Reviewer’s report

Title: Human health implications of organic food and organic agriculture: A comprehensive review

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Liza Oates

Reviewer's report:

Excellent coverage of the literature and key issues.

The quality of language in the manuscript is generally good but could be tightened up a bit in some sections e.g. Association between organic food consumption and health: findings from human studies; the final paragraph under Organic food consumption and sustainable diets (P6 L15...); P15 L 4-5.

It may be beneficial to break some of the longer sentences down to improve readability e.g. P 5 L38-45.

Table 1 data appearing twice?

P 10 With regard to the following statement I think the presence of detectable pesticide residues in 13.8% of organic food samples might be higher than most consumers would expect. What are the organic standards in the EU regarding organic products found to exceed certain residue levels? I believe in Australia detections >10%MRL cannot be sold as 'organic'


"On average over the last three available years, EFSA reports pesticide residues below

Maximum Residues Levels (MRL) in 43,7% of all and 13,8% of organic food samples. A total of 2,8% of all and 0,9% of organic samples exceeded the MRL, which may be due to high residue levels or due to low levels but unapproved use of a particular pesticide on a particular crop [82-84].

P17 L32 consider 'feeding regimens' rather than 'feeding regimes'

P18 L23-27 needs clarification

P19 Regarding the use of antibiotics for therapeutic purposes in organic livestock... what are the EU organic standards? According to Australian standards, antibiotics can be used in organic livestock but there are restrictions on selling that animal as 'organic' or growing organically certified crops on the land.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An exceptional article

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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Have received research funding from a donation to RMIT University from Bharat Mitra, co-founder of Organic India Pty Ltd, and Australian Organic. The individuals /organisations involved did not have any input into the design, conduct, interpretation or publication of the research.

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