



Organic farming, biodiversity,
climate protection and
health prevention:

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 foods 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 the Ministry of Agriculture orders school fruit, 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 agricultural sector.

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

Quoted from the platform: 'With over 117 locations (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 now have a much better sales market in school canteens. A win-win situation:

- Promotion of local agriculture in general and, in the case of organic farming, additionally of biodiversity, climate protection, animal welfare 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!



Eine Sprungbrett für den Bio-, Regional- und Bioregional-Landbau

Dank Supply4Future nehmen biologische, regionale und bioregionale Produkte wieder einen zentralen Platz in den Schul- und Universitätskantinen ein.

Einkäufe
Lokale Produkte

2025

71%

Umgesetzt von S4F

⊕ Ziel PAN-BIO2025: 50%

Einkäufe
Bio-lokale Produkte

2025

26%

Umgesetzt von S4F

⊕ Ziel PAN-BIO2025: 20%

Aus der offiziellen Webseite von Supply4Future

Award criteria for purchasing Restopolis / Supply4Future

Supply4Future applies the following award criteria (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 produced locally is rated highest (27% + 23%).

However, an organically produced product from beyond a certain perimeter (this varies depending on the product category, in some cases including the nearby greater region) may also be rated more highly if the conventionally produced product is not delivered 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 Restopolis through the Ministry of Education can therefore rightly be regarded as one of the most important measures taken in recent years to promote Luxembourg's (organic) agriculture and sustainable development.

Incidentally, the new purchasing culture for schools was introduced by the Department for Education and Restopolis without any involvement or financial support from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Unlike the Department for Education, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs 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 missing out on creating secure sales markets for its producers.

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



The Ministry of Education's Supply4Future initiative: Pioneering the development of Luxembourg's agriculture – with a particular focus on organic farming.

2. Success Story, but one that risks being called into question in its current form 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 would only be interested in a very limited dialogue with environmental organisations and, on the other hand, that although she supports organic farming, she does not want 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 question that Restopolis / Supply4Future's top priority when purchasing should continue to be 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.**

These amendments, which have been brought up for discussion by various stakeholders, symbolise key issues that have been influencing agricultural debates for some time.

The reasons why changing the 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 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 producers.

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



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

To date, one local farmer knew that it was worthwhile switching from conventional production to organic farming, because this would guarantee secure sales opportunities with Supply4Future.

This is because Supply4Future gives locally produced 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, current government subsidy policies, etc.

It is only natural that farmers 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 the sales of 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 harmful) 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 just how urgently this is needed: Luxembourg has fallen short of the target it set itself in its Organic Action Plan (PAN-Bio) by half: instead of the targeted 25,000 hectares of organic farmland by 2025, there were only 9,328 hectares in 2024. The target was 20% of agricultural land. This situation is a damning indictment of Luxembourg's agricultural policy. Organic farming in Luxembourg remains underdeveloped compared to a number of other European countries.

Entwicklung der Fläche

Entwicklung der ökologisch bewirtschafteten Fläche in Bezug zur gesamten landwirtschaftlichen Nutzfläche des Landes (in Hektar)



Quelle: Landwirtschaftsportal Landwirtschaft.lu, <https://agriculture.public.lu/de/agrarstatistik/biologische-landwirtschaft.html>

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/>

It is fair to say that Luxembourg would fall even further short of its targets in the Bioaction Plan if it weren't for Restopolis' Supply4future initiative. The growth in cultivated land is directly attributable to Restopolis' initiative.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs should be grateful to the Department for Education for its pioneering role in sustainable agriculture.

Should the incentive of public canteens as a sales market 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 hold the following conviction: today's organic farmers, the majority of whom act out of fundamental conviction,

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.



