

## **3.1 | Organic farming and the environment**

### **3.1.1**

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All food production causes some disruption to the natural environment. Organic farming minimises this disruption by:

- limiting the types and quantities of pesticides and fertilisers used
- building soil fertility and soil stability, and
- maintaining and increasing ecological diversity within and around cropped land.

### **3.1.2**

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Ecological diversity is an essential part of a successful organic farming system. It is important to manage wildlife habitats as an integral part of an organic farm. This includes areas such as banks, hedges, ponds, species-rich pastures, areas of poor drainage and scrub land.

### **3.1.3**

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You should manage your organic farm:

- to be socially sustainable as well as environmentally sustainable
- with respect for good traditional and pastoral grazing systems, and
- sympathetically within the limitations of local climate and topography (such as mountain, hill and upland farming).