

December 2007
Internal Letter N° 96

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends of IFOAM,

As we close the year 2007, it is both with joy and appreciation that we take the opportunity to look back on the developments of both IFOAM and organic over the years. **IFOAM is celebrating 35 years of uniting, assisting and leading the organic movement.** There is no doubting that the organic movement has grown, changed and ultimately developed into an impressive industry that now accounts for 31 Billion Euro (40 Billion US Dollar) in the marketplace and in some countries more than 10 percent of agricultural production. IFOAM has played an influential role through all of this development and has had to transform itself as an organization as the global organic “landscape” has changed. We look forward to the next years finding ways to better support our members, developing with the industry and the organic movement at large.

One of the most recent examples of IFOAM working to support the global organic movement is our engagement with the United States National Organic Standards Board on the issue of group certification acceptance in the US National Organic Program (NOP). On [page 7](#) you will be informed on our actions and the outcome of our work. We intend to continue working on this crucial topic with the US NOP to find an acceptable solution that will both ensure the continuation of group certification and the needs of the NOP.

IFOAM is proud to present in this IFOAM-In Action our exciting new patronage of the One World Award (OWA). The OWA has its roots in the organic movement and will recognize and award people and projects within the holistic context of our movement. Objectives of the international One World Award (OWA) are to **promote** a globalization that is not oriented on profit maximisation, but on the three pillars of Sustainability: Ecological - Social - Economic; to **recognize** outstanding engagement and achievements in providing creative and high impacting solutions in the areas of environment protection and fair livelihoods; and to **encourage** more involvement for a loveable, worth living future and for peaceful community building. The Principles of Organic Agriculture exemplify what the OWA is all about and IFOAM is the perfect partner to represent such an esteemed award.

Wishing you all the best and seasons greetings,



Angela B. Caudle
Executive Director

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The World Board is working for you!

The World Board meeting was held on October 22-28th, 2007 in Sweden, Uppsala.

Strategic Planning Session 3rd round

The WB continued its work in a one and a half day strategic planning session for IFOAM's future program 2009-2011 together with a consultant focusing on NGO-Management.

Statutes change regarding ballot voting

The WB included the ballot voting into the statutes. This procedure will be presented for approval at the General Assembly (GA) 2008 in Modena.

Extension of the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) Task Force (TF) for one more year

The WB approved the extension of the PGS TF mandate until end of 2008. The TF on PGS gives recommendations to the World Board on how to develop, facilitate and encourage PGS around the world. The TF also defines and systemizes PGS concepts and provides tools appropriate for the facilitation and promotion of PGS.

Integration of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in IFOAM's program on Organic standards

The WB agreed to integrate PGS in IFOAM's OGS department because it becomes more relevant in the standard setting process and is getting recognized by governments.

Policies and procedures

Revisions of the following policies were approved by the WB:

- Policy 26 External Representation
- Policy 27 Management of Complaints
- Policy 62 Sign-ons
- Policy 35 Tenders

The WB did further work on IFOAM's Gender Policy and Policy on IFOAM's Organic World Congress. Both policies will be presented for final approval at the next EB meeting in January 2008.

Opening IFOAM Accreditation Program (IAP)

The WB discussed intensively the concept to open IFOAM's accreditation program. The IOAS was invited to give feedback. The EB is going to continue working on the concept at their next meeting.

Tool Kit for standard development

The WB decided to develop a tool kit for standard development containing a template including guidance for the user.

International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF)- next steps

The WB gave further guidance for the work with the ITF in regards to International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (IROCB) and tools for Equivalency for Standards. It was proposed that the ITF meets again in the first half of the year 2008.

Finances

An update about IFOAM's finances were presented by the Executive Director. The WB expressed its confidence as the prognosis is positive even if some concern about the income was raised. The WB supported the Head Office (HO) to get the missing membership fees and is expecting income through the donation campaign 2007. The HO reported that the bookkeeping is continuously improving and the audit report showed positive results.

It was explained that the budget for 2008 is generally based around the internal restructuring of the HO and shifting of the HO with some resources in the budget for the new outreach department. The WB approved the budget scenario presented.

The WB assigned a Task Force to work with the Executive Director in developing an IFOAM income plan and to update IFOAM's financial strategy.

The Organic World Foundation (OWF)

The WB received an update about the process of the OWF. The WB agreed that the foundation statutes should stipulate that IFOAM WB members are selected for the board of the foundation and not EB members.

Organic World Congress (OWC) 2011 bids update

The WB was informed that six organizations approached IFOAM for hosting the OWC 2011. Organizations from following countries are interested: South Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, China, Japan and the United Arab Emirates.

Definition of Organic Agriculture

The WB was asked to reconsider this criterion 'positive as opposed to negative' in the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Definition of Organic Agriculture and to make this criterion no longer mandatory. The WB approved that the Definition of Organic Agriculture does not need to be only positive.

One World Award (OWA)

The WB approved that IFOAM is the patron of the One World Award (OWA). The first OWA will be presented at the OWC in Modena 2008. For further information read [page 10](#).

