



## The Istanbul Declaration of IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA)

We, the members of IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) - a network of persons and groups committed to support, strengthen and stimulate the development of organic animal husbandry around the world - gathered at Istanbul on the occasion of 18<sup>th</sup> IFOAM Organic World Congress. The IAHA strongly believes that a harmonious relationship among soil, plants, animals, humans and ecosystems is a must for sustainable development. It is important to find ways to produce good quality animal products, which are produced in a sustainable balance with plant production, that are safe and in sufficient quantities to ensure good health of human beings and earn enough income for farmers. Organic systems must also deliver the highest levels of animal health and welfare. These are crucial issues both for consumers and producers that require improvements while maintaining profitable and sustainable farming systems. Animal selective breeding, feeding, housing, animal health, management and processing of animal products must be compatible with the principles and practices of organic farming systems, which pose challenges to practitioners of organic animal husbandry globally. We need more research, knowledge and extension efforts so that required inputs and appropriate methods are evolved for organic animal production. We are convinced of the huge potential for continued balanced growth and development of the organic livestock sector, in accordance with the principles of organic agriculture and in full recognition of the role of animals and livestock production to climate change.

Therefore: we, the participants of Pre & Main conference of IAHA at 18<sup>th</sup> Organic World Congress approved by acclamation on 15. October 2014 the Istanbul Declaration of Organic Animal Husbandry, which states that:

- Systematic studies must be undertaken on organic methods and practices of organic animal production, breeding and processing, for which budget must be enhanced by various agencies of government, NGOs and private sector.
- The consumer/citizen awareness of food quality and safety issues, environmental protection and animal welfare standards need to be given high priority since these are core values in organic animal husbandry.
- The organic animal husbandry sector needs continuous improvement in animal health and welfare to become better and more compatible with farming situations, ecology and environment. More animal-related indicators for animal welfare should be used and researched.
- More emphasis should be given to complimentary medicine and treatments without compromising animal welfare, including implementation of policies which not only enable but also stimulate the practical use of these treatment methods.
- Animal feed sources and feeding strategies must be in line with the principles of organic farming systems so that there is no competition with food production. Ruminant production should be based on grazing and monogastric animals should be fed mainly on residues, by-products and local protein plants.
- Appropriate breeding strategies should be developed. Breeding animals should be selected in an organic farming environment so that their offspring are well adapted to the organic production system, so that animal welfare and integrity are ensured. The development of tools facilitating such choices should be encouraged.

The members of the IAHA, as a Think Tank within the IFOAM Action Group, recognize that organic animal farming is still evolving. We are committed to integrate organic animal husbandry knