

Ethics and our research in organic agriculture, food and energy systems for a sustainable future

Program

Monday 28th March 2011

12.00 Arrival and sandwich lunch

13.00 Intro to the day and the program

13.15 **Ethics, organic farming and research in organic farming**

– start of the debate: How can we ethically view the issues which we are researching – and should we?

Hugo Fjelsted Alrøe, Integrated Geographical and Social Studies, Department of Agroecology and Environment, Aarhus University

14.00 **Topic 1: Our energy future and organic farming**

– **does ethics play a role?**

Oil prices increase, food prices increase, people starve and nations become unstable. What are the perspectives for future energy supply? Can bioenergy be a significant provider of sustainable energy for our modern society? Is organic farming research without considering energy production and energy savings ethically acceptable? What is a desirable energy future and how can organic farming support this?

Hanne Østergård, Risø DTU

Mix of facts, thoughts and ideas established in interaction between all participants in groups and plenum

16.00 Health break

16.30 **Topic 2: Ethical food chains:**

transport, climate and peoples' control over food?

Organic apples from Argentina, New Zealand or Italy, organic soybeans from China and grapes from South Africa. The import of organic products to Denmark has been increasing remarkably during the last decade - but is it sustainable to import organic products from far

away? How much does transportation mean with regard to greenhouse gas emissions - and does it make a difference in those producing countries - with regard to environmental and socio-economic issues? How much is luxury consumption - and what is reasonable and ecologically sound?

Marie Trydeman Knudsen, Department of Agroecology and Environment, Aarhus University

Group discussion and plenary discussions

19:00: Dinner

Evening: discussion and networking

Tuesday 29th March 2011

Breakfast

8.30 Topic 3: Organic livestock production and industrialization

Is it a dilemma that organic farming becomes industrialized? Organic farming is built on principles where the understanding of animal welfare involves naturalness and human care. Agriculture is developing in a way towards more industrialized production. What consequences does this have for our animals and the livestock production? And how does our research contribute to this development? How can we work with these dilemmas from an ethical and scientific point of view?

Lindsay Kay Whistance and Mette Vaarst, Department of Animal Health and Biology, Aarhus University

Group discussions and plenary: how do we view organic agriculture and industrialization seen from an ethical point of view?

10.30 Health break

11.00 Ethics and my research: group discussions based on participants' own research. Developing thoughts about how each participant's project can be viewed from ethical points of view.

12.00 Plenary discussion

12.30 Lunch and departure.

Place: Årslev kro – just outside Aarhus. The participation in 4 SOAR seminars give Ph.D.students 2 ECTS points, as described at the website <http://www.soar.dk>.

Transport for your own cost, and we have to charge you for a part of your accommodation (500 Dkr).

Participation: follow the link

https://webshop.dpu.dk/SOAR_Seminar_Ethics_and_organic_farming_and_food