General Assembly (GA)

The WB discussed possible motions and potential officers as chairs, minute keepers, referees, parliamentarians and ballot counters. The final decision about the GA agenda will be taken by the WB in spring 2008.

Symposium on Organic Agriculture

The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in South Korea (RIOA) wants to hold an "International Symposium on Organic Agriculture" parallel to the "International conference on Soil Fertility" which is organized by the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR). The WB discussed to have the "International Symposium" with the presence of IFOAM.

Rock for Nature

IFOAM was approached to be a patron of Rock for Nature, a benefit event for the victims of GMOs and Multinationals in India, taking place in Germany in August 2008. The WB approved IFOAM Patronage of Rock for Nature.

Cancellation of the Program Strategy Committee (PSC)

The WB decided to close the PSC as IFOAM-Growing Organic (I-GO) the program will be completed in the end of 2008. The PSC gave advice in regard to financing regional project proposals, submitted by IFOAM member organizations and later the PSC advised the WB on strategic issues of new projects in the frame of the IFOAM Program 2008.

Discussion with IOAS

The WB continued its conversation with IOAS and welcomed Ken Commins, Bo van Elzakker, Michael Sligh and Robert Duxbury from the IOAS Executive Committee to the meeting. The discussion focused mainly on two topics:

- OGS revision update
- OGS big picture (including opening up the IAP)

WB rescinds Policy on IFOAM's Role in the Standard Setting Process (#14)

At its last meeting in Uppsala, Sweden, the WB recognized that [IFOAM Policy 14](#), "IFOAM's role in the International Standards Setting Process", which was passed by a motion of the IFOAM General Assembly in 1998 at Mar Del Plata is no longer relevant and effective in the changed environment. The [2005 GA motion](#) on the revision of the Organic Guarantee System has effectively replaced this policy. Therefore, the WB rescinds Policy 14.



World Board in Sweden, Uppsala. Front row, left to right. Prabha Mahale, Klaus Pontvik (shop owner of „Klaus Goda“), Jacqueline Haessig, Katherine DiMatteo, Mette Meldgaard. Second row, right to left: Ong Kung Wai, Angela B. Caudle, Diane Bowen, Gerald A. Herrmann, Antonio Compagnoni, Johan Cejje, Alberto Pipo Lernoud.

International Task Force Achieves Results in Bali

The 7th ITF meeting, convened in Bali, Indonesia from 27-29 November, was attended by thirty participants; eighteen from governments, three from intergovernmental organizations, one from academia and eight from private sector certification bodies and non-governmental organizations.

In the course of the meeting, participants:

- reviewed the first draft of a Tool for Equivalence of Organic Standards and Technical Regulations (EquiTool);
- reviewed the 4th draft of the International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (IROCB);
- discussed proposals for two forms of cooperation involving certification bodies;
- received information on the situation of group certification with specific reference to the situation in the United States;
- received information on potential negative impacts of equivalence, reviewed the draft ITF Communication Plan;
- discussed the prospects for implementing ITF results beyond 2008 when the ITF will end.

Specifically, the 7th meeting achieved the following results:

Tool for Equivalence of Standards and Technical Regulations (EquiTool)

The ITF agreed that the tool is potentially useful and should be further developed, and gave input for the development.

Potential Negative Impacts of Equivalence

ITF has produced a resource which explains potential negative impacts of equivalence, and which can be used as a reference for developing sound equivalence agreements that avoid pitfalls.

International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (IROCB)

Meeting participants resolved five specific open issues in the 4th draft of this tool, and they provided several other recommendations for the final draft. The participants also decided that ITF should participate in ISO CASCO Working Group 29, which is preparing the revision of ISO 65, and advocate consideration of IROCB in the revision.

Stewardship and Ownership of IROCB

Participants recommended that after the ITF ends in 2008 IFOAM should become the short-term steward of the document with support from FAO and UNCTAD, which should approve any changes to it. In the long term, IROCB should become either a Codex or ISO document and steps should be taken to begin implementing this.

ITF Communications Plan

The participants agreed on the general approach of the communications plan as well as on the challenges for communicating and advocating the ITF results.

The relevant documents, including the 1st draft Tool for Equivalence, the 4th draft of IROCB, and the draft ITF Communications Plan are available on the ITF website in the 7th meeting folder. [Click here to enter.](#)

A Biofach briefing session on ITF is scheduled for 22nd of February 2008 from 13:00 to 14:00 in Room Oslo. The ITF work and results will be presented and discussed by members of the ITF Steering Committee. The session will also feature remarks from Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General, Sustainable Development Department, FAO.



ITF members from Japan strike a Balinese gong to bring the meeting to order. From left to right: Yasuko Taniguchi, MAFF-Japan; Kenji Masumoto, JONA; Kiyofumi Ishikawa, MAFF-Japan.

IOAS - International Organic Accreditation Service



Following the publication of Regulations 1997/2006 (new import rules) and 834/2007 (the new organic regulation) the **European Commission** is working on developing the

detailed implementation rules which should make clear how the new requirements must be implemented. The new import rules came into effect from January 1 this year but cannot be applied until the detailed rules are published. The amendment opens the possibility for direct approval of certification bodies outside of Europe by the Commission via accreditation or perhaps similar surveillance system that demonstrates either compliance or equivalence to the European rules. The Commission is currently inviting comment on the handling of the 'flexibility' article of EC 834/2007.

