agroecology and organic agriculture can participate: Farmers (organic and conventional), researchers (universities, university colleges, experimental research centres), suppliers, buyers and processors, Interest groups or NGOs, Consumers, extension agents, Policy makers, Teachers and lecturers, Etc.
- Focus on:
 - Disseminate information, knowledge and expertise on agroecology and organic farming;
 - Bring people together to facilitate mutual exchange of expertise and knowledge about agroecology and organic farming;
 - Support and promote research and experiments on agroecology and organic farming.
- Cross-fertilization of knowledge between conventional, organic and other alternative systems that are not organic but pursue agroecological principles

How the living lab works?

- System thinking
- 5 principles of living labs - *multi-actor participation, multi-method approach, openness and cocreation, end-users involvement and real life context*
- Strong involvement of people from the network, interactive planning moments and interactive workshops for setting the agenda of LLAEBIO: jointly chosen theme of 2023 -2024 'Collaboration within the short chain to achieve a fair price for agroecological products'



LLAEBIO, Knowledge sharing and network building - exempels

- ‘**LLAEBIO draait door**’: A quarterly event that updating members on LLAEBIO activities and offering a forum to partners to share their needs or experiences in projects or other activities (<https://www.llaebio.be/output>)
- **Webinars on themes of interest**: For example, a system-thinking exercise on ‘fair pricing,’ which led to a series of three webinars combining theoretical and practical insights. (<https://www.llaebio.be/output>)
- **Soil health conference**: An event featuring international keynote speakers held on World Soil Day in Brussels to highlight the importance of healthy soils for a broad range of stakeholders.
- **Farm visits and an annual demonstration day** on the Experimental Platform for Agroecology in Hansbeke ([Demodag Proefplatform Agro-Ecologie te Hansbeke - PPAE Hansbeke](https://www.llaebio.be/output))
- **LLAEBIO website with library** <https://www.llaebio.be/thema>, news, and agenda (activities LLAEBIO and network members), <https://www.llaebio.be/nieuws>



LLAEBIO, facilitation of innovative research

- **Facilitation of the development of research projects** by connecting (research)organizations or/and encouraging stakeholder engagement in projects.
- **Sharing of project funding opportunities:** Screening various funding programmes (regional, national, European), to spotlight funding for new research projects and share them with our LL network. > bimonthly newsletter
- **A shared PowerPoint presentation on agroecology:** Aiming to enhance understanding of the scientific foundations of agroecology.
- **Round table discussions:** Defining research priorities together with the (organic) sector
- **Building and maintaining a European network** within research and living labs for organic agriculture and agroecology
- **follow up research for organic agriculture and agroecology** within the Flemish, national and European context



Joint activities of the FORK network

- **advising** the Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries about research priorities for the organic sector
 - Flemish research call for applied research
 - Input strategic plan organic, ...
- **matching knowledge needs from practice to research** by organising round table discussions with farmers
- **facilitating and supporting research project proposal writing**



Much mutual consultations, exchange, complementary tasks to support each other!

Joint activities of the FORK network

- Organisation of seminars a.o. yearly Mini-symposium (), Info webinar GLB and VLIF (2023)
- **Archiving Flemish organic research** -> online database CCBT + thematic magazine
- **Informing and involving students in research for organic farming**
 - WG Organic in (secondary) agricultural education
 - Competition 'Best thesis for organic farming or agroecology'
- **Partnerships and networking with other Flemish and European networks:**
 - Platform Sustainable Fertilisation, Platform Agricultural research, PCR, PCV, Agrolink
 - Biokennis and Groenkennisnetwerk
 - COREOrganic Pleiades network, TPOrganics
 - Organic Eprints (orgprints.org), Organic Farm Knowledge (organic-farmknowledge.org)



Much mutual consultation, exchange, complementary task to support each other!

Flemish Organic Research and Knowledge Network:



BIOpraktijk.be



Practical info and research for organic farmers

- **Monthly newsletter BioPraktijk**
- **Communicate** your research to organic farmers
- Collaboration with **experimental research centres?**
- **Research questions** as organic farmer?
>> Contact info@ccbt.be



Networks for organic farmers

- Specific questions as an organic farmer? **Knowledge exchange?**
- **Collaboration with the organic sector in research projects?**
>> Contact an.jamart@bioforum.be



Platform for research and knowledge exchange for agroecology and organic food and farming

- Info about **research opportunities, consortia building**
- Questions about **'system approach'?**
- **Student looking for a subject for his/her thesis?**
- **Share your expertise** via ['netwerkdatabank'](#) (network database)
- Stay informed about activities of LLAEBIO and its partners
- [Tips and tricks for project proposal writing](#)
>> Contact llaebio@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

