

12 and 13 February 2024

Eighth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum

In conjunction with the forty-seventh session
of IFAD's Governing Council



Enabling Youth to Sustainably Produce the Food of Tomorrow

Side Event organized by Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations (INOFO)

Tuesday 13 February 2024, from 14:30 to 15:30 IFAD HQ, room: [please, keep this field empty]

Introduction

Globally, farmer communities are witnessing the rapid aging of farmers creating the question of “who will farm in the future”. The aging of farmers and potential intergenerational changes are seen as important factors affecting the sustainability and possible (farm-size) transition of smallholder farming in labor-intensive agriculture around the world. Without a new generation to take on the job, the global food supply begins to look very uncertain.

A few solutions are emerging to tackle this aging crisis in farming. Some of them involve creating new farming concepts and technologies to reduce farmers’ workload. Other solutions involve the arguably much harder challenge of tackling stigma around farming, and changing people’s minds to convince them that farming is a viable way of life.

In times of SGDs and general cry for a transition of global and regional food systems, **organic** is an attractive concept for the new generation to make their livelihoods, support current farmer generations and contribute to sustainable agriculture.

Organic as an agricultural system has been developed over decades as a true sustainable and reliable solution to tackle environmental and socio-ecological challenges, compared to other emerging ‘sustainable’ farming approaches. Making being an Organic Farmer sexy as a career and livelihood for the new generation.

Focus of the Side Event

The core of this side event is to understand and share some perspectives on the global reality about farmers' growing age and how to keep and engage the new generations offering them a content and sustainable livelihood.

Generational renewal is indeed difficult but very important if the agricultural sector is to be maintained. Defining and creating support tools, channels, and systems, including education, finance, media, to be provided to family farms will help to keep descendants of farmers on the farms and introduce non farming family to start their career and livelihood in farming, especially ORGANIC farming. INOFO’s objective is to bring support systems especially in the form of knowledge sharing and community belonging to existing and new farming generations and allow them to bring their ideas and disruptive innovations to the agricultural industry under Organic 3.0 concept.

Objectives

1. To understand the generational perspectives and challenges in farming
2. To bring forward the alternative strategies and concepts to overcome the existing challenges
3. To identify need for alliances and collaborations

Agenda

The discussion would take place through the FishBowl concept with a Round table with 8 chairs - 6 pre-occupied with 5 INOFO and 1 Slow Food representation and two empty chairs for anyone from the audience (including IFAD youth team and other FOs) to occupy and give their inputs in the discussion. All chair occupants can leave the chair when one has delivered the inputs in a discussion and/or when asked by the moderator.

Items	Speaker	Time
Introduction to the side event and setting the scene	Facilitator - Mr. Charles Mubanga INOFO Council member (ESA, Zambia)	14:30-14:35
<p>Objective 1: To understand the generational perspectives and challenges in farming</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to ensure shared learning from emerging and established farmers? - What is the benefit for youth in Inter-generational learning and support? - What are alternative livelihood systems in food production for youth? – PGS, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● INOFO representatives as per list below ● Participating youth ● IFAD representatives ● Rotating speakers as per Fishbowl concept 	14:35-14:55
<p>Objective 2: To bring forward the alternative strategies and concepts to overcome the existing challenges</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can organic be a strategic way forward for the next generation of farmers for livelihoods? - How can we motivate youth? What are sustainable and attractive incentives? - Young people are often associated with innovation. How do we capitalize on this to drive the uptake of organic farming? - What support or tools do youth need in agriculture and what supportive efforts are needed to stay in agriculture? - How can experienced generations share essential skills?. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● INOFO representatives as per list below ● Participating youth ● IFAD representatives ● Rotating speakers as per Fishbowl concept 	14:55-15:10
<p>Objective 3: To identify need for alliances and collaborations</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can other vulnerable groups join forces to bring the food for the future? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● INOFO representatives as per list below ● Participating youth ● IFAD representatives ● Rotating speakers as per Fishbowl concept 	15:10-15:25
Final Q&A	Facilitator - Mr. Charles Mubanga INOFO Council member (ESA, Zambia)	15:25-15:30

Speakers and Facilitator

Facilitator

Mr. Charles Mubanga (ESA, Zambia)

