



**Organic farming,
biodiversity,
Climate protection and health prevention**

Promoting:

**FOR A CHANGE IN POLITICAL THINKING –
QUESTIONING THE DOMINANCE OF
CURRENT MARKET MECHANISMS**



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1. Restopolis and Supply4Future – an absolute success story

As a reminder, for several years now, Restopolis, the Ministry of Education's supply structure for school canteens, has been implementing a purchasing policy that is exemplary by Luxembourg standards.

Whereas price used to be the decisive factor in determining which foodstuffs were purchased for school catering, today their quality and origin are also considered key factors.

Instead of price being the sole determining factor (as is unfortunately still largely the case when ordering school fruit through the Ministry of Agriculture, for example), Restopolis' current tender criteria focus on promoting local (organic) agriculture and its products, biodiversity and health.

With the Supply4Future platform, Restopolis and the Ministry of Education have opened up new, extensive, relatively secure and extremely important sales opportunities for all local products, which is sustainable and essential for Luxembourg's agriculture.

This comes after years of very consistent and persistent commitment, especially on the part of the Mouvement Ecologique.

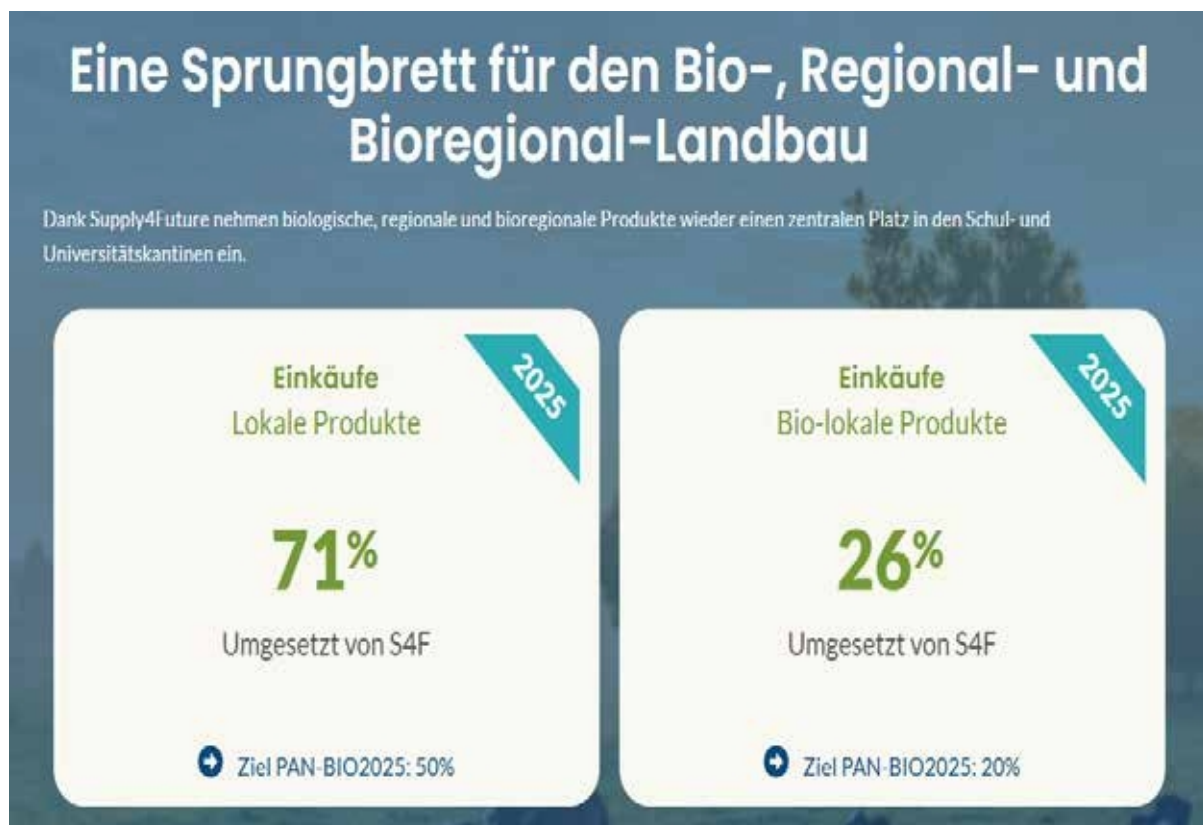
To quote from the platform: "With over 117 locations (school canteens

and cafeterias), 3 million meals served and 5 million cafeteria products sold per year, as well as significant purchasing volumes, Restopolis plays a central role in the development of a sustainable, transparent and fair food system."

Both conventional and organic farming thus have a much better sales market in the area of school canteens. A win-win situation:

- promotion of local agriculture in general and, in the case of organic farming, additional promotion of biodiversity, climate, animal and health protection;
- Creation of added value in the economic value chain;
- Access for all children and young people to the best possible healthy food, regardless of their socio-cultural background.

The Supply4Future strategy has proven itself; it is proving to be extremely practical and efficient in practice!



From the official Supply4Future website

Award criteria for purchasing from Restopolis / Supply4Future

The following award criteria apply at **Supply4Future** (as of March 2025):

Price: 40%
Organic quality: 27%
Local origin: 23%
Local delivery: 10%

This means that price continues to play a role. However, overall production conditions are given greater weight.

The criterion of "organic production" plays the most important role with 27%, followed by "local origin" with 23%.

An organically produced product that is also locally produced is rated highest (27% + 23%).

However, an organically produced product from beyond a certain perimeter (which varies depending on the product category, sometimes including the neighbouring greater region) can also be rated more highly if the conventionally produced product is not supplied locally (27% for the organic criterion, 23% for exclusively local origin).