Since the decision in October 2006 that determined that a certifying agent's policy of inspecting "only a percentage of producers" in a group instead of annual inspections of each producer in the group was inconsistent with 7 CFR §205.403 and the subsequent temporary approval in May 2007 by the **National Organic Program** of USDA of the 2002 recommendation of the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) on 'Criteria for Certification of Grower Groups' there has been further discussions and opinions expressed on how such multi-site operations might fit under the NOP. On October 1 the NOSB published a new recommendation ([here the document in PDF format](#)) that seeks to 'ensure that groups unequivocally can exist within the regulatory framework of the NOP' and that the 'concept of the organic system plan is sufficiently robust to include internal control systems that reduce or eliminate the need for annual direct observation by inspection of each production unit, site or facility of an organic operation, without regard to its area of operation'.

In addition the committee clarifies 'the distinction between the initial and annual inspections to make clear that a sufficiently robust internal control system, that is described in sufficient detail in the master OSP (organic system plan), may reduce or eliminate the need for direct observation by inspection of each unit, site or facility'. The recommendation suggests that the concept may apply to a much broader scope than smallholder producers in developing countries and that the initial inspection will have to cover all sites.

The recommendation was discussed by the NOSB in late November. See [page 7](#) for an update.

The **National Organic Standards Board** has also made [recommendations on the content of organic certificates](#) and some guidance on the establishment of 'commercial availability criteria' [with regard to non-organic agricultural products](#).

The IOAS is working in **partnership with trade organizations** in the USA to determine appropriate methods retailers could undertake to deter and limit the incidence of fraudulently traded organic products and to increase the chances of early detection when it takes place within the retail supply chain. The IOAS has been contracted by the National Cooperative Grocers Association which is a business services cooperative for 110 consumer-owned food co-ops located throughout the U.S. More [here](#).

The **7th meeting of the International Task force** on Harmonization took place in Bali, Indonesia on 27-30 November. Have a look on [page 4](#).

In early November the IOAS conducted two-day **training in Ankara**, Turkey for officials of the Ministry of Agriculture on authorization and accreditation of certification bodies. The training was conducted as part of the 15 month project 'Strengthening Organic Agriculture in Turkey' and funded by the European Union. Turkey is currently undergoing the 'third country' process for recognition of its standards and control system as equivalent to that of Europe. In September the IOAS held its annual training course for government authorities and accreditation bodies in Switzerland and conducted its first training course on 'Management of Organic Certification' in North Dakota, USA.

IOAS is offering the following training in 2008: 'Assessment of Organic Certification Bodies' in September at FiBL, Frick, Switzerland and 'Management of Organic Certification' with dates and place to be finalised. Check for details on the [IOAS web site](#).

AsureQuality is the new name of AgriQuality of New Zealand which has merged with ASURE New Zealand Ltd. The IFOAM Accreditation of AgriQuality has been transferred to the new company. Further details can be found at the new company [web site](#).

The **Washington State Department of Agriculture** (WSDA) recently applied for accreditation with IOAS against ISO/IEC Guide 65. WSDA have taken advantage of their scheduled reassessment against IFOAM Norms to combine the two evaluations together. As a result of the new IOAS information

handling systems and savings due to combining visits the cost of additional accreditations is around 30% the cost of a full stand alone accreditation. The IOAS ISO65 programme has grown rapidly since its launch in 2003 with currently 13 accredited bodies and 8 applicants.

IOAS assessments and surveillance in the last 3 months has included full site visits of Biokontroll (Hungary), OCIA (USA), UgoCert (Uganda), TanCert (Tanzania) and surveillance visits of Ecoland, GÄA and Naturland (Germany), GOAA and DCOK of South Korea and ACT of Thailand.

Comments on the performance and compliance with relevant norms are invited on the following certification bodies which are undergoing, or about to undergo, assessment or reassessment: TECPAR, Brasil (IFOAM), LibanCert, Lebanon (ISO65), Ecoinspect (ISO65), WSDA, USA (IFOAM & ISO65), Naturland, Germany (IFOAM), OIA, Argentina (IFOAM), JONA, Japan (IFOAM & ISO65), BIOS, Italy (IFOAM).

Complaints are also invited on the work of both IOAS and accredited certification bodies. Complaints should be submitted in writing, providing as much detail as possible on the issue. The IOAS complaints policies can be found [here](#).

For a complete list of IFOAM and ISO65 Accredited certification bodies, their scope and countries of activity, please go [here](#) and follow the links.

For more general information about the IOAS and the services we offer, please visit www.ioas.org.

This is a bimonthly service of the International Organic Accreditation Service specifically for governments and national authorities involved in regulating the organic food sector. Secure your own copy direct to your inbox by sending an email to crucefix@ioas.org.

Back copies may be viewed on-line at www.ioas.org/inform.htm.

