KEY NOTE SPEAKERS
Miguel Altieri, Berkeley University, Berkeley - California
Pablo Tittonel, INTA Argentina
Salvatore Ceccarelli, ex ICARDA, India
Jan Dick Van Mansvelt, Down2Earth, NL
Gunnar Rundren author of “Global Eating Disorder”
Helmy Abuleish, SEKEM, Egypt

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Paola Migliorini, University of Gastronomic Science
Gerold Rahmann, ISOFAR
Pino Lembo, COISPA/EGTOP
IAMBar, Italy
Uygun Aksoy, Eg University, Turkey
Maria Dolores Ragoñ, President of SEAE, Spain
GRAB, France
Mohammad Yousry Hashem, University of Cairo, Egypt
Drazen Lusic, University of Rijeka, Croatia
George Vlachos, Agricultural Univ. of Athens, Greece
Charikleia Minotou, IFOAM ABM, Greece
Raffaele Zanolli, GRABit, Italy
Mauro Gamboni, PT BIO Italy
Livia Ortolani, Aiab, Italy
Stefano Canali, CRA, Italy
Geir Lieblein, NMBU, Norway
Alex Wezel, ISARA France
Concetta Vazzana, University of Florence, Italy
Xhevaire Dulja, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania

ORGANIZER COMMITTEE
Antonio Compagnoni, AIAB ER
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Erio Ricchi, Municipality of Vignola
Charikleia Minotou, IFOAM ABM
Karen Hoberg, IFOAM ABM
David Gould IFOAM SOAAN

INFORMATION AND CONTACT
Email secretariat@abm.ifoam.bio

Regional Board (2014-2017)
President
Charikleia Minotou, (Greece), charmini@otenet.gr
Vice Presidents
Drazen Lusic, (Croatia), lusicd@medri.hr
Paola Migliorini, (Italy), p.migliorini@unisg.it

WORKING GROUP COORDINATORS
Training
Karen Hoberg, (Spain), KarenHoberg@natureco.es

Marketing
Onn Chen, (Israel), onn@ranfp.com

Research & Development
Xhevaire Dulja, (Albania), xhevi@yahoo.com

Standards & Certification
Konstantinos Dimitriadis (Greece), k.dimitriadis@dionet.gr
and
Bahaa Mostafa Awad (Egypt), coae@tedata.net.eg

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT
AIAB Emilia Romagna - Antonio Compagnoni
c/o Casale della Mora via Tavoni 20
41058 Vignola [MO] Italy

IFOAM
AgriBioMediterraneo
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
(1990 VIGNOLA 2015)

International Conference
“Agroecology for Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean”
11-12 September 2015
Vignola Castle*
(Modena), Italy

First announcement

*kindly offered by
Fondazione di Vignola
IFOAM is a membership organisation with members from countries all over the world. The goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems that are based on the Principles of Organic Agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care. IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo is an official Regional Group of the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movement. The history of IFOAM-ABM goes back to 1990 starting with the first meeting held in Vignola (Mo), Italy. IFOAM-ABM gathered members from three continents (Africa, Asia, Europe) and 16 Mediterranean countries. IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo coordinates the activities of IFOAM-member organizations in the Mediterranean Region. It promotes, develops and disseminates information, knowledge and expertise related to Mediterranean organic agriculture and food production. IFOAM-ABM improves local development, enforces harmonization actions and goals between different countries and institutions and promotes the cooperation among various interest groups involved in the organic value chain.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Background and Framework**

The aim of the International Conference is to improve interdisciplinary scientific dialogue, implement information exchange and dissemination of knowledge and innovation strategies on organic agriculture for the Mediterranean climate. IFOAM-ABM strongly supports Agroecology in its full vision as “the science of applying ecological concept and principles to the design and management of sustainable food systems”.

The aim of the conference is to increase consciousness of researchers, policy makers and practitioners on the link between Agroecology and organic farming. The strengthening of such a link in the Mediterranean is an opportunity to promote multifunctionality, diversification of crops, biodiversity, local and direct sale, local seasonal and fresh production, education for food and health, alternative touristic development, entrepreneurship and organic agriculture and more environmental and socio-economic benefits for the society as a whole.

**Call for contributions**

The Conference includes: 1. *System values track* for presentation and exchange of practical experience from farmers, producers, consumers, community; 2. *Fostering Community Economic Development with Ethical Consumption and policies*; 3. *Scientific research track*, where current research and experimentation results will be presented and discussed. Everybody who is actively engaged in organic agriculture in Mediterranean is strongly invited to participate by sending contributions as a paper or poster. All approved papers will be included in the Conference proceedings which will be published on the Organic E-Print and selected paper in Organic Agriculture and New MEDIT journals special issues.

**Deadline for submission**

Abstracts: May 31st
Notification of acceptance of the abstracts: June 30th

**What are the themes?**

The Conference will cover the following objectives:

- To map and present the progress and the current situation of organic production in the Mediterranean
- To evaluate the main problems and solutions on the major Mediterranean organic productions (fruit trees, olives, vineyards, cereals and animal husbandry, fibres, aquaculture and sustainable fisheries), with a focus on adaptation to climate change and water scarcity
- To identify the environmental and socioeconomic opportunities and constraints for a linkage to Agroecological strategies
- To explore the possibility to use a common benchmark of sustainability dimensions to guide policy reform (i.e. as in the IFOAM SOAAN Best Practice Guideline) and sustainability evaluation tools (e.g. FAO SAFA);
- To define the needs of the Mediterranean area in policies and differentiated norms and standards in organic agriculture and Fairtrade

**Submission of contributions**

The contributions should consist of a short paper of 4 pages max (2500 words) including: introduction, m&m, result, conclusions and implication. Contributions must be written in English. Contributions for the Scientific Research Track will be evaluated through a peer review system by the Scientific Committee.

**Program**

Opening session – 11 Sept Morning
Celebration – 11 Sept. Lunch
Conference – 11 Sept. Afternoon and 12 Sept Morning
Laboratories and taste events – 12 Sept. Afternoon.

**Registration fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Till May 15th</th>
<th>After May 15th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>€70</td>
<td>€80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFOAM members</td>
<td>€100</td>
<td>€120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All others</td>
<td>€90</td>
<td>€100</td>
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</tbody>
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* Include conference proceeding, coffee breaks and 2 meals. The cost for the lab and degustation will be additional.