FOAM – Organics International is committed to advocating Organic Agriculture as a viable solution for many of the world’s pressing problems.

Latest figures from the UN state that about 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, suffer from hunger. Currently, smallholder farmers account for about half of this figure yet they grow 70% of our food. Our planet is facing detrimental climate change and loss of biodiversity. The use of GMOs is on the increase with inroads being made into many farming communities.

The Future We Want is Organic!

Campaigning for the greater uptake of organic, we showcase its potential to nourish the world, preserve biodiversity, and counter climate change to governments, international associations and the United Nations.

We Need to Act Now!

Only then can we secure the futures of farmers, food-insecure households, fragile and endangered ecosystems, the environment, and global wellbeing.
Climate Change

With the impacts of climate change being felt on food systems around the world, agriculture is one of the issues at the heart of climate change concerns. The 2015 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II outlines that just 1°C of global warming can be devastating to food production and crop yields and that higher levels of warming will push millions into poverty, reducing any development gains of the recent past. Given its potential for reducing carbon emissions, enhancing soil fertility and improving climate resilience, Organic Agriculture can play a major role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. By representing organic at events such as the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, we highlight the plight of the world’s smallholder farmers and campaign for the inclusion of sustainable agriculture in climate change agreements and policies.

Food & Nutrition Security

The great debate on how to nourish the world has put agriculture on international decision makers’ agendas. Through targeted activities during the meeting of the Committee on World Food Security, the IFAD Governing Council, at the FAO Conference and related summits and conferences and by taking up the Zero Hunger Challenge, we bring Organic Agriculture to the heart of this debate. Proponents of the current industrial farming system claim to have the answer to food insecurity. We disagree. In fact, the FAO save food initiative points out; if just one-fourth of the food lost or wasted globally by the current food production system could be saved, it would be enough to feed 870 million hungry people in the world. Food security will only be achieved when sustainability and the empowerment of rural communities are put in the foreground. The worldwide adoption of the Principles of Organic Agriculture would ensure this.

Say ‘No’ to GMO

The irresponsible environmental release of GMOs has caused and continues to cause significant reduction in biodiversity, soil fertility, human and animal nutrition and health, and overall ecosystem damage. IFOAM - Organics International holds that societal norms should respect the four Principles of Organic Agriculture when making decisions on the
outputs of genetic engineering. The public and private sectors should take concerted action to halt the continued release and use of GMOs that do not respect these Principles. We also urge the introduction of mandatory and comprehensive labeling for genetically engineered agricultural products.

The Organic Alternative for Africa

The Organic Alternative for Africa (TOFA) aims to sensitize governmental decision makers in Africa to the benefits of organic alternatives for sustainable development. These benefits are manifold: social and economic, for rural and urban communities. Taking a continental approach to advocating for Organic Agriculture, this campaign strengthens the African organic movement and empowers Africans, especially smallholder family farmers, pastoralists, women and youth in both rural and urban communities, by creating new opportunities for organic development in the region.

International Year of Pulses

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2016 the International Year of Pulses (IYP). Pulses, a subgroup of legumes, are plant species members of the pea family that produce edible seeds, which are used for human and animal consumption. We are proud to be part of the IYP as it is an effective way to raise awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses and the role they can play in food security and nutrition. We are also taking this as an opportunity to call on governments as well as donor and development agencies to develop programs and policies aimed at making crop rotations that include pulses, part of agricultural systems.

Ecological Intensification & Inclusive Sustainable Development

Ecological intensification and inclusive sustainable development based on Organic Agriculture are critical for addressing the extensive hunger, malnutrition and poverty that hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers and agricultural laborers in developing nations are subject to. We closely follow and influence intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda including those on the proposed Sustainable Development Goals and targets, advocating for a robust goal on “Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems”, as well as a strong means of implementation, finance and framework for monitoring and review.
Recognition of the role organic can play in addressing the world’s challenges is growing.

“Agroecology and organic agriculture should be promoted, and farmers’ control over their production, especially their seeds and indigenous species of livestock and fish, should be strengthened, avoiding the violation of their rights of use.”

— Statement of the 2014 IFAD Farmers’ Forum

“The world needs a paradigm shift in agricultural development: from a “green revolution” to an “ecological intensification” approach.”

“Fast deteriorating ecosystems, climate change and water scarcity seriously threaten food security. These challenges can best be met through the adoption of agroecology, organic and other sustainable farming methods.”

— UNCTAD report ‘Wake Up Before It’s Too Late’ 2013

“...conversion to organic agriculture not only increases yields, but also sequesters an additional 3 tons of carbon per hectare per year, improves water infiltration rates and water-holding capacity, increases soil moisture content and results in more stable yields over time.”

— UN Secretary General’s report ‘Agricultural technology for development’, 2013

We advocate for the inclusion of Organic Agriculture in national governments’ policies addressing climate change, hunger and poverty.

If the international Organic Agriculture movement itself does not stand up to advocate for the organic alternative, who will?

For more information please visit:
www.ifoam.bio/advocacy

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