

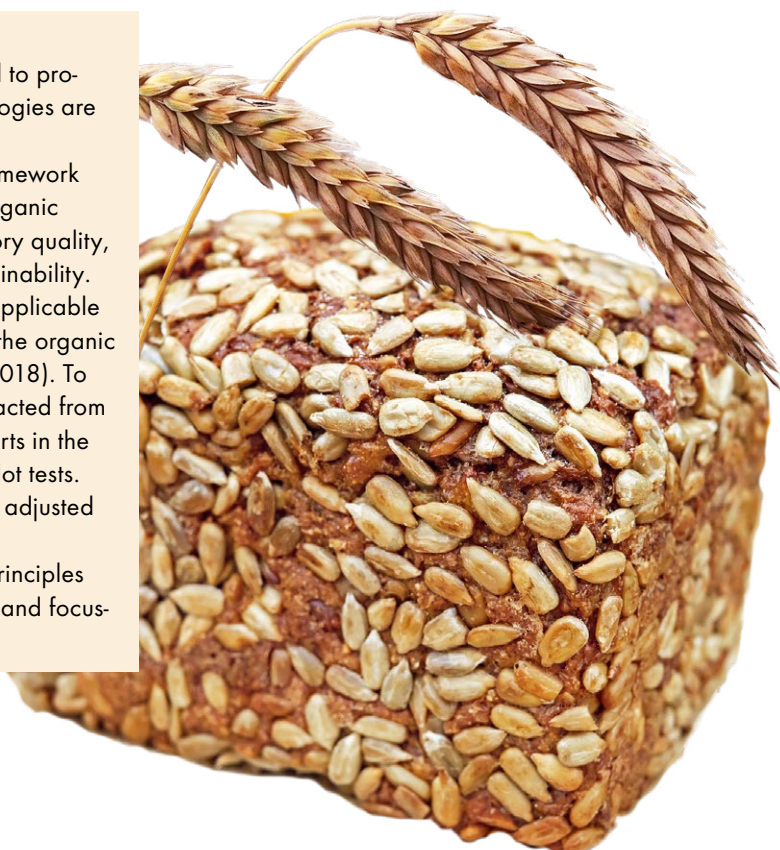
Assessment Criteria for Processing Technologies Based on EU Regulation 2018/848

Abstract

New technologies are continuously developed and used to process food. This raises the question whether these technologies are in line with the organic regulation for processing.

The ProOrg project developed a general assessment framework for the evaluation of food processing technologies for organic products. The framework focuses on three aspects: sensory quality, nutritional quality, as well as ecological and social sustainability. As part of the assessment framework, appropriate and applicable criteria were developed, based on the legal wording in the organic regulation of the European Union (EU regulation 848/2018). To develop the criteria, the relevant requirements were extracted from the legal text and discussed and condensed by the experts in the project team. The resulting criteria were then tested in pilot tests. Based on the results of the pilot studies, the project team adjusted and finalised the criteria.

This paper presents the criteria, which reflect the aims, principles and detailed requirements of the EU organic regulation, and focuses on processing methods.



Introduction

The market for organic products and the diversity of organic products on the shelves have dynamically developed in Europe over the last decade with an annual growth rate between 5 and 10 % per year. It is assumed that the growth will further increase significantly in the next years.

EU's Farm to Fork Strategy sets a target of 25 % of all farmland to be organic by 2030. This will require an annual growth rate of 11 to 12 %. In addition to the conversion of farmland to organic, consumption of organic products should increase by at least 10 % per year. Processing and trade companies must support this ambitious goal.

New food technologies are continuously developed and applied in food processing. As pro-

cessing companies usually process conventional as well as organic products, more guidance is needed to implement technologies supporting organic aims and principles at the company level than at the farm level.

This raises the question whether the technologies used to process organic products, based on existing regulations and guidelines, are in line with the organic principles. To assess this, an evaluation of existing and new technologies used to process organic food is required. Such technological topics are regularly discussed by the Expert Group for Technical Advice on Organic Production of the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development.