For the organic sector in particular, Restopolis' innovation came at an extremely important time: after the Covid period, during which the sector experienced very positive growth, there was a slump in sales. Some organic farmers even considered switching back to conventional production.

The modern purchasing strategy introduced by the Ministry of Education through Restopolis can therefore rightly be regarded as one of the most important measures taken in recent years to support Luxembourg's (organic) agriculture and sustainable development.

Incidentally, the new purchasing culture for schools was introduced by the Ministry of Education and Restopolis without any involvement or financial support from the Ministry of Agriculture. Unlike the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Agriculture has for years failed to create a framework and structure (e.g. a platform similar to Supply4-Future for schools) to ensure that organic and regional food is offered in other public canteens (hospitals, retirement homes, etc.). In doing so, it is failing to create secure sales markets for its producers.

Restopolis, on the other hand, has opened up new opportunities and can take credit for developing positive prospects in these rather difficult times for agriculture.

The Supply4Future initiative of the Ministry of Education: Pioneering the development of Luxembourg's agriculture – particularly influential for organic farming.



2. A success story, but one that risks being called into question in its current form

being called into question by the Ministry of Agriculture, among others.

It should be noted at the outset that the following analysis is not based on direct exchanges with Agriculture Minister Martine Hansen. She has in fact stated on several occasions that, on the one hand, she has very little interest in dialogue with environmental organisations and, on the other hand, that although she supports organic farming, she does not wish to give it greater priority over conventional agriculture. To date, the Minister of Agriculture has not sought dialogue with environmental groups, but has rather conveyed that, in her opinion, such dialogue would not be helpful (not even within the framework of the organic action plan).

There is currently no discussion of whether *Restopolis / Supply4Future's* purchasing policy should continue to give priority to local organic agricultural products (within an economic framework, price still plays a role, but is less important).

However, various groups are exerting pressure to have locally produced conventional food ranked higher than organic food produced abroad.

At first glance, this may seem understandable. However, this change in purchasing policy would have far-reaching consequences, including for the development of organic farming in Luxembourg.

The changes proposed by various stakeholders are symbolic of key issues that have been influencing agricultural discussions for some time.

The reasons why a change in criteria in favour of local conventional production over non-local organic production would also cause problems for organic farming in Luxembourg and sustainable development are outlined below:

First of all, it is important to note that the organic food purchased by *Supply4Future* **comes primarily from local sources and EU countries**, as Restopolis positively prioritises the purchase of seasonal goods.

So when organic products are purchased from abroad, these are not strawberries from South Africa, for example, but products that are not (sufficiently) available from local production.

Logically, food that is not produced locally using organic methods has the same advantages over conventionally produced food as locally produced organic food: significant benefits for biodiversity, climate protection, no or far lower pesticide pollution, etc.



Reason 1: Incentive for conventional farms to switch to organic farming

Until now, local farmers knew that **it was worthwhile switching from conventional production to organic farming, because this gave them secure sales opportunities with Supply4Future.**

This is because *Supply4Future* gives local organic food a certain priority over all conventionally produced local food and all non-locally produced food (both conventionally produced and organic).

If this "competition" were to disappear, the incentive for many conventional farmers to switch to organic production would be weakened. In the current agricultural situation, this incentive is absolutely necessary, especially in view of the fluctuating prices between organic and conventionally produced products, today's government subsidy policy, etc.

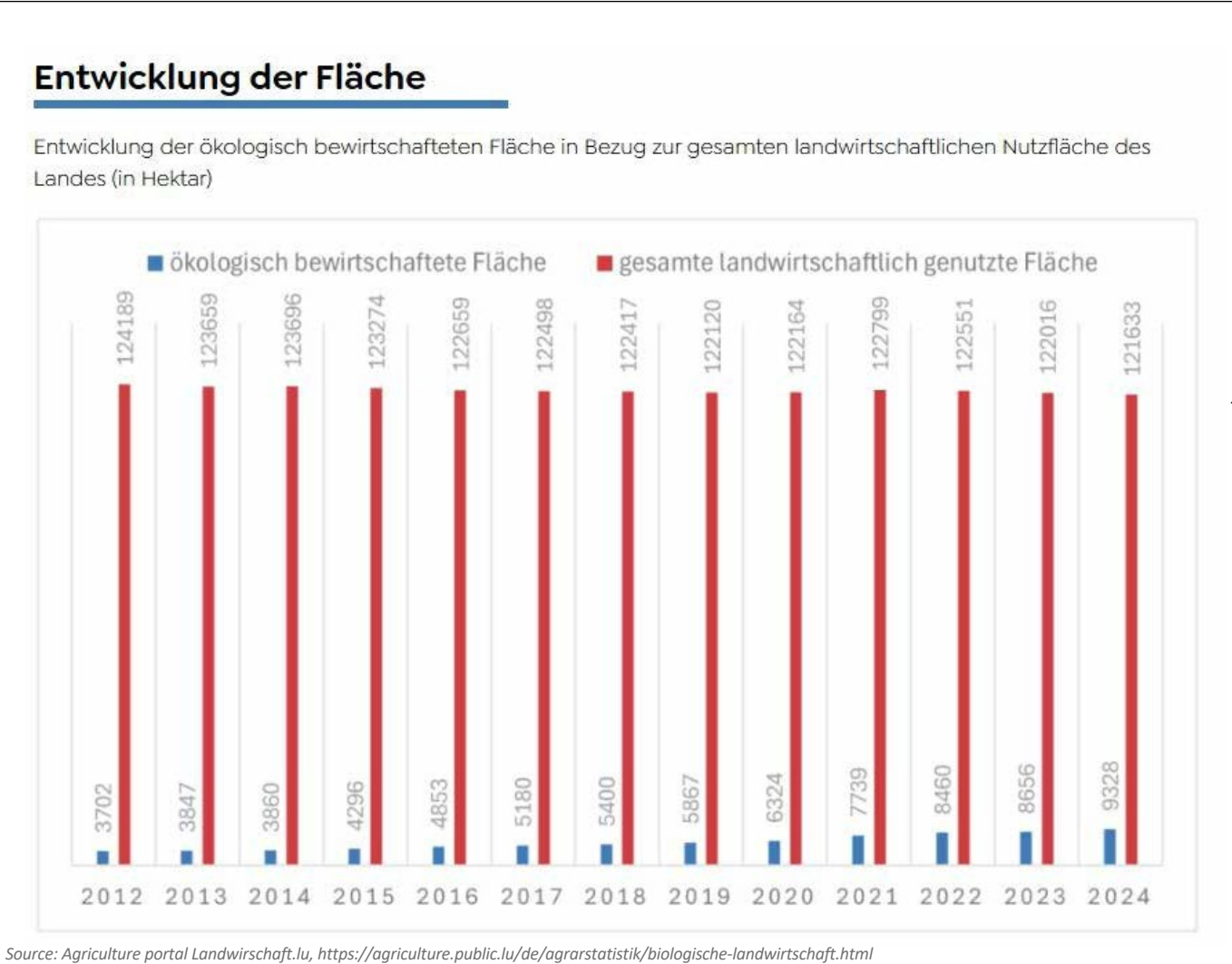
It is only natural that farmers should also respond to the market and sales opportunities. With the change sought by various stakeholders, the situation would be more like this: there are a few local organic producers, but they are not really competing with conventional farmers for sales.

