

Isle of Man Organic Action Plan Launched

Developing a reliable, sustainable, self-reliant local organic sector

On Friday 25 July the Organic Working Party (OWP) will issue its Organic Action Plan, which delivers a route map for achieving the vision of a reliable, sustainable, self-reliant organic food sector on the Isle of Man. The OWP has established that we already consume around £1.7m worth at retail value of imported primary organic produce. Within 5 years based on UK and local forecasts, this should grow to around £2.7million, all of which is potentially accessible to local producers.....and locally produced organic processed foods could swell this figure.

Minister for Agriculture Phil Gawne said "I welcome and support this Organic Action Plan which lays out the Organic Working Party's view of how to deliver a reliable supply of high value Organic food. This provides an important part of customer choice and a useful contribution to a sustainable Manx farming industry for the future."

He continued "I will be supporting the team as they now deliver the key actions identified in the plan which should make real progress towards the availability of top quality Manx Organic food on the Island."

Chair of the OWP, Viv Davies said "The Organic Action Plan provides the market information which defines the opportunities, and it also addresses the key issues. The Government is playing a crucial part in helping create the right environment for a successful local organic sector. We now need producers, processors and retailers of all kinds to take up the challenge and make this profitable opportunity happen."

The OWP is a cross-industry team established by the Minister of Agriculture, Phil Gawne MHK in 2007. The team's aim has been to explore the value and accessibility of the organic food market on Island - and the potential for export - and to establish how new supplies could be made possible to meet any profitable markets identified.

This Plan details the areas for action needed to achieve the vision. The implementation of the Plan will be phased to take account of the key priorities and the different stages of development of each production sector.

For information: the Organic Action Plan and the preceding Interim Report (November 2007) are available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website shown below: <http://www.gov.im/daff/Consultations/organicwp.xml>.