Organic Guarantee System Update

Update on the 2nd Draft IFOAM Benchmark for Standards

As of the 13 December deadline, IFOAM received 22 comments on the 2nd draft of the IFOAM Benchmark for Standards. The comments range from brief messages of satisfaction with the draft to lingering concerns about the approach and detailed suggestions for further revision. All comments will be posted in the OGS Revision section of the IFOAM website in January. At its meeting in Bonn, 19-21 January 2008, the Standards Committee will review the comments and prepare responses to them and a next draft. The current plan is to call for motions from IFOAM members for final language changes on the next draft by 15 February, with motions due 15 April. This call for motions should not be confused with a call for motions for the IFOAM General Assembly, which will be issued at approximately the same time as the call for motions on the Benchmark. The Benchmark motions process is only for specific editing to the draft. The GA Motions process could be used to raise discussion at the GA on the implementation of the OGS Revision, including the role of the Benchmark. The schedule for final member voting on the Benchmark is after the General Assembly.

At Biofach there will be a chance for IFOAM members to discuss the OGS revision, and specifically the Benchmark. A session, led by the IFOAM World Board, is scheduled for Friday, 22 February from 16:00 to 17:30 in Room "Seoul". If you plan to attend Biofach, please mark your calendars for this session.

CB Forum at Biofach

The CB Forum will meet at Biofach on Sunday, 24 February, Room "Seoul" from 10:30 to 13:30 for two workshops, one on group certification and another on a topic yet to be finalized, but likely on inspector training and competence. There will also be a short business meeting. The Forum is open to representatives from all certification bodies.

IFOAM Members Approve Norms Revision Policy

In September, IFOAM members voted to approve Policy 20, Revision of the IFOAM Norms. The voting results were 110 'yes' and 4 'no'. The Policy will be reviewed by the Executive Board in January and then becomes effective.

Outcome of IFOAM's work regarding the acceptance of group certification by the NOSB

As it was already described in the previous issue of IFOAM-In Action No 95, IFOAM was a key player in the dialogue on the issue of group certification under the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). To liaise with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) on its behalf, IFOAM hired last August a team of consultants, whose work was overseen by a task force composed of IFOAM World Board and staff members. Prior to the publication of the recommendation of the NOSB CACC (Certification, Accreditation, and Compliance Committee), the team liaised intensely with the Organic Trade Association (OTA), the National Organic Coalition, the CACC and the NOP to try to influence the recommendation.

After the publication of the CACC recommendation an outreach effort was initiated to identify and contact certification bodies within and outside the US, key IFOAM members, and US advocacy groups to discuss reactions to the CACC recommendation. The draft of the IFOAM response was circulated, in particular through the certification body forum, to inform, to stimulate discussion and to get feedback. Based on this consultation, IFOAM developed a call to action for IFOAM members and submitted its comment to the NOSB on the 9th of November. Eleven IFOAM members submitted comments as well based on the call to action. With 18 total comments submitted on the topic of group certification the IFOAM position made up the majority of the responses and in several of the other comments, IFOAM criteria, guidance or position was referenced.

As a result of the posted comments the CACC decided to present their recommendation for discussion, not decision at the NOSB meeting held November 28-30, 2007. During the

NOSB meeting, there was strong support among stakeholder groups for the suggestions brought forward by IFOAM that the CACC form a stakeholder working group to draft a new recommendation and that the NOP create a separate accreditation category for Group Certification.

But despite the thorough and well-presented positions from the public on group certification, the CACC did not withdraw its recommendation and there were distinct divisions among NOSB members about the CACC recommendation. It is unclear how the CACC will proceed from now until the spring NOSB meeting. IFOAM will have to remain active on this issue, participating in a CACC working group if formed or initiating a stakeholder working group.

You can find the CACC recommendation, IFOAM's position, the full outcome report and other related documents on www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/standards/ics/GG_US.html



Global Advocacy for Organic Agriculture

Each year, hundreds of international events related to the topic of Organic Agriculture take place. Unable to attend them all, IFOAM is very appreciative of its involved and active members who attended the following events to represent IFOAM and spread the organic movement around the world! The following events are a sample of where IFOAM has recently been represented.

Under the framework of the **Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)**, its Task Force (TF) organized a meeting with NGO representatives of the Indian PGS program as well as government officials, between the 5th and the 8th of October at the World Wild Fund and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Offices in Delhi, India.

In the first 3 days of these events, IFOAM contacted several PGS representatives to have a closer look into their experience and especially to see how the national coordination is organized. Although governmental restrictions to the PGS Program in India happened, some progress through the registration of its own logo was visible. 14 participating Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) started to use the logo.

On the last day, the PGS TF met with representatives of the Indian ministries of agriculture and commerce as well as a third party organic certifier who proposed the current legislation draft on this matter, in order to explain the advantages of PGS Program and to make it part of the current organic legislation.

The **Universities of Kassel-Witzenhausen and Göttingen** in Germany hosted the Agricultural Fair Tropentag 2007, which this year dealt with the topic "Utilization of diversity in land use systems: Sustainable and organic approaches to meet human needs". IFOAM was present with a booth and Joelle Katto, International Projects Coordinator, had in a side event the excellent opportunity to present IFOAM's Training Platform.