conventionally producing farmers. As there would no longer be any pressure from foreign producers of organic food, who help shape the market, a key incentive to switch from the traditional (but sometimes environmentally damaging) production methods they are familiar with to organic farming would disappear.

One of the key arguments in favour of this production method is guaranteed sales, and here it is essential that *Supply4Future* continues to focus on organic farming in the future.

The current structure of *Supply4Future* tenders thus makes a key contribution to the transition of agriculture towards sustainable development and future-oriented farming. Because let's not kid ourselves: in the medium to long term, the only agricultural policy that will survive is one that is not based on the overexploitation of nature.

The figures on the development of organic farming in Luxembourg show how desperately necessary this is: Luxembourg has simply failed to meet half of the target it set itself in its so-called Organic Action Plan (PAN-Bio): instead of the targeted 25,000 hectares of organic farming by 2025, there were only 9,328 hectares in 2024. The target was 20% of agricultural land. This situation is an indictment of Luxembourg's agricultural policy. Organic farming in Luxembourg continues to lag behind



Original PAN Bio target: 20% organic farming – far less was achieved



Source: "Organic in figures" on [bio2025.lu](https://bio2025.lu/akteure-und-label-in-luxemburg/bio-entdecken/), <https://bio2025.lu/akteure-und-label-in-luxemburg/bio-entdecken/>

It is fair to say that Luxembourg would fall even further short of its targets in the organic action plan if it weren't for Restopolis' *Supply4future* initiative. This is because the growth in cultivated land is due to Restopolis' initiative.

The Ministry of Agriculture should actually be grateful to the Ministry of Education for its pioneering role in sustainable agriculture.

If the incentive of public canteens as a sales market were to disappear, the further development of organic farming in Luxembourg would be highly uncertain. How the upcoming organic action plan could then be successfully implemented is anyone's guess!

One gets the impression that stakeholders such as the Minister of Agriculture are convinced that today's organic farmers, the majority of whom are acting on a fundamental conviction

production, are welcome to continue producing in this way, as the few percent they represent are no "competition" for conventional agriculture.

However, the urgently needed conversion of further conventional farms is neither recognised nor pursued! There are even rumours that the targets of the new organic action plan for the expansion of organic farming are therefore to be set very modestly.

Last but not least, if the previous and current governments had supported organic farming more consistently some time ago, national production of organic food would be much higher and the demand for imported products lower. This mistake must not be repeated.



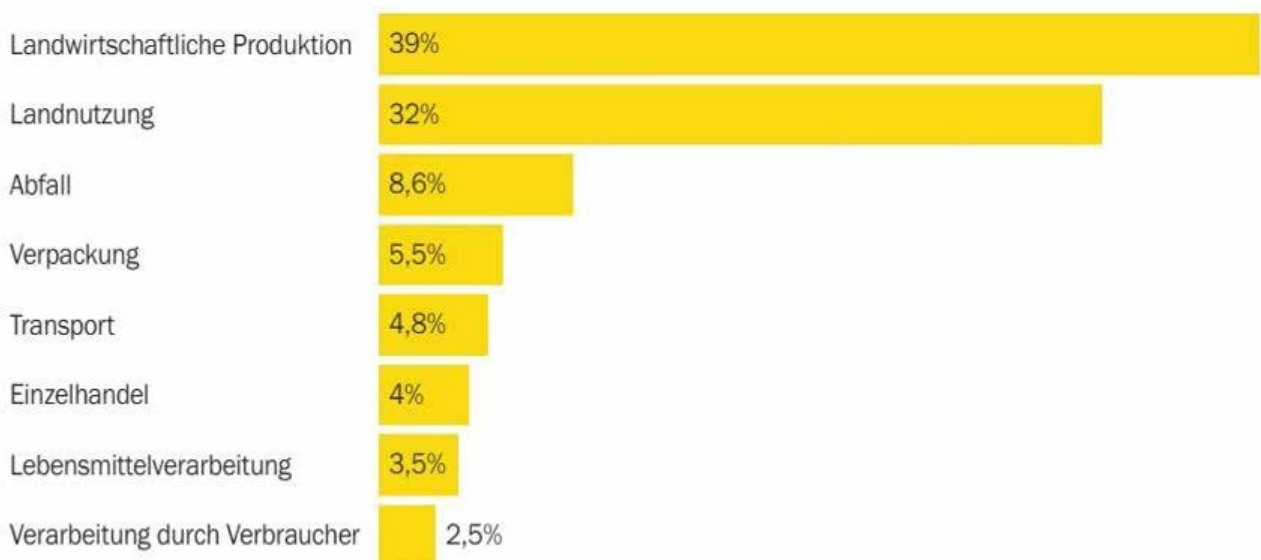
Reason 2: The main source of CO_2 emissions is cultivation – not transport