Speakers

Shamika Mone	INOFO Global President INOFO Asia Convener Youth Farmer Leader	Shamika Mone is a researcher turned organic farmer and entrepreneur originally from Maharashtra. She does organic farming on 4 Acres leased farm land where she grows traditional rice varieties and vegetables. She is now the elected Treasurer and the Managing Committee member of the Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI). Her documented book, "A Source Book on India's Organic Seeds" was officially released in February 2015. This book serves to increase the accessibility and availability of these indigenous organic seeds for the organic farmers in villages as well as cities. In 2021, Shamika was elected for a second term as the President of INOFO – Inter-continental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations – a self-organised structure for Organic Farmers within IFOAM Organics International. And since the General Assembly of IFOAM Organics International she serves as the farmer representative on the IFOAM World Board.
Thales Mendonça	INOFO Global Relationship INOFO South America Convener Youth Farmer Leader	Young organic agroforestry mushroom farmer from Brazil, works with diversity focusing on mushroom cultivation linked to the agroforestry systems. Experienced with local markets and innovative digital marketing
Julitza Nieves	INOFO Member Representation INOFO Caribbean Member Yout Farmer leader	Julitza Nieves is an environmental scientist and ecological farmer born and raised in The west coast of Puerto Rico. Since 2009, she started an agroecology project with other farmers to establish a small factory to process harvest into value added products. She is a co-organizer of the aguadilla Earthmarket, slow food representative for Puerto Rico, member of World Farmers Market Coalition and INOFO representative for Caribbean and Central America.
Nana Adams	INOFO West African Convener Elder Generation Farmer leader	Farmer and Trainer in Organic/Agroecology. Executive Director of Abrono Organic Farming Project (ABOFAP). INOFO Covenor for West and Central Africa. Steering Committee member of FAFO West and Central Africa. INOFO Africa Taskforce member INOFO Global Council member
Stephen Hazelman	INOFO Global Secretary INOFO Oceania Pasifika Conveners Elder Generation Technical Farmer Support	Pouniu Stephen David Hazelman help founded the Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) the peak body for organics in the Pacific Islands. He is the current Pacific Island Convener and was elected the INOFO Global Secretary. He has over 20 years working in Organics and Agriculture in the Pacific Islands. Was involved in `the development of a regional youth strategy in Agriculture and was an Agriculture Science teacher working with youth in Agriculture As the Organic Systems Extension Officer with the Pacific Organic & Ethical Trade Community (POETCom) which represents the Pacific Regions Organic movement. Stephen was instrumental in getting a Pacific Seat at the United Nations World Committee on Food Security through its Civil Society Mechanism (CSM). Stephen has established Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in Fiji, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Samoa with a growing demand for the guarantee system of organics. Stephen is working hard to ensure not only economic gains are realised with POETCom's work but to include environmental and social responsibility is maintained and sustained.
Charles Mubanga	INOFO South Africa Convener Elder Generation Farmer leader	Charles K Mubanga a smallholder farmer. Member of Mpongwe Bulima Organic Cooperative Society - a farmer organisation, based on the Copperbelt Province of Zambia and affiliated to INOFO. We are involved in mixed farming and agroforestry. We grow arable crops, cassava, groundnuts, Sunflower and vegetables. We also keep a variety of livestock. We are also into agroforestry and beekeeping.
Luis Francisco Prieto	Senior Technical SPecialist on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Slow Food	Luis Francisco Prieto is a Senior Technical Specialist on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Global Networks Coordinator, passionate for rural sustainable development. His academic journey includes a Master's in "Development, Environment, and International Cooperation," followed by a Master's in "Cooperative Enterprises Management," where he delved into the crucial subjects of agroecology, food sovereignty, and the cooperative movement. In 2015, he joined Slow Food, assuming the role of Focal Point for the global network of Indigenous Peoples' Communities across 86 countries. Through this experience, he gained profound insights into the intricate relationships between food, culture, and community-led sustainable

		development. Since 2017, Luis Francisco Prieto has been serving as the Project Manager for IFAD's grants, supporting indigenous peoples and local communities -mainly youth and women- in safeguarding, and promoting their food heritage.
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Focal Point Contacts

Mr./Ms. [Thales Mendonça, Global Relationship, INOFO
global-relationships@info.bio
0055 (41) 98710887