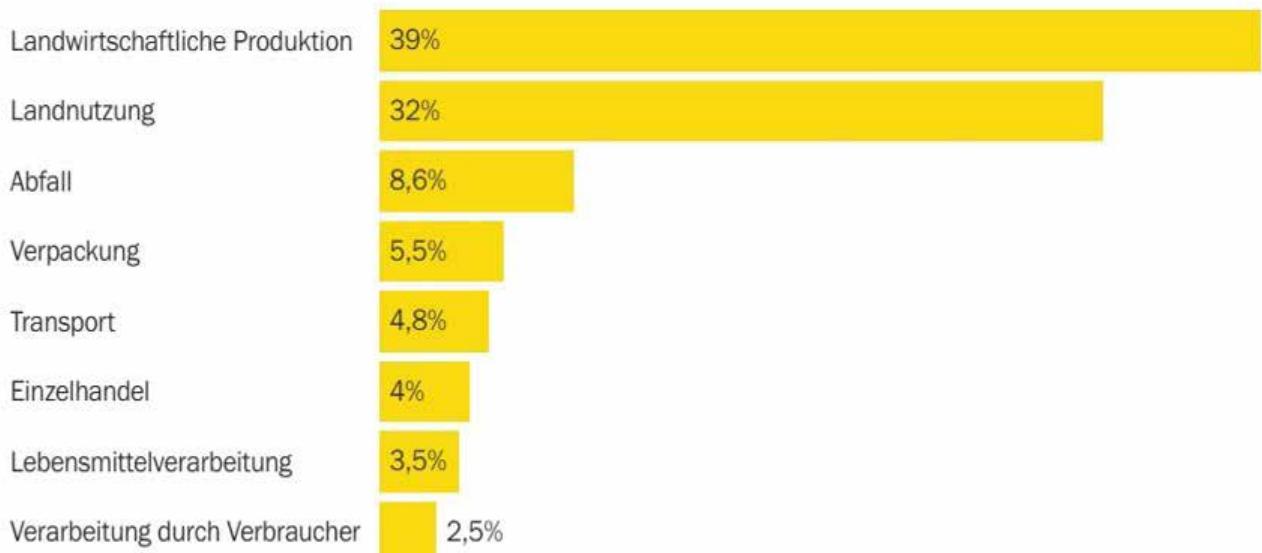
Reason 2: The main source of CO₂ emissions is cultivation – not transport

Numerous studies have shown that it is not transport that is primarily responsible for the CO₂ emissions generated during food production, but rather the production process itself.

Calculations show that only around 5–20% of the climate impact is due to the transport of food products. From an ecological point of view, organic products produced further away are far more sustainable 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.



