

Post-release February 26

The second day of the International Agrarian Business Forum ProAgroTalk 1.0 «New technological paradigm in agriculture. The experience of Italy and Russia»

What is hidden under the term «organic product»?

Organic farming issues became the main topic of the second day of the international agrarian business forum ProAgroTalk 1.0 «New technological paradigm in agriculture. The experience of Italy and Russia».

On February 26, in an online format, experts from different countries discussed the potential of various components of agricultural technologies to achieve sustainable results in agribusiness and shared examples of successful practices at existing enterprises.

Thus, Olga Myakisheva, Commercial Director of Doctor Farmer LLC, told about the experience in the development and use of organomineral fertilizers, in particular the Kontur series, which provide additional opportunities for plant growth and development, which contributes to an increase in yields by 25-30%.

In her speech, Olga noted: *«Manufacturers of plant protection products are faced with the difficult task of finding a compromise in the struggle for the quality and volume of the crop, while reducing the pesticide load and negative impact on the environment. Therefore, since 2014, Doctor Farmer LLC has been paying special attention to the development and use of organomineral fertilizers that combine unique combinations of natural organic acids that affect the metabolism in plants and their growth processes in a natural form, without disturbing the ecological balance».*

The results of research on organic crop rotation in Russia, and in particular in the Voronezh region, were shared by Anatoly Dedov, professor of the Department of Agriculture, Plant Growing and Plant Protection of the Voronezh State Agrarian University.

One of the tasks facing organic farming, Dedov noted the formation of a deficit-free balance of organic matter in the soil, where plant residues play an important role and how they decompose in the first year: *«By regulating the decomposition of plant residues with various methods and technologies, we can regulate the supply of nutrients and increase soil fertility, which is necessary for organic farming».*

Italian colleagues shared their experience in the production and refining of organic oils: the director of SAVI ITALO Roberto Savi and the director of Oleificio F.lli Barbi Marcello Barbi. The heads of processing enterprises from Italy expressed a high interest in cooperation with Russian producers in terms of supplies of organic raw materials from Russia and not only.

«Building international production chains means building cohesive teams. This is what it is important to go for together to achieve sustainable development of the agro-industrial complex and create high quality products,» noted Roberto Savi.

The dialogue moved from edible oils to the production of organic essential oils from lavender and clary sage. Sergey Belopukhov, Professor of the FGBOU VO RSAU - Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy in his speech drew the attention of the forum participants to the fact that *«lavender today is one of the most demanded crops in the world market both in pharmaceuticals and perfumery, and for Russia it is one of the most promising export directions»*.

The specifics of building production chains for the production of organic sugar on the example of the Italian sugar association COPROB was also discussed.

In anticipation of the new sowing season, special attention was paid to the importance of breeding work in the development, production and certification of seed material. Nikolay Omelchenko spoke about the joint achievements of Doctor Farmer LLC and the independent Serbian seed company Genetic Plus in breeding high-yielding maize hybrids (in the FAO maturity group from 230 to 380). The specialist focused on the extensive research and development work and tests that are being carried out to release seeds of exceptional characteristics to the market. Oriana Porfiri, Research and Development Manager at CGS-Sementi, supported him in her speech, noting the need to harmonize standards between countries to increase the quality and traceability of organic production - from seed to finished products.

At the third session, the participants switched from production processes to issues that are significant for the development of organic farming in Russia: certification, standardization and training. The session was moderated by Paolo Carnemolla, President of the Italian Federation of Organic Agriculture FederBio Servizi.

Olga Ilyina, The rector of the International Industrial Academy, spoke about the modern possibilities of the academy in terms of additional professional education in various industries and areas of the agro-industrial sector, noting the cooperation with Factor BIO LLC in the field of educational programs in organic agriculture.

The importance of training was highlighted in the speech by the owner of Qualitas Studio Aldo Cervi: *«I hope that the ProAgroTalk 1.0 forum will be the first step in accelerating the exchange of experience and knowledge through joint training and consulting projects»*.

Andrey Volkov, Head of the Center for Organic and Digital Technologies of the International Industrial Academy, Associate Professor of MGIMO of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, spoke about the existing streaming training of Factor BIO in the field of organic agriculture.

The problem of pseudo-organic products on the market was raised by Elena Saratseva, Deputy Head of the Russian Quality System. *«It is important that the standards that are accepted in Russia and the world are brought to a common denominator and will be equivalent,»* Elena said. Certification of organic products is one of the most difficult issues. And in this, undoubtedly, the many years of experience of Italian colleagues,

which was shared by Fabrizio Piva, the president and CEO of the CCPB certification body are invaluable.

Mariagrazia L Lanzanova, Deputy Director of the Certification Division of the ACCREDIA Certification and Inspection Department, spoke about the practice of accrediting certification bodies in Italy. Paolo Pucci, head of the sales department of the Tentamus Agriparadigma laboratory, gave a detailed description of the role of analytical laboratories in the control and certification systems of organic products.

On March 4, the session «Development of Russian-Italian trade cooperation in the field of organic products» will be held. Speakers will share information on practical examples of Russian experience in exporting organic products, and Italian colleagues will tell in detail about the promotion and sales system in Italy. For those wishing to expand the circle of their business partners, it is envisaged to hold the B2B session to exchange contacts between representatives of the agricultural community from Russia and Italy.

Material on the forum website <https://www.proagrotalk.org/news/chtoskryvaetsya-pod-ponyatiem-organicheskie-produkty/>