

- **Typical problems and failures in understanding and implementing organic regulations**
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Meaning of Organic Agriculture

- **“Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity.**
- **It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony.**

It is important to focus on

- **Holistic approaches**
- **Technical progress**
- **Minimum tillage and correct crop rotations**
- **Improving consumer-oriented food quality**
- **Improving ecological and socio-economic values**
- **Ensuring future seed and animal breed supply for organic farming (GMO-free).**

Threats

- **Organic agriculture is under threat of several aspects basically priority expectation is different from different parties. This has a direct influence on the quality and integrity of organic products.**

Producers

- **Majority of the producers do not understand the idea of organic philosophy, they are more concentrated in to profit.**
- **Producers are under pressure of the market demand and fulfill agreements they made with the buyers.**

Trader

- **Traders are the engine of the market development, they invest a lot for infrastructure, personnel, logistics to guarantee supply chain.**
- **There are traders believing in organic farming, investing, supporting local communities, working hand in hand to develop the organic agriculture.**
- **There are also some traders consider organic product is an item to make extra premium, good market, without belief in organic philosophy.**

Certifier

- **There are many certification bodies operating and usually new ones have no experience how to deal with for complicated situations**
- **They usually do not have knowledge how to deal legal issues**
- **Accreditation is usually achievable therefore many certifiers accredited nowadays have no basic experience to deal with problems faced in organic product supply chain.**
- **When certification of organic product is considered as a product certification without believing in organic philosophy, failure is unavoidable.**

Local Authorities

- **Authorities of the importing countries expect every single pack of organic product needs to be free from chemicals, most of the time no residue is the approach.**
- **Traceability in demand starting from the single plot of the fields, up to the final delivery to the final consumer. Varieties, quantities must be proven. Additional supplier audit is required.**
- **In third countries Local authorities in many cases do not understand organic farming practices, even majority do not believe organic production and think it is easy money making process.**

Politics

- **Support of organic producers through state funds is a political tool for the interest of politician.**
- **Chemical industry, GMO Lobby have more influence over the politics therefore politicians are more tend to work in favor of them.**

Laboratory Based Approach

- **Considering the sensitivity of organic products to be free from chemical residues, leads risks of compliance to the regulation requirements.**
- **Everybody involved with the organic product supply chain feels obliged to make tests. Local authorities as well does regular tests.**
- **Question is: Is organic production laboratory based technique, every step of the production, processing marketing to be analyzed? It reflects to the retail prices and consumer needs to pay.**
- **Laboratories flourishing around, in fact sarcastic, when the chemical industry, GMO lobby increasing its turnover and power.**

Final Questions

- **Could we see future for organic production when GMO lobby and Chemical industry continuously invading agriculture?**
- **Use more chemicals and GMOs but provide me without GMO and Chemicals! Is it good approach?**
- **Is there any other way to promote organic agriculture to speed up converting more producers and production areas? Or are we going to be the loser against chemical industry and GMO Lobby?**
- **Are we optimist for future where organic agriculture going?**

- **THANK YOU VERY MUCH**
- **Dr. Mustafa Akyuz**