New Tendencies in the Scientific Research of the Organic Food System in Finland

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ORGANIC FINLAND
• 9 % of agricultural land
• Goal 20 % in 2020
• 1,7 % of food markets
• 15 € per capita /2012
• 4300 farms
• 550 food processors

ORGANIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
• Founded by University of Helsinki and MTT Agrifood Research
• Started in January 2013
• The coordinating unit in Mikkeli
• Network of 150 scientists and experts
• Co-operation between university and MTT researchers
• Supports the whole food chain and promotes organic food production in Finland by research, science communication, education and development projects
• Responsible for the national research program on organic food system

RESEARCH ON ORGANIC FOOD SYSTEM IN FINLAND
• The scientific research on organic food system has been mainly on agricultural and environmental issues.
• There is a need to enlarge the research to the whole organic food system and to make the research multidisciplinary.
• Better commitment of the community as well as of the food chain stakeholders is needed.
• The information to the consumers has to be based on scientific research

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AGRICULTURE
SOCIETY
ENVIRONMENT
FOOD INDUSTRY

RESEARCH PROGRAM
• The first national organic research program will be released in December 2013 for five years
• The new program will give guidelines for the research as well as to the financing
• It will be multidisciplinary and divided into agricultural, environmental, food related and social research

NEW APPROACHES
• Food system based research
• Multidisciplinarity, especially social issues like politics, consumption, communication
• Nordic and international co-operation

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