

# Current Situation of Collaborative Manure Partnerships between Organic Farmers in Denmark

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## Summary

Specialisation within organic agriculture in many western European countries has led to the decoupling of crop and animal systems, resulting in a shortfall in manure fertilisers on most farms and a surplus on others. One solution to solve the problem has been the establishment of collaborative partnerships between specialist organic farms for manure exchange. The aim of this study is to acquire factual knowledge about existing partnerships in Denmark. The first analysis on farm registries about manure applications showed that more than 80% of organic farms in a livestock-intensive area (Western Jutland) and about 50% of organic farms in an arable-intensive area (Zealand) were involved in manure partnerships. Organic dairy farms in Western Jutland were found to provide manure to organic arable farms, while many of them also received pig slurry from conventional pig farms. Further, a survey was undertaken of dairy farms in the livestock-intensive area, identifying and comparing 55 partnerships between organic dairy farms and organic arable farms with 68 partnerships between conventional dairy farms and conventional arable farms. The results showed that the character and function of the organic partnerships are influenced by the high demand for organic certified manure on organic arable farms. The Danish government currently has ambitious goals of doubling the organic area by 2020 and completing a ban on using conventional manure in organic farming. From a policy implementation angle, special attention regarding social relationships between manure partners as a basis of successful collaboration and regional differences, which largely affect structures of manure partnerships, needs to be taken into account.