The 2017 General Assembly of IFOAM - Organics International passed a recommendation to ask all candidates running for the World Board the same questions regarding our strategy, policies and positions, for the voting members to know more about the people they vote for.

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1. The strategic plan of IFOAM - Organics International 2025 refers to 3 key levers to promote the principles of organic agriculture: supply, demand and policy. On which lever would you like to put the emphasis in your work for IFOAM – Organics International, and why?

Supply is critical to cultivating participatory sustainable development and change, and towards bringing about the IFOAM shared vision and SDGs. Working together with stakeholders, project-partner institutions, organizations, small farmers/farmer leaders, etc. is essential to removing hindrances/barriers; and assisting and empowering farmers, small farmers, indigenous farmers to grow the benefits of organic agriculture and organic livelihoods into all communities, enabling local and global change. During my work for IFOAM-Organics International I would like to put emphasis on inclusion, supply and the SDGs: I have worked twenty years in these organic agroecology capacity building efforts. However, I will happily work where needed.

2. Please share your thoughts on which actors in our movement could contribute to which parts to make our common vision come true.

Farmers and sustainable management practices are central to building resilient healthy soils, environments, and communities and in bringing the benefits of organic agriculture - positive changes into local and global food systems/and communities. Participant-stakeholders (change agents, organic leaders, rural service providers, project partners/institutions, businesses, consumers, advocates, policy makers, civil society organizations, etc.) work together with us - promoting participatory capacity building actions, empowering/building knowledge and skills/human capacity, growing organic marketplace, communicating benefits, training organic leaders, promoting IFOAM strategies – to enable thriving sustainability, positive organic change around the world. All actors contribute to our common vision, enabling positive change and SDGs.

3. What do you propose in order to get a real transformation in agriculture, in general, and more specifically, in your role as a WB member?

Underserved small farmers represent the largest population of farmers, yet generally they have not benefited from the capacity building/education, trainings, resources, etc. provided to medium and large-scale farmers and agribusinesses. We can transform organic agriculture with inclusive-capacity building actions towards all small farmers, indigenous farmers, minority farmers and their communities/underserved small farmers and their communities - enabling the benefits of organic agroecology farm practices, organic-livelihoods, alternative market networks, and wellbeing, and their own participatory sustainable development. I would serve in support of the Principles of Organic Agriculture, Organic 3.0, and organic development via the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques such as Crispr CAS: where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

GM breeding techniques such as Crispr CAS are not practices and strategies used by agroecology farming, organic farming systems, and regenerative organic agriculture, etc. Challenges could come through an outside source onto an agroecology sustainable agriculture farm or organic farm, and their neighboring communities. Development of research and extension activities, consumer campaigns, policy recommendations, and stakeholder participation/support are several strategies that could be used together to build public awareness; measure impact, develop guidelines-best management practices; develop messaging on misuse/possible contamination; and provide essential education to GM users to avoid contamination of neighboring lands, farms, farmers, produce, food products, and communities.

5. The SDGs of the United Nations are aiming at sustainability in all areas of life and development. How do you make the SDGs a reality in your own life?

In my life, I work to promote the values of the SDGs with all participants, underserved small farm populations, communities, stakeholders, organizations, and with leadership. Participatory capacity building provides an approach towards enabling relationships/dialogues, identifying needs, hindrances and solutions and towards co-creating positive solutions - and change - that empowers, equips and builds capacity for thriving sustainability, wellbeing, and quality of life. The Principles of Organic Agriculture lay the foundation for positive organic-agroecology developments, benefits, and wellbeing, locally and globally. These values are held in the SDGs. An inclusive-wholistic organic agroecology has the potential to meet all of the SDGs.

6. The work of IFOAM-Organics International is partly financed by membership fee, and for a greater deal by donors and foundations. What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

I will work to increase financial resources.