



The Rennes Declaration of IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA)

At the IAHA Conference on the

ORGANIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY SYSTEMS – WAYS TO IMPROVEMENT,

the Pre-Conference on Organic Animal Husbandry, organized at Rennes, France on 6-7 September 2021 and linked to the 20th Organic World Congress, Rennes, France from September 8-10, 2021 participants concluded that:

- The centrality of animals/livestock in sustainable agriculture must be well recognized in all initiatives and strategies for organic farming.
- Healthy animals and healthy plants are vital for sustaining the health and vitality of soils, people and cultures.
- Organic animal husbandry systems have potential to enhance environmental protection & sustainability. Evaluation of the environmental impact of livestock production should focus on the impacts and outputs of the whole system and not focus on individual products.
- Livestock species and breeds must be appropriate for resilient performance under organic management. They must be carefully selected and be well adapted to local conditions and feedstuffs.
- Traditional farming practises, including those followed by pastoralists, must be respected if well adapted to locality, ecology, culture and scale. We support the sustainable use of global grasslands and grazing systems, while acknowledging and protecting the contribution of traditional pastoral systems to organic food production.
- The opportunities of learning from traditional systems of production need to be understood well for integrating them with the modern scientific knowledge including for effective prevention and treatment of diseases.
- In many territories organic livestock production systems still follow conventional models. We call for the development of new approaches or a return to traditional practices that better fulfil the organic principles. Livestock should be reared in holistic systems that better fulfil the behavioural needs of animals
- Good welfare for animals should be assured by the use of tools such as welfare outcomes assessment and appropriate support for farmers to improve their management.
- Policy makers, consumers and farmers need to be supported in understanding the nature and importance of ecologically sustainable livestock production, especially how and why this differs from other production systems.
- Research approaches should be informed by a stronger dialogue and formal collaboration between practitioners and researchers from all relevant disciplines. Also, this calls for enhanced funding for organic livestock research including capacity building of practitioners of organic livestock production.

We call upon the members of the IFOAM General Assembly to support this declaration and to act in accordance with these conclusions.