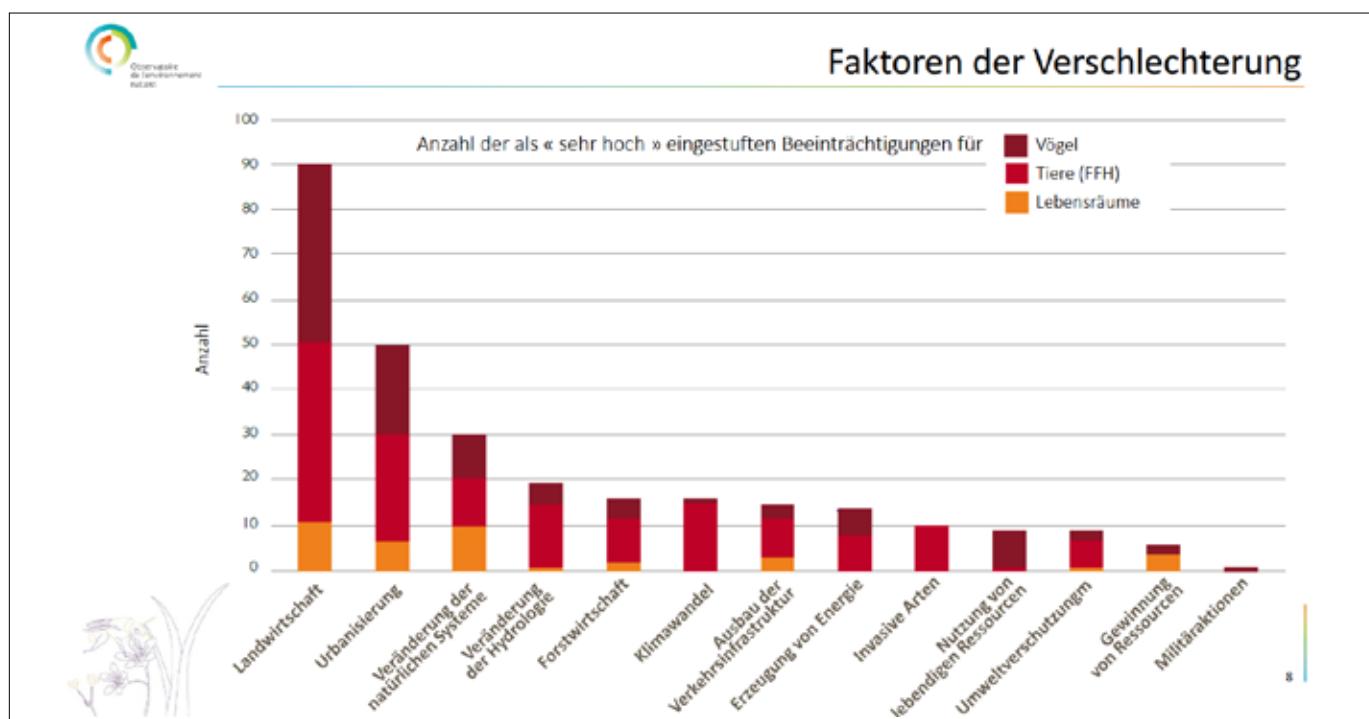
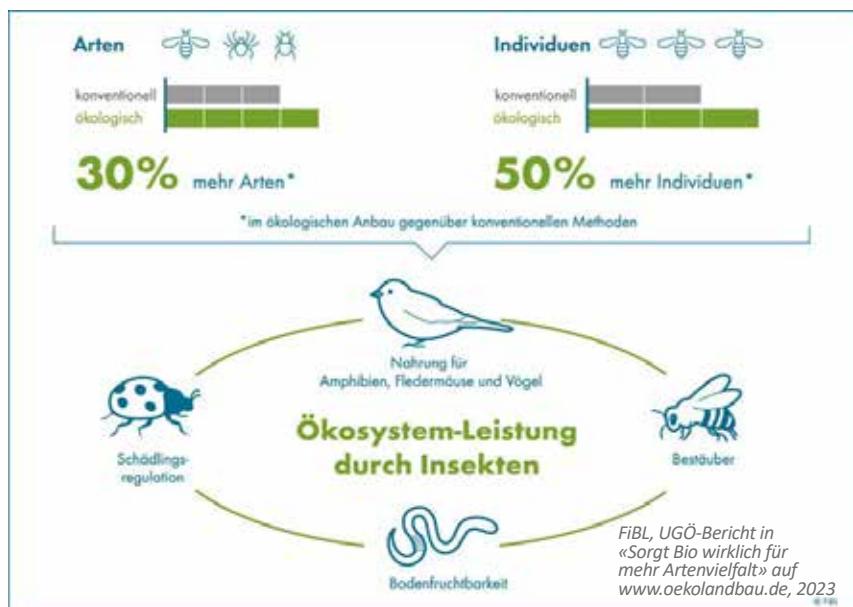
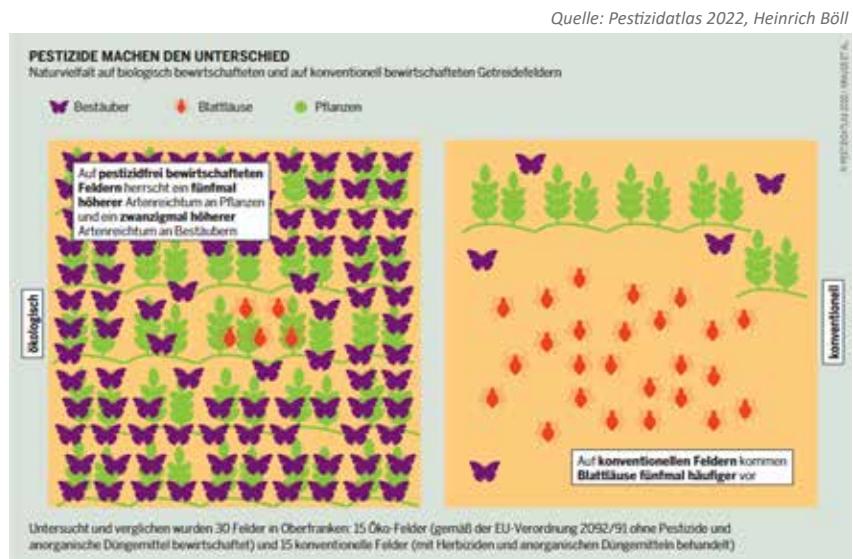
Quelle: Our World in Data/Crippa M. et al. (2021)