In Rome, Italy, IFOAM attended to the Second Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture hosted at FAO between the 27th of October and the 2nd of November. A side event on Organic Agriculture's contribution in sustainable use and in-situ/on-farm conservation of plant genetic resources were organized. Beside this Christina Grandi, IFOAM Liaison Officer to FAO and IFAD, advocated at the plenary discussion for the implementation of Article 6 (Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources) and Article 9

(Farmers' Rights) stating that organic agriculture is based on biodiversity instead of external inputs. IFOAM's Organic World Congress (OWC) as well as Planet Diversity were promoted.

Three of the most important NGO's in Netherlands, Hivos, Oxfam Novib and IUCN, held on 1st of November their workshop "Social and Environmental Responsibility in Progress. Making Quality Systems work for Poverty Alleviation, Biodiversity Conservation and Company Performance". IFOAM, through its Strategic Relations Manager Louise Luttkholt was invited to this event. The work of IFOAM was presented as a positive impact of the Biodiversity Fund, which is managed by Hivos and Oxfam Novib.

Planet Diversity is taking its final shape as the "go - no go meeting" on the 5th of November decided to advance with it. Following this, Louise Luttkholt and Luis Malo, IFOAM Strategic Relations Manager and Trainee respectively, were involved in the opening of the Planet Diversity Office on the 15th of November at IFOAM's Head Office in Bonn, Germany.

The **Organic Agriculture Project in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (OAPTIN)** organized the 3rd National Organic Conference & Scientific Meeting from the 11th to the 15th of November. Patricia Wangong'u represented IFOAM there and affirmed the high potential for organic agriculture in Nigeria. She encouraged linking up with IFOAM and learning from the Organic Standards East Africa (OSEA) project for a possible replication of it in West Africa.



Angela B. Caudle, IFOAM's Executive Director showed presence at **FAO's 34th Session** from the 17th to the 24th of November 2007 in Rome, Italy, accompanied by Liaison Officer to FAO and IFAD, Cristina Grandi. During this important summit both IFOAM representatives had the chance to discuss with governmental representatives of countries interested in implementing organic agriculture programs, such as Indonesia and Sierra Leone. Also they met some FAO officials engaged in organic agriculture.

The **Organic Exchange Event** was held in Asilomar, California, United States from the 29th of October to the 2nd of November. Marci Zaroff, from Under the Canopy, spoke to all attendees at the key morning plenary on behalf of IFOAM about the organic fiber event, taking place next year in Modena, Italy.

Ong Kung Wai, IFOAM's World Board Member assisted to the **3rd International Conference on Gross National Happiness** which took place in Bangkok, Thailand from the 22nd to the 28th of November. Gross National Happiness is a better measure for a nation's well being than the Gross National Product. IFOAM is convinced that more organic agriculture contributes to a higher Gross National Happiness index!

The **Asia/Pacific Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM)**, summed from the 26th to the 27th of November in Jakarta, Indonesia. IFOAM's World Board member Jaqueline Haessig Alleje discussed at this preparatory meeting for the global 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in May 2008, relevant topics to organic agriculture such as food security, health, climate change, sustainable agriculture and rural development, preservation of social and genetic diversity, among others.

The **India Organic Trade Fair** and the Seminar "Indian Organic Agribusiness at the Threshold of Growth" were held for first time at the city of New Delhi, India, from the 29th of November to the 2nd of December. The President of IFOAM, Gerald A. Herrmann had function at the inauguration and valedictory ceremony. IFOAM was also represented by one of its World Board Members, Prabha Mahale, whom together with Louise Luttkholt, IFOAM's Strategic Relations Manager, had a closer contact to over 18 IFOAM members in India, as well as to various groups interested in organics, raising among them the awareness on the OWC.



16TH IFOAM
ORGANIC WORLD
CONGRESS
MODENA, ITALY 16-20 JUNE '08

CULTIVATE
THE FUTURE.

www.ifoam.org/modena2008

THE ORGANIC WORLD MEETS IN MODENA

Cultivating the future is the fundamental motivation common to farmers, consumers, producers, researchers, scientists, activists and all those who believe that Organic Agriculture guarantees future generations with a healthy and fair environment, where they can live in harmony, respecting both the individual and our Earth.

The Congress will be based on the IFOAM Principles of Organic Agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care. Starting from these values, the relevant themes will pertain to:

- Regional values and indigenous knowledge, or to be more precise the roots from which we should draw experience and inspiration in our everyday actions;
- Innovation, in all fields, to better project ourselves into a sustainable future;
- Cooperation between producers and consumers, public and private bodies, scientists and operators, South and North, communities, regions and nations.

THE ORGANIZERS

The Province of Modena and the Italian Association for Organic Agriculture (AIAB Emilia Romagna) have joined forces and created the Consorzio ModenaBio 2008, with the objective to build a global platform for discussing and sharing information and experiences to Cultivate the Future in a concrete manner.

THE PROGRAM

The Congress will present and exchange of practical experiences between farmers, consumers, producers, activists and others, and the state-of-science academic research will be presented and discussed. Additional conferences will focus on wide-reaching themes, such as Organic Wine and Viticulture, Organic Textiles, Organic Fruits, Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean, Organic Cosmetics, Aquaculture, Climate Change and more.

Renowned scientists and activists will animate the debates and provide inspiration during the numerous discussions. Don't miss this great opportunity to participate in the world's largest organic conference!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

With over 2000 participants from the organic sector expected to participate, the IFOAM Organic World Congress represents an unparalleled opportunity to promote your activities. Participants include producers, processors, traders, market experts and representatives of leading organic companies, consultants and other stakeholders. Contact ifoam2008@provincia.modena.it to take full advantage of the benefits today!

Join us at the Trade Symposium
20th of February in
CongressCenter, Nuremberg

IFOAM Cooperations

IFOAM becomes patron of the One World Award initiative

Recognition of innovative developments and new ways of navigating the ever more complex world we live in is essential for encouraging exciting progress in the organic agriculture movement. The One World Award (OWA) will recognize outstanding engagement and achievements in providing creative and high impact solutions in the area of environmental protection and fair livelihoods. It also aims to encourage more engagement for a future worth living and for peaceful community building.

After extensive and careful preparation the stage has been set to call for nominations for the award. The OWA webpage (www.one-world-award.com) has been launched in mid December and provides now all necessary information to consider or even better to submit nominations for this new, but already prestigious award, which will come along with a 25.000 Euro cash prize. The selected four runner-ups will each receive a 2.000 Euro cash prize. The detailed information package with registration form for the nomination are available on the web page, but can also be requested via owa@rapunzel.de or via fax at 0049-8330-5291139.

Strictly enforced deadline for nominations is February 29th 2008.

The first OWA festive award ceremony will be on June 19th 2008 in conjunction with the IFOAM Organic World Congress in Modena, Italy.

No patents on seeds and animals: stop the expropriation of farmers and breeders!

The continuing patenting of seeds, conventional plant varieties and animal species leads to far-reaching expropriations of farmers and breeders: farmers are deprived of their rights to save their harvested seeds, and breeders are under strong limitations to use the patented seeds freely for further breeding.

The European Patent Office (EPO) has repeatedly broadened the scope of patentability and undermined existing restrictions, in the interest of multinational companies. Our food security is increasingly dependent on a few transnational chemical and biotechnological companies.

The Enlarged Board of Appeal of the EPO will use a patent on broccoli (EP 1069819) for a fundamental ruling, on whether or not conventional plants are patentable. The decision of the Enlarged Board of Appeal (case T 0083/05) will be binding for all other pending patent applications and even for animals and their offspring. More information [here](#).

In a joint letter to the Enlarged Board of Appeal the organizers of this website and numerous farmers' organizations from around the globe restate their opposition to patents on conventional seeds and animals. [Click here!](#)

Start of EU-project on training-certification for the organic retailing business



The Cologne-based Institute equalita continued its activities for quality assurance in organic food retailing with the project "ECO-QUALIFY II". From Dec. 10-11 the initial project meeting took place in Vienna.

The objective of this Innovation-Transfer-Project is to expand the qualification standards for organic retailers developed in the initial project "ECO-QUALIFY I" into a comprehensive European quality assurance system for the further education in organic foods trade and to transfer it into the participating project-partner-countries Austria, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic and Germany.

The project will be carried out in the framework of the program "Lifelong Learning - Leonardo da Vinci" of the

European Union and was approved as one of 30 projects from 86 proposals for promotions.

Ongoing Information: www.equalita.de



IFOAM and University of Siegen cooperation



Since April 2006 the department of Media Studies at the University of Siegen is proud to cooperate with IFOAM in the collegiate project 'ÖKO:global – organic concepts'. From the beginning the cooperation provided remarkable results.

The **first project phase** included the production of a documentary film with the German title 'Die Welt spricht Bio' (The World speaks Organic). Shots for the film were taken in Costa Rica, Hungary and Germany. The film presents organic agriculture both at a local and a global level and compares the different political and economic conditions of organic agriculture in EU-countries and abroad. Currently, the team is working on marketing and sales of the documentary. It is expected to be aired by the Hungarian Public television (MTV) in February 2008. The German and Costa Rican TV premiere will follow shortly.

In Dezember 2006 a talkshow with the German title 'ÖKO:kontrovers – Kann die globale Ökonomie die Welt ernähren?' (Can Organic Agriculture Feed the World?) was realized. Furthermore a print image campaign was initiated in German language. Layouts for classical print products, such as posters, advertisements, flyers and free cards, with different topics ('Sicher gut', 'Das was man nicht sieht' and 'Widerspruch') were designed as information material to be given to IFOAM members in German speaking countries. In the course of addressing the German public, a basic German version of the IFOAM website was designed.

For the **second project phase** the website in German language will be linked to the official IFOAM website and from there the campaign products will be accessible. Beside this the campaign products will be translated into English language and will be launched within the next year.

One team will work together with IFOAM regarding its Internal Communication Management. A task force is working on an analysis with a following evaluation of the communication structures inside IFOAM.

A big part of the second project phase will mainly include the production of an image film for IFOAM, as well as a second documentary film. It is planned that an image video and several clips will be produced. The image film will show what IFOAM is doing for its membership. Shots will be taken at

BioFach 2008 in Nürnberg, Germany, and at the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress in Modena, Italy.

Depending on the economic success of 'Die Welt spricht Bio', the team is planning to do a second documentary in High Definition and a 90 minutes format. The film will be remarkable in terms of content and relevance of topics and should also have the format to stand-alone. The team is considering working in other countries to be able to cover the international aspects. The focus will be on Asia (e.g. China, Japan, India), the US, Hungary and Germany.

To be able to fulfill this task the team is looking for organizations, willing to support this project. For further information, please visit the website: www.oeko-global.uni-siegen.de. Please contact, Gabriele Holtmann (g.holtmann@ifoam.org) if you would like to help the team be successful and are willing to support the projects in one or the other.



IFOAM and University of Hohenheim

The Organic Food Chain Management Master students from the department of Farm Management Production Theory and Resources of the University Hohenheim cooperated with IFOAM.

The project of the team (Claudia Frieden, Johanna Schübler and Fabian Falkenhagen) created a Marketing and Communication Strategy (IMaCS) for IFOAM. It was an incredibly engaging process and had a great outcome. IFOAM will build on this strategy for its future work. If you are interested to learn more about this, please contact Thomas Cierpka (t.cierpka@ifoam.org) for further information.

IFOAM Events

The European Organic Congress “The future of organic food and farming within the reformed CAP – Reviewing the European Organic Action plan and future perspectives” was held in Brussels, December 4-5, 2007.

Over 300 participants at the European Organic Congress in Brussels developed clear political recommendations for the future of EU agriculture policy. The high level event, opened by Agricultural Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel, identified the future challenges the organic sector is facing, how these can be solved, and how policy makers can ensure that society benefits from the various advantages of organic production.

Speakers from the Commission’s DG Environment and DG agriculture as well as from environmental NGOs recognised the contribution that organic farming can make to addressing climate change, biodiversity protection and water management, all key environmental issues identified as priorities in the current review of the Common Agricultural Policy.

“This is not rocket science”, said Francis Blake, president of the IFOAM EU Group, “organic farming’s foundations in common sense, in the precautionary principle, justify the investment in the only farming system that delivers all the objectives of the CAP and meets the aspirations of EU citizens. We call on the Commission to revise and update the European organic action plan, in order to provide a consistent policy throughout all agri-policy fields that properly promotes this important production system. The current debate about the future of the CAP offers a great opportunity to take serious action.”

During the event, which was sold out, the organic sector demonstrated its strength and maturity, and proved that organic food and farming has reached the centre of agriculture policy debate. The presence of a large number of representatives from the Commission was an indication of the seriousness with which organic farming is now being taken by EU policy makers.

The conclusions from the congress identified the following necessary steps:

- (1) To make organic farming a specific focus of the environmental measures to be developed as part of the CAP Health Check.
- (2) To ensure that some of the proposed increase in rural development funding is targeted at organic farming, in particular in regions and member states that have so far given a low priority to organic farming support.
- (3) To support the development of a dedicated organic

research vision and ideas forum to act as a focus for identifying priorities in research and development and knowledge.

(4) Improve the involvement of stakeholders in the process of reforming the EU regulation defining organic food and farming.

(5) Maintain the integrity of organic food with reference to core values to protect against devaluing the concept as the market expands.

(6) Continue to campaign for GMO policies that protect the GM free status of organic products and ensure that liability for contamination is consistent with the polluter pays principle.

(7) Recognize the urgency for rapid adoption of organic production due to rapidly increasing oil prices and the prospect of oil shortages in the foreseeable future.

“The Commission’s organic action plan in 2004 was a good start but major policy areas are insufficiently implemented or are left out”, added Marco Schlüter, Director of the IFOAM EU Group. “In particular, the question of how to safeguard GM-free farming is not addressed, and EU policies on research and on rural development in support of organic farming need significant development.

“The congress has given concrete recommendations for policy makers. It is now time that the EU and member states take serious action.”

All speeches, presentations we got are under: [European Organic Congress website](#).



Agricultural Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel at the European Organic Congress



2nd IFOAM Trade Symposium Global Sourcing

February, 20th 2008 | Nuremberg, Germany

GLOBAL SOURCING: AN ISSUE OF CREDIBILITY

Introduction

Organic agriculture is the fastest growing food sector. Over the last ten years, it has grown 15-20 percent annually, while the overall food industry is growing 4-5 percent per year. The organic food supply chain is a consumer driven sector, with a market value of USD 40 billion. Organic production now covers more than 31 million hectares.

In 2007, IFOAM chose the topic "In-between discount and premium: Friend or foe," and invited key leaders in the organic trade industry to discuss the implications of large-scale conventional businesses entering the organic marketplace. For 2008, IFOAM will continue its leadership role by focusing on "Global Sourcing: An issue of credibility".

Global Sourcing

The attractive growth of organic markets has enticed diverse entrepreneurs, farmers and conventional food companies to get involved in the organic business, presenting challenges to an overburdened regulatory system.

