

Committee: Environment

Question: An eco-farming revolution

Author: Denmark

According to the NGO Greenpeace, “the eco-farming combines modern science and innovation with respect for nature and biodiversity. It ensures healthy farming and healthy food. It protects the soil, the water and the climate. It does not contaminate the environment with chemical inputs or use genetically engineered crops”. And our Country, Denmark, is absolutely convinced that this new way of conceiving and practising agriculture is the very best option today, not to say the only one, for us and the planet.

The various governments of Denmark have always been feeling very concerned about environmental and ecological topics and issues, and a report from the EEA (European Environment Agency) has recently noted that important progress had been made to improve the health of our ecosystems. And this remarkable interest is also true for our population: today, 97% of Danes know the national organic logo, while 8% of the food sold in the country is organic, what's the highest percentage in the World, and Danish organic export has considerably increased in the last few years. But these measures and data are just a few examples among others of what Denmark has been doing so far...

Biological agriculture has been introduced in the 90's and, in 2013, Denmark's Commission on Nature and Agriculture developed numerous suggestions to lower the pollution of pesticides through tax policy. Also, our government have been encouraging farmers for years to use methods of bioagriculture, promoting the trade of organic food brands or projects such as the “Smart Food Purchases”. We have also created a new Organic Action Plan to favour and boost organic production. And our current objective is to double the organically cultivated area by 2020, from the 2007 level. We are also starting to serve organic food in public places, since Dan Jorgensen, our minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, recently reaffirmed Denmark's will to “speed up the transition from conventional production to organic production on publicly owned land”, and to “continue our efforts to encourage public kitchens to go organic”.

Another important idea, already applied in Denmark, is to teach people to learn to be more ecological -what's the topic of another committee. Let's just quickly remind that, In Denmark, the concepts of organic food and organic production are being taught in primary schools and in agricultural education; the focus being especially made there on new organic solutions for the future.

Nevertheless, in other countries such as China or France, the way agriculture is still practised is seriously damaging the environment, and on our opinion, these countries could probably care more about global ecological issues and start acting in a more considerate manner, in order to avoid damaging our shared ecosystems.

And if Denmark could already be, amongst other countries, a clear example to follow, it's important to keep on working steadily to be able to reach our goal of a cleaner world; a country whose cultivations would be 100% organic without causing any damage to the environment is raising awareness amongst the population, and thanks to our constantly renewed efforts, eating non organic food will soon be a habit of the past, what will without any doubt improve the general well-being of our population. Other countries should probably start thinking about it...