



Declaration of the Anti Fraud Workshop in Kyiv: “Improving Integrity of Organic Arable Production in Ukraine”

“Let us work together to make the system more robust.” This was the conclusion of the participants in the workshop that took place in Kyiv on 23-24 September 2015, where stakeholders from Ukraine, the EU, Switzerland and beyond came together for a workshop organized by the Anti-Fraud Initiative.

We came together to evaluate the past, and coordinate the engagement of all sector players in implementing best practices to help further develop the Ukrainian organic sector, which has been growing at rapid rate for the past several years and has huge potential to feed domestic and export markets.

We appreciate the collaboration of the Ukrainian Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, and welcome their inclusion of organic farming as a strategic priority along with the implementation of the national organic regulation.

Transparency and communication among all stakeholders, as well as fair pricing, will help solve and avoid problems in the market caused by nonconformities with the regulations. We recognize that strengthening cooperation among producers, processors, traders, certification bodies and others such as accreditation bodies and government agencies is vital to assure consumers about the quality of Ukrainian organic products, and that consumer confidence is critical to growing the market demand for organic produce.

We commit to increased rigor by control bodies and supervision by competent authorities, and appropriate communications among them to deter and control fraud. The certification bodies active in Ukraine commit themselves to abide by the recommendations formulated by the Ukraine platform of the European Organic Certifiers Council (EOCC).

The exporters and importers underline their responsibility and associated risks inherent in their activities, and commit themselves to exercise due diligence in their dealings to safeguard the organic integrity of the product. All participants emphasize the importance of long-term relationships.

We shall build on our existing networks of research and extension programs to help improve farming techniques. We dedicate ourselves to sharing knowledge, technology transfer, and application of intelligent quality management systems and analytical technologies. We urge the improvement of technical capabilities in Ukraine such as accredited laboratory services, and data systems to validate certification and trade data.

We thank the Swiss government for funding this event, the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce & Industry for welcoming us in their premises, and Ukrainian producers for providing us with delicious organic lunches.

We call on others to join forces with us to deepen and spread this mission.