Over 95% of the world's more than 40 billion USD market is concentrated in Europe and the United States. Yet, the National Organic Program in the United States has just nine staff members and an annual budget of \$1.5 million to regulate a 15 billion USD industry. The figures aren't much different for the organic program in the EU Agriculture Commission. In sum, the growth of the regulatory system is far behind the growth of the industry, opening the door to both perceived and real credibility issues.

High profile speakers will discuss both cutting edge issues in sourcing organic products globally and also challenge the organic sector to improve the credibility of sourcing.

Date

February 20, 2008

Time

13:00 – 14:00h - Registration & Reception
14:00 – 18:00h - Symposium

Venue

Nürnberg Messe
CongressCenter Nürnberg (CCN Ost)
Room Shanghai
www.congressing.de/main/dckfkuya/dbt9lkoo/page.html

Dinner

Directly after the Trade Symposium
in Restaurant "Vasco da Gama"
(CongressCenter Nürnberg, CCN Ost)
from 18:00h onwards

Price: 57 Euro (incl. 19% VAT)

Registration

You can register online under
www.ifoam.org/events

Price (symposium&dinner): 80 Euro (incl. 19% VAT)

Price (symposium only): 28 Euro



Visit the Trade Symposium Website!

IFOAM
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOVEMENTS

Welcome to New IFOAM Staff



Hallo! I am **Katharina Pfundt** from Germany and I recently started working with IFOAM as the new Organic Guarantee System Coordinator.

I am just completing my master's degree in Social Anthropology and Adult Education with a focus on international and rural development.

Four years ago, during a study visit to a cooperative union of coffee producers in Tanzania, I had my first direct encounter with organic production. Since then I became more and more interested in the fascinating and exciting world of organic agriculture and I am very happy about the chance to learn so much more with IFOAM. My previous working experience in international settings with NGOs and a private company will surely help me to contribute to IFOAM's work and I look forward to cooperating with you!



Hello, I am **Masaya Koriyama** from Japan. I'm working as a media fellow at the IFOAM head office since November 2007. My main tasks are supporting marketing and public relations work. Currently I'm supporting marketing work for the "Organic World Foundation" and promotion for "16th Organic World Congress in Modena, Italy 2008".

I have been working for an organic and natural foods home delivery company called "Radish Boya" as a public relations manager since 1992. I tried to send messages of organic farmers to public as a PR person of organic agriculture for 15 years. Radish Boya started as an environmental NGO in 1977 focused on recycling movement, and began as an organic movement in 1988.

My professional background is complemented with a master's in Global Politics (Global Civil Society) at the London School of Economics 2006/7. Within my master's thesis I had a chance to examine the influence of IFOAM for the policy making processes of EU organic regulation (EEC) 2092/91 and Agricultural and Environmental Policy (EEC) 2078/92.

Meanwhile, Japanese government finally adopted law to promote organic agriculture in 2007 because of my colleague's long-term efforts. This is a historical improvement for Japanese organic agriculture and market. I'm excited to be a part of IFOAM in this timing!



I am **Luis Armando Malo-Peniche**, the new Trainee of IFOAM since November 2007.

My mission during the coming year will be to assist our Strategic Relations Manager, Louise Luttkholt, in relevant tasks such as the preparation and coordination of IFOAM's representatives to important external meetings; the involvement of IFOAM at the Conference "Planet Diversity"; the OWC program steering committee as well as the preparation and follow up of the GA, and last but not least the facilitation of advocacy activities within IFOAM offices in China, Argentina and Italy.

I studied in my home country Government and International Affairs and I came to Germany in 2003 to do an exchange program at the University of Applied Sciences in Worms. Later on, while doing my master's in Public Policy at the University of Erfurt, I got the chance to do some internships within agriculture policies in Germany and development aid. These few experiences have brought me to the conclusion that no matter where one is, and what one does, it just must be in benefit of something or someone. I am glad to be part of this new family. Saludos al mundo orgánico!!!





IFOAM Head Office Staff

Calendar of Events

Trade Symposium

February 20, 2008

Nuremberg, Germany

www.ifoam.org/events/ifoam_conferences.php

BioFach

February 21 - 24, 2008

Nuremberg, Germany

www.biofach.de

International Conference on Organic Food in Catering

March 5, 2008

Brno, Czech Republic

www.bvv.cz

International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change

April 17 - 18, 2008

ENITA Clermont-Ferrand, Lempdes, France

www.enitac.fr/uk/

Biol 2008 - the International Organic Olive Oil Awards

April 30 - May 7, 2008

Bari, Italy

www.premiobiol.it/

BioFach

May 29 - 31, 2008

Shanghai, China

www.biofach-china.com/

Planet Diversity 2008 - Local, Diverse and GMO-Free World Congress on the Future of Food and Agriculture

May 12 - 16, 2008

Bonn, Germany

www.gmo-free-regions.org/planetdiversity.htm

16th IFOAM Organic World Congress

June 18 - 20, 2008

Modena, Italy

www.ifoam.org/modena2008

The IFOAM General Assembly

June 22 - 24, 2008

Modena, Italy

www.ifoam.org/ga

BioFach Japan

September 24 - 26, 2008

Tokyo, Japan

www.biofach-japan.com

BioFach America

October 16 - 18, 2008

Boston, USA

www.biofach-america.com

Imprint

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