

Stephen Meredith, Deputy Policy Manager, IFOAM EU

- Despite some improvements, the EU agriculture sector has not made major progress in delivering on the EU's biodiversity commitments to 2020 - a key verdict of the European Commission's mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.
- At the same time, the demand for sustainable food amongst European consumers continues to grow year-on-year. The market for organic food was valued at 24 billion euro in 2014 with an average annual growth rate of between 6-7% annually.
- This reflects the fact that organic farming systems and agro-ecological practice are shown to create the best conditions for good biodiversity management as well as supporting rural areas and food security.
- However, when we look at agriculture policy overall the delivery of public goods including biodiversity is not sufficiently incentivised or rewarded. If the EU is serious about biodiversity we need a transformative CAP that recognises of the value agriculture can deliver in terms of biodiversity as part of an overall sustainability strategy.