Numerous studies have shown that it is not transport that is primarily responsible for the CO_2 emissions generated during food production, but rather the production process itself.

Calculations show that only about 5-20% of the climate impact is due to the transport of food products. Organic products produced a little further away are far more sustainable from an ecological point of view than locally produced conventional food.

CO₂-Emissionen bei Lebensmitteln nach Produktionsschritten

Die Grafik zeigt, wie sich der komplette CO₂-Ausstoß des Essens anteilig auf die verschiedenen Anbau- und Produktionsschritte verteilt. Die Angaben sind in Prozent.



Quelle: Our World in Data/Crippa M. et al. (2021)

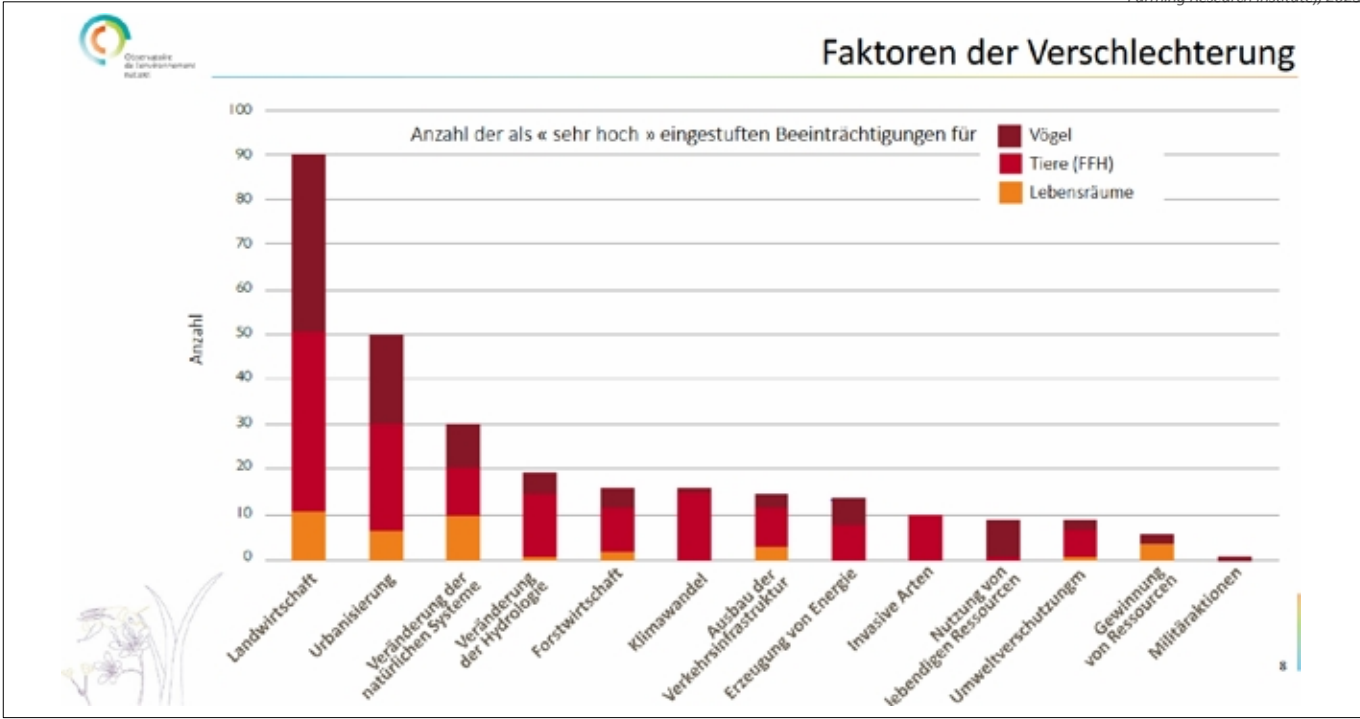
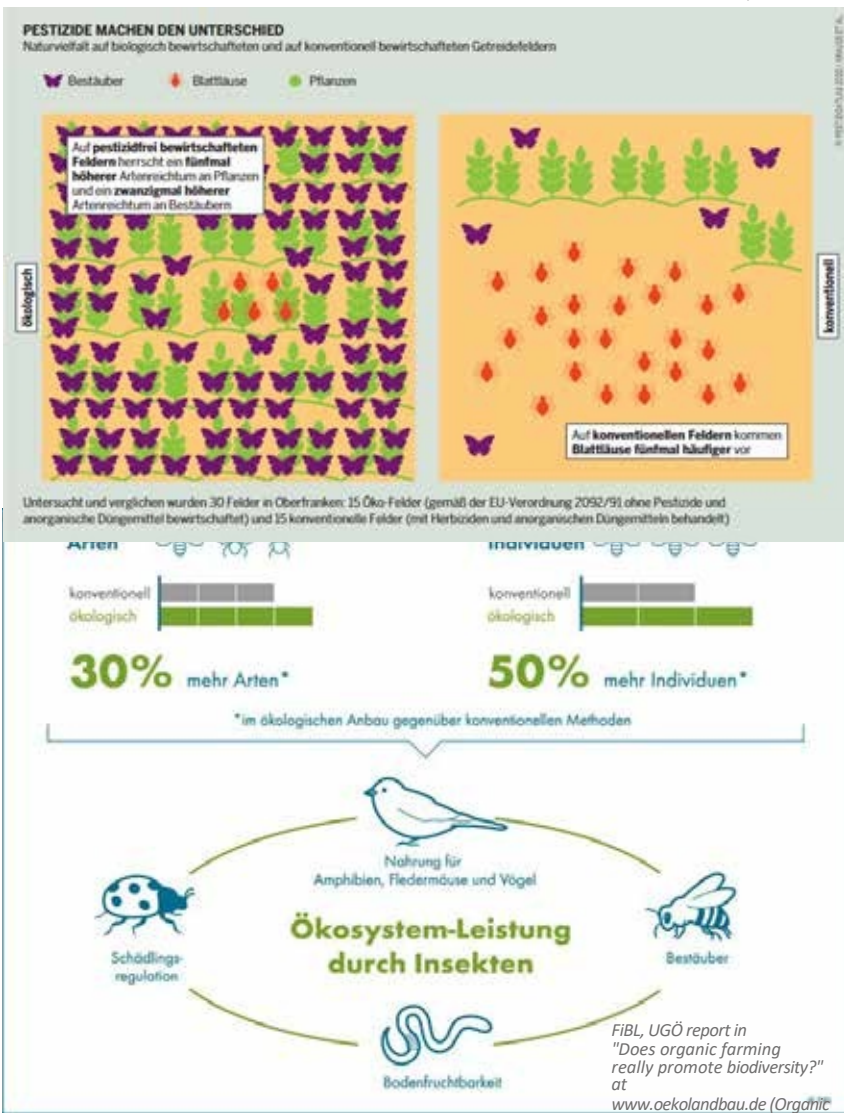
Reason 3: Biodiversity and climate protection must not stop at national borders