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

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 significant the differences in production are between organic and conventional farming



Quelle: Aktivitätsbericht des Observatoire de l'environnement naturel 2017-2021 - Pressekonferenz 29. März 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. Howe-

ver, in children who eat mainly organic food, these levels were much lower (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

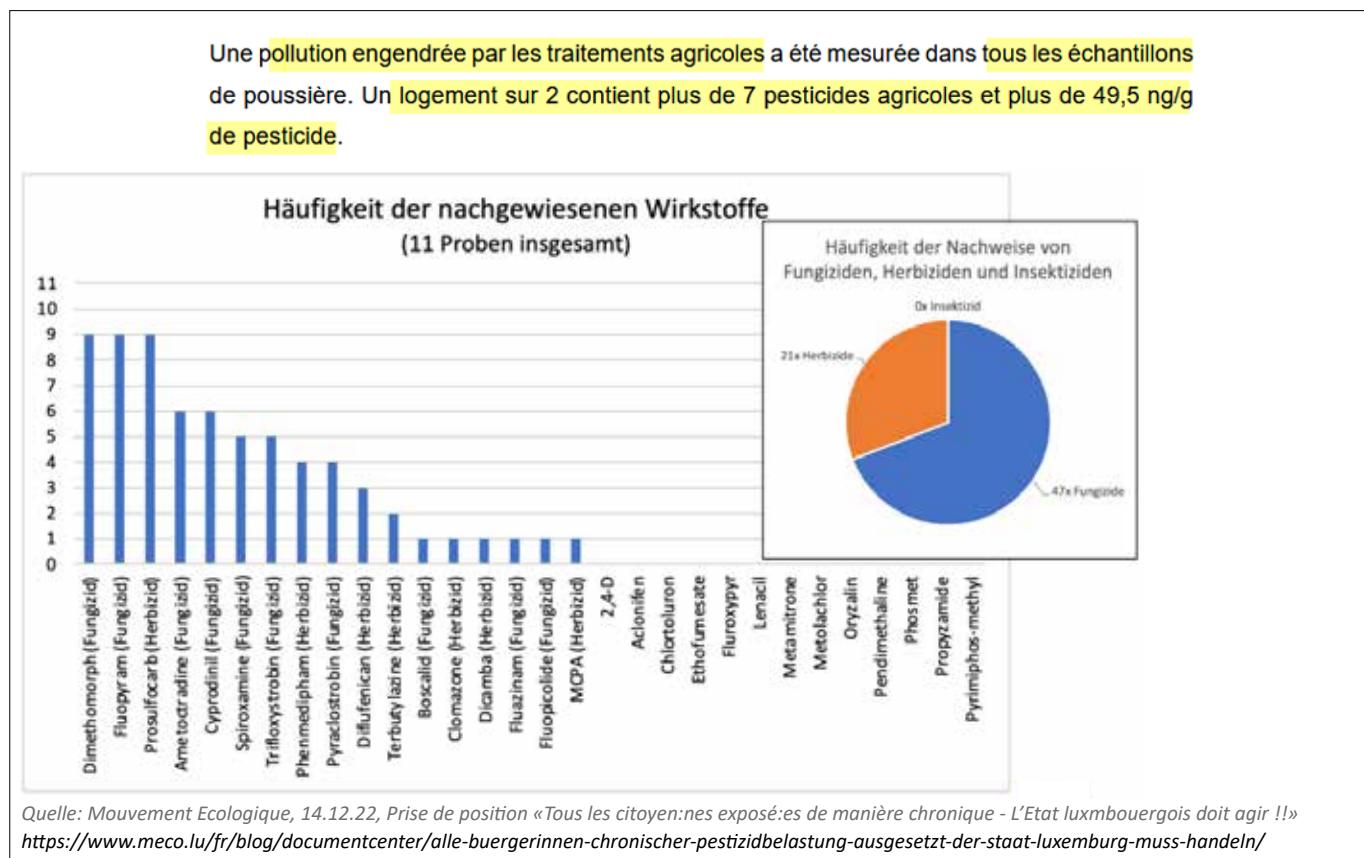


61 Verbindungen in seinem Haar hatte, wobei die Werte zwischen 29 und 88 pro Probe lagen. Am höchsten war die Konzentration von Bisphenol A (BPA), das üblicherweise bei der Herstellung von Kunststoffen verwendet wird, mit 133,6 pg/mg. Obwohl persistente organische Schadstoffe in Europa seit über 20 Jahren 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 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.