Source: Pesticide Atlas 2022, Heinrich Böll

It would be absurd for Luxembourg to ignore the impact of its food production when it takes place abroad.

Any degradation of biodiversity and the climate affects us all and future generations: organic farming is sustainable and protects the environment, whether it takes place locally or 100 km away.

The graphs on this page clearly show how relevant the differences in production between organic and conventional farming are.



Source: Activity report of the Observatoire de l'environnement naturel 2017-2021 – Press conference 29 March 2022

Reason 4: Organically produced food: schools must offer food that is least contaminated with harmful substances

Analyses by *Sécurité Alimentaire* show that organically produced food is generally far less contaminated with pesticides than conventionally produced food. It is also a fact that hair analyses of children – commissioned by the Ministry of Health and carried out by the LIH

– showed that all children in Luxembourg were exposed to pesticides.

However, the levels were much lower in children who mainly ate organic food (see excerpt from the study on this page).

Analyses of house dust (see graph below), carried out on behalf of the Mouvement Ecologique, show systematic contamination of the entire population.

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Jusqu'à 88 polluants différents trouvés dans les cheveux des enfants luxembourgeois

Une étude novatrice du LIH vise à améliorer les mesures de protection des enfants contre l'exposition à la pollution

19 juillet 2022

UNITÉ DE RECHERCHE SUR LA BIOSURVEILLANCE HUMAINE DÉPARTEMENT SANTÉ DE PRÉCISION



61 Verbindungen in seinem Haar hatte, wobei die Werte zwischen 29 und 88 pro Probe lagen. Am höchsten war die Konzentration von Bisphenol A (BPA), das üblicherweise bei der Herstellung von Kunststoffen verwendet wird, mit 133,6 pg/mg. Obwohl persistente organische Schadstoffe in Europa seit über 20 Jahren verboten sind, wurden sie in mehr als der Hälfte der Proben gefunden, was darauf hindeutet, dass die starke industrielle Vergangenheit Luxemburgs in Verbindung mit der langen Abbaudauer dieser Chemikalien zu einer anhaltenden Belastung der Kinder führen könnte. Auch Pestizide wurden in allen Proben häufig nachgewiesen.

Interessanterweise wurde festgestellt, dass die Exposition gegenüber Schadstoffen in jüngeren Jahren höher ist, und dass Jungen stärker nicht persistenten Pestiziden gegenüber exponiert sind als Mädchen. Dies legt die Vermutung nahe, dass es einen physiologischen und verhaltensmäßigen Dimorphismus zwischen den Geschlechtern gibt. Darüber hinaus wiesen Kinder, die sich überwiegend biologisch ernähren, deutlich niedrigere Konzentrationen von 17 Schadstoffarten in ihrem Haar auf.

Source: Luxembourg Institute of Health, 19 July 2022, press release
Up to 88 different pollutants found in the hair of Luxembourg children
<https://www.lih.lu/fr/article/jusqua-88-polluants-differents-trouves-dans-les-cheveux-des-enfants-luxembourgeois/>

Une pollution engendrée par les traitements agricoles a été mesurée dans tous les échantillons de poussière. Un logement sur 2 contient plus de 7 pesticides agricoles et plus de 49,5 ng/g de pesticide.



Source: Mouvement Ecologique, 14 December 2022, Position statement "All citizens chronically exposed – the Luxembourg State must act!"
<https://www.meco.lu/fr/blog/documentcenter/alle-buergerinnen-chronischer-pestizidbelastung-ausgesetzt-der-staat-luxemburg-muss-handeln/>

Reason 5: Schools must be credible to children, young people and parents

Politicians like to argue that citizens are too focused on their own interests, often referring to the "not in my back yard" mentality of citizens. But if the Luxembourg government were to change course and give priority to local conventional

production over non-local organic products, this would be exactly the case, and in the worst possible way. **Is this what we want to teach our children?**



3. The attitude of Agriculture

and Consumer Protection Martine Hansen

towards organic farming

Minister of Agriculture Martine Hansen primarily represents the interests of conventional agriculture.

It is certainly her job to represent the interests of conventional farmers. But wouldn't it also be the job of a Minister of Agriculture – also in her role as Minister for Consumer Protection! – to contribute to promoting organic farming more consistently, even prioritising it, for the reasons mentioned above?

Unfortunately, the minister emphasised several times – including in an official meeting with the Mouvement Ecologique – that *"organic farming is not a priority"*. Yet all scientific analyses show that this type of agriculture is the most desirable from the point of view of biodiversity, climate protection, health protection and animal welfare.

A minister is committed to ALL of a government's objectives, including those relating to ecology. In this respect, she should be consistently expanding organic farming. However, efforts in this area are limited.

- This is demonstrated not least by the example of the €20 million in funding that the Luxembourg state intends to invest in the construction of rather large (minimum investment of €1 million) greenhouses for fruit and vegetable cultivation. From the point of view of the Mouvement Ecologique, organic farming should have been made mandatory, or at least the tender specifications should have included certain ecological criteria for cultivation. However, this was not the case! Yet this would have been entirely possible and only a logical consequence of numerous government declarations (cf. sustainability goals, PAN-Bio, etc.).
- But the approach taken in the organic farming action plan also provides deep insight. The current action plan expires in 2025, and a new organic action plan must be in place by the end of autumn. To date, however, no such draft has been presented, and it is being drawn up behind closed doors

, and there is no organic farming round table with all stakeholders has not been established.

According to information from the Mouvement Ecologique, Minister Martine Hansen now also appears to be advocating for the current provisions of Restopolis to be amended as outlined above, which once again reflects this view in a striking manner.

This may perhaps be seen as being in the interests of conventional local farmers in the short term, but it generally has extremely negative consequences, as explained in this opinion.

In other words, not only is the Minister not actively promoting the expansion of organic farming, she even seems to be actively campaigning for a rollback and is unwilling to use all the levers at her disposal to ensure that the expansion can take place consistently enough.

This is at a time when organic farming – partly due to a lack of political support and some implementation problems – is not developing as required and planned, as already mentioned!

The Minister of Agriculture is unilaterally acting as a mouthpiece for a less sustainable agricultural policy.

This is despite the fact that, as a minister, she should be well aware that the discrimination against organically produced food from abroad would not only be associated with general ecological, health and educational disadvantages, but would also be at the expense of the expansion of local organic farming.

It is also well known that expanding organic farming in Luxembourg itself would significantly reduce ammonia emissions, climate-relevant gas emissions, etc. from Luxembourg agriculture, which would benefit the entire sector.



Non-local organic products: at most, occasional competition for locally produced food at *Supply4Future*

One might wonder where the argument put forward by representatives of the agricultural sector that non-local organic products pose a "threat" to conventional local food comes from.

Well, concrete examples are hardly ever given.

No product sector has been named, let alone several (for information: Restopolis orders a total of over 300 different products), in which foreign organic products have completely displaced locally produced conventional products from the market. And if this were the case in specific instances, then these products should be clearly identified, the reasons analysed and, if necessary, specific solutions sought, rather than questioning an entire system across the board.

The question is: which sectors are 100% covered by organic products (local and non-local), thereby displacing Luxembourg's conventional production? If this were the case in one sector, how many of the organic products on offer are locally produced and how many come from abroad? And last but not least: what can be done to promote domestic production?

The only understandable consequence is that conventional farms wishing to expand their production may find it more difficult to do so if these products – currently more niche products – are already being covered by organic producers.

The Mouvement Ecologique expressly welcomes the initiative shown by farmers who are diversifying their production. However, it must be said that isolated examples – which still need to be disclosed – should not lead to the questioning of an entire system.

Anyone who argues in this situation that conventional farmers should be removed from "competition" from locally producing organic farmers is taking exactly the wrong approach! The opposite must be true: conventional farmers should be supported in expanding their production and encouraged to switch to organic farming, thereby contributing to the development of organic farming in Luxembourg.

It can be assumed that the Minister for Agriculture and Consumer Protection is not doing this and does not want to do it: namely, to win over conventional farmers to organic production.

After all, the goal should be to support farmers who are already taking positive steps to diversify and explore new avenues as much as possible so that they can grow organically! This should be the goal of a sustainability-oriented agricultural policy.

This gives the impression that the aim here is to work against organic farming across the board, without any real need for action, instead of developing realistic and practical solutions to specific problems.

This is much more an ideological problem than a real one! It's just that this is not being said openly...

4. The dubious role of Provençale –

A private company as a "political" pacemaker?

When talking about public catering, there is no getting around *Provençale*. It currently has a de facto **market-dominating role in the catering distribution sector** (as well as an extremely important one in processing) and seems to know how to use it.

Almost all producers depend on *Provençale*: as processors of agricultural and horticultural products, but also as distributors of goods at all levels. It also supplies *Supply4Future*, particularly because it is extremely difficult for individual farmers to do this logistically and they often do not have the capacity to ensure a high level of food safety.

The entire sector therefore depends on its cooperation with *Provençale*.
Provençale.

Provençale's merits in this context cannot be denied: the sector benefits from its offerings and its good services.

However, the way in which *Provençale* uses this dominant market position raises questions.

The Mouvement Ecologique has sufficient information to show that *Provençale* is strongly advocating the proposed amendment in favour of locally produced food in the *Supply4Future* system.

However, there are also fundamental problems arising from *Provençale*'s very consistent use of its market dominance.

- **Problem 1: Farmers are dependent on *Provençale*'s distribution networks – this dependency is becoming cemented**

It is widely known in the sector that *Provençale* can put pressure on farmers if they want to supply certain foods to schools without using *Provençale*'s services. This could be by using a different distribution structure (of which there are very few) or by setting up such a structure themselves with other farmers.

If a farmer wants to pursue "other sales channels" (e.g. directly with *Supply4Future*), *Provençale* threatens to terminate all business relations with the farmer, i.e. to no longer distribute and, if necessary, process their products.

However, hardly any farmer can afford to do this, as not all food produced can be sold via *Supply4Future*, among other channels.

As a result, *Provençale*'s current strategy means that competitors have little chance of establishing themselves. In the opinion of Mouvement Ecologique, this is a highly problematic attitude on the part of a market-dominating player and should actually be examined from a legal perspective.

This approach makes it difficult for all farmers (conventional and organic producers) to diversify their distribution channels.

Note: This is also one of the reasons why *Supply4Future*'s original goal of increasing decentralised supply to schools – farmers or agricultural communities should be able to supply schools directly (even independently of an external commercial service provider such as *Provençale*) – could not be achieved.

- **Problem 2: *Provençale* prevents diversification of distribution structures – consolidating its market dominance**

Due to this situation, not only are farmers at the mercy of *Provençale*, but there are also hardly any new distribution structures emerging, and existing ones sometimes have problems attracting new farmers to their services (even if they might be interested).

This leads to a quasi-monopoly position being further consolidated. Since it is understandably always sensible not to be exposed to just one market player, this makes conditions more difficult for all farmers.

EU competition rules are designed to ensure free competition. All farmers must have access to sales markets on fair terms. The government must ensure this.

- **Problem 3: There is a lack of processing facilities in Luxembourg – *Provençale* also plays a role here**

In Luxembourg, food processing structures are extremely underdeveloped, especially at the level of organic production.

This is certainly not the responsibility of *Provençale*, which does efficient work. It is certainly also due to the size of Luxembourg and, in particular, the lack of initiative on the part of the Ministry of Agriculture in this area.

The Ministry should take much more responsibility and, together with the stakeholders, work out ways to optimise processing structures and support their implementation.

Nevertheless, *Provençale*'s strategy must also be discussed, not least in view of the ministry's inadequate approach, which sets the pace: it pursues the same strategy for processing structures as it does for distribution structures, insisting on exclusivity.

This also hinders a certain degree of diversification in the processing structures: Provençale's dominant market role is consolidated here too.

: *Provençale's* dominant market role is also consolidated here. This is counterproductive, especially for organic farming, where there is a particular lack of processing structures.

If the aim is to promote local organic farming, it would be particularly important for development to take place in this area.

• Problem 4: High dependence on *Provençale's* pricing

To date, *Provençale* appears to have pursued a fair purchasing policy towards farmers. However, dependency is always problematic. It is also well known that *Provençale*, as a wholesaler, can influence the market in terms of which products are in greater or lesser demand through the profit margin it applies to foodstuffs and the resulting prices.

In this area, farmers are also virtually at the mercy of *Provençale*.

This raises the question of whether it is healthy for a single player to be able to determine the pricing policy of Luxembourg's agricultural production to this extent. Probably not... After all, it is generally said that several players are needed in the market to ensure fair and correct prices in the medium and long term. At present, producers are relatively exposed to a market-dominating service provider.

In addition, *Provençale* also seems to want to actively influence Luxembourg's agricultural policy and is itself a marketer of predominantly conventionally produced food.

She appears to have strongly advocated for the aforementioned change to *Supply4Future's* purchasing policy.

In a conversation with Mouvement Ecologique, a senior manager at *Provençale* clearly stated that they could no longer agree with *Supply4Future's* current approach. The hierarchy of locally produced conventional and non-local organic products must be changed in favour of locally produced conventional food. The Minister of Agriculture would be contacted in this regard, as *Provençale* could not support such an agricultural policy.

It is known that this is now being discussed within the coalition, certainly also due to pressure from various agricultural circles.

As already mentioned, it is known that the Minister of Agriculture is also in favour of amending the criteria.

There may be no direct connection, but it is nevertheless interesting to note that *Provençale* owns the brand "Lët'z", which it initiated, and numerous products are marketed under this label. From popcorn and cola to vegetables and sushi... primarily conventionally produced foods.

This raises the fundamental question of *Provençale's* approach: is this a problematic exploitation of a dominant market position or a legitimate market economy approach?

After all, *Provençale's* entire policy consists of exploiting, cementing and strengthening its extremely dominant market position! This applies at all levels: purchasing, production, marketing and even processing!

Is this dominant position healthy and desirable for a country? Is it really "resilient", as today's ministers would say?

Does Luxembourg want to increasingly place the important area of food supply in restaurants, canteens, larger retail structures, etc. in the hands of a single private company?

Do we, does agricultural policy, want to be exposed to the behaviour of a single player in this way?

Conclusions of the Mouvement Ecologique

When we consider the current situation in the debate on the direction of Luxembourg's agricultural policy, this is largely due to the misguided agricultural policies of previous legislatures, but also to the fundamental stance and orientation of the current government.

- If this and previous governments, like other countries or at least regions the size of Luxembourg, had ensured a platform for supplying all public canteens with local and local organic food, this would have led to an upturn in agriculture years ago! It is solely thanks to the initiative of the Ministry of Education that progress has been made on this issue!
- Had this been done, we would have achieved or exceeded the targets of the action plan to promote organic farming long ago.
- If this path had been taken, the market and demand would be much greater for all players.
- If politicians had finally addressed the issue of diversifying structures (distribution and processing), the market might be organised differently. Above all, development would not have been driven to such an extent by a market-dominating player from a (legitimate) private-sector perspective, but also by strategic considerations and initiatives on the part of the public sector!
- Last but not least, if previous governments had been more consistent in their support for organic farming and if the current Ministry of Agriculture were to do the same, Luxembourg would also be in a better position vis-à-vis the foreign organic sector.

Instead of various groups now advocating a reversal of progress in organic farming, a consistently forward-looking, sustainable and future-proof agricultural policy should be pursued. This is in the interests of everyone: biodiversity, climate protection, health, farmers and future generations.

The following initiatives are essential to achieve this:

1. The essence of the Supply4Future regulations must be retained!

The current provisions of the *Restopolis* / *Supply4Future* purchasing policy must be retained in terms of the system, thereby further increasing the proportion of organic products in public canteens – as is also being sought in many other countries!

This support for the gradual conversion of local agriculture to organic farming remains essential. It will also make it possible to systematically increase the proportion of locally produced organic food, thereby reducing the need for imported organic food.

The Mouvement Ecologique is not opposed to specific changes in *the Supply4Future system*.

For example, to give local organic production a higher rating than foreign organic production, or to discuss specific individual weaknesses with all stakeholders and optimise them (without, however, calling the system into question).

2. The Supply4Future model must be extended to all public canteens! This will increase sales for all local producers.

It is irritating that it is the Ministry of Education that has had to ensure that organic and locally produced conventional food is increasingly offered in schools. This should have been the role of the Ministry of Agriculture.

If Martine Hansen were to follow the good example set by the Ministry of Education's initiative, she would immediately establish a similar structure for ALL public canteens and even support the private sector and seek direct cooperation with all farmers.

Why is the Minister of Agriculture not ensuring the consistent expansion of the Restopolis model to hospitals, retirement homes and other public/subsidised institutions?

(Apart from a modest four pilot projects in a few institutions, nothing is happening).

This would create a larger sales market! A win-win situation for everyone: conventional farmers from Luxembourg and organic farmers!

If this market already existed, then the "dispute" about non-local organic products potentially "disadvantaging" conventional local products would be completely irrelevant: there would definitely be enough sales for everyone! This would render all the debates about the *Supply4Future* regulations even more irrelevant!

3. Establish the political framework for organic farming!

If Luxembourg's politicians were to promote organic farming more strongly, its share of production would already be much greater today.

The Ministry is investing considerable funds in "*Sou schmaacht Lëtzebuerg*", for example. It is the Ministries of Education and the Environment that are active in the areas of biodiversity and climate protection through *Supply4Future* and the positive *Natur genéissen* project, not the Ministry of Agriculture.

The new organic action plan must be discussed and drawn up in consultation with stakeholders from the organic farming sector and nature conservation organisations in particular! Far-reaching goals must be set out in the plan.

Sufficient capacity is then needed at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture, equipped with the appropriate expertise to promote and implement the organic action plan in practice. This is currently not the case!

4. Take action at national level to align the distribution and processing structures of the future **The**

The Restopolis dossier highlights just one systemic problem: distribution and processing structures in the food sector are currently designed purely on the basis of market economics. In the case of a market-dominating company, it cannot be denied that this can lead to disadvantages for the groups affected – i.e. farmers and other stakeholders – but also for the general public.

It is the responsibility of the government and the Ministry of Agriculture to analyse the current structures and – in line with the government's intention to promote resilience – to develop criteria for desirable future structures. In doing so, it is important to consider the role of the ministry in the possible development of new structures.

This applies in particular to processing structures in organic farming.

5. Political course set towards 100% organic products in schools **set**

As has now been sufficiently explained, the provisions of *Supply4Future* are a milestone on the path to healthy and climate-friendly nutrition and the protection of biodiversity.

This political course must be consistently pursued, with the goal sought by other countries and cities: progressively moving towards 100% organic food in our schools!

Research shows that in Sweden, for example, 60% of all food used in the public sector (including schools and hospitals) is to be organic by 2030; in Austria, the proportion of organic food in such institutions is to be gradually increased from the current 25% to 55% by 2030.

There are also municipal and city programmes. In Germany, the goal is to achieve at least 30% in state-subsidised canteens/student cafeterias by 2030.

Excerpts from the government

Local production and food waste

Luxembourg agriculture provides high-quality local products that are generally more environmentally friendly due to shorter transport distances. The Government is committed to ensuring that local, seasonal and regional products are used more widely, particularly in schools, after-school care centres, nurseries, hospitals and retirement and nursing homes. The relevant legislation will be amended if, after analysis, this proves necessary.

In addition, the Government will support the marketing of local producers' products and will continue to promote and develop initiatives and structures in this area. The Government will evaluate the national quality and certification system for agricultural products established during the last parliamentary term and adapt it if necessary. (...)

Organic farming

The Government will systematically support organic farming, both in the spirit of agricultural diversification and the protection of nature, water and biodiversity, and with a view to the sustainable management of natural resources.

The Government will analyse the current situation in the sector together with the various stakeholders concerned and will set ambitious and realistic targets in order to mobilise the resources needed to achieve them. Where necessary, it will introduce additional measures to further support organic farming. The Government will ensure that farmers who wish to convert to organic farming receive optimal support and advice. In this context, the partial conversion of farms to organic farming will also be supported.

The Government will subject the PAN-Bio 2025 action plan to a fundamental evaluation with the aim of ensuring its practicability, both in terms of production and marketing, with a view to drawing up a new PAN-Bio. If necessary, the Government will carry out a complete overhaul.



Lieweg, critical, committed!

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