Quelle: Luxembourg Institute of Health, 19.07.2022, Pressemitteilung «Jusqu'à 88 polluants différents trouvés dans les cheveux des enfants luxembourgeois»

<https://www.lih.lu/fr/article/jusqua-88-polluants-differentes-trouves-dans-les-cheveux-des-enfants-luxembourgeois/>



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. But if the Luxembourg government were to change course and give priority to local conventional production over non-local or-

ganic products, that would be exactly what would happen, and in the worst possible way. **Is that the message we want to pass on to our children?**



3. The stance of Martine Hansen, Minister for Agriculture and Consumer Protection, on organic farming

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

It is certainly her job to advocate for the interests of conventional farmers. But wouldn't it also be the job of a Minister of Agriculture – also in her capacity as Minister for Consumer Protection! – to contribute in parallel 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 Mouvement Ecologique – that '*organic farming is not a priority*'. However, 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 government intends to invest in the construction of larger greenhouses (minimum investment of €1 million) for fruit and vegetable cultivation. From the Mouvement Ecologique's point of view, 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, with no organic farming round table involving all stakeholders.

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 described 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 this opinion explains.

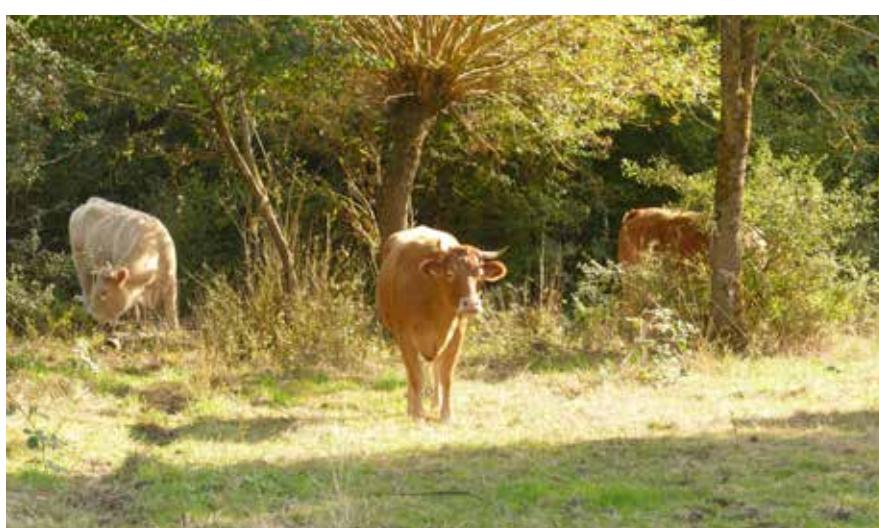
In other words, not only is the minister not actively promoting the expansion of organic farming, she even seems to be actively campaigning for a rollback and is unwilling to use all the levers at her disposal to ensure that the expansion can take place consistently enough.

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

The Minister of Agriculture is acting as a one-sided mouthpiece for a less sustainable agricultural policy.

This is despite the fact that, as a minister, she must be well aware that discriminating against organically produced food from abroad would not only have 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's agriculture, which would benefit the entire sector.



Non-local organic goods: at most, only occasionally competing with 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 foodstuffs comes from.

Well, concrete examples are rarely given.

No product sector was mentioned, let alone several (for information: Restopolis orders a total of over 300 different products), in which foreign organic products had 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 conventional production in Luxembourg? If this were the case in a particular 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 thing that is understandable is that conventional farms wishing to expand their production may find it more difficult to do so if these products – currently more of a niche market – 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 entire system being called into question.

Anyone who argues in this situation that conventional farmers should be protected from ‘competition’ from locally producing organic farmers is on the wrong track! The opposite approach should be taken: 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 aim should be to support farmers who are already taking positive steps to break new ground and diversify 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 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 setting the political agenda ?

When talking about public catering, Provençale is impossible to ignore. It currently plays a de facto **dominant role in the catering distribution sector** (as well as an extremely important one in processing) and seems to know how to make the most of this.

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

The entire sector therefore depends on cooperation with Provençale.

The merits of Provençale are undeniable in this context: the sector benefits from its offerings and excellent services.

However, the manner in which Provençale utilises this dominant market position raises questions.

Mouvement Ecologique has sufficient information to clearly show that Provençale is campaigning for the proposed amendment in favour of locally produced food in the Supply4Future system.

In addition, however, fundamental problems are also emerging as a result of Provençale's very consistent use of its market dominance.

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

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), they are threatened with the termination of all business relations with the farmer, i.e. the distribution and, if applicable, the processing of their products will no longer be carried out.

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 more difficult for all farmers (both conventional and organic) 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 – consolidates its market dominance**

Due to this situation, not only are farmers at the mercy of Provençale, but new distribution structures are hardly emerging, and existing ones are sometimes having trouble 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 that free competition is guaranteed. All farmers must have access to sales markets on fair terms. The government must ensure that this is the case.

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

In Luxembourg, food processing structures are extremely underdeveloped, particularly in terms of organic production.

This is certainly not the responsibility of Provençale, which does efficient work. It is undoubtedly 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 would have to 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 processing structures: Provençale's dominant market role is further consolidated here too. 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 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 the Provençale.

This raises the question of whether it is healthy for a single player to be able to determine the pricing policy for Luxembourg's agricultural production to such an extent. Probably not... After all, it is generally accepted 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 appears to want to actively influence Luxembourg's agricultural policy and is itself a marketer of predominantly conventionally produced food.

She thus appears to have championed the aforementioned change to Supply4Future's purchasing policy.

In a conversation with Mouvement Ecologique, a senior representative of Provençale clearly stated that they could no longer agree with the current orientation of Supply4Future. The hierarchy of evaluation 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 such an agricultural policy could not be supported by Provençale.

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

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

There may be no direct connection, but it is still interesting to know 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.

The Provençale approach raises the fundamental question: is this a case of problematic exploitation of a dominant market position, or is it a legitimate market economy approach?

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

Is this position of primacy healthy and desirable for a country? Is it really 'resilient', as today's Minister of State would say?

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

Do we, does agricultural policy, want to be exposed to the behaviour of one 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 policy of previous legislative periods, 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 upswing 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 for promoting organic farming long ago.
- Had this path been taken, the market and demand would be much greater for all players.
- If politicians finally addressed the issue of diversifying structures (distribution and processing), the market might be organised differently. Above all, from a (legitimate) private-sector perspective, development would not have been driven to such an extent by a market-dominating player, 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 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 this end:

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

The current provisions of Restopolis/Supply4Future's purchasing policy must be maintained by 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. This 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 and optimise specific individual weaknesses with all stakeholders (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 was the Department for Education that had to ensure that organic and locally produced conventional food was offered more widely in schools. This should have been the role of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

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 does the Minister of Agriculture not ensure 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 make all the debates about the Supply4Future regulations even more irrelevant!

3. Setting 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 Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Environment that are actively involved in 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 in stone.

This requires sufficient capacity at the level of the Ministry of Agriculture, equipped with the appropriate powers to promote and implement the organic action plan in practice. This is currently not the case!

4. Become active nationally to align the distribution and processing structures of the future

The Restopolis dossier highlights just one systemic problem: distribution and processing structures in the food sector are currently organised 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 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to analyse 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 Department in the possible development of new structures.

This applies in particular to processing structures in organic farming.

5. Setting the political course towards 100% organic products in schools

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 pursued consistently, 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.

ANNEX:

Excerpts from the government statement

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, as well as 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 involved 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 review with a view to ensuring its practicability, both in terms of production and commercialisation, with a view to developing a new PAN-Bio. If necessary, the Government will undertake a complete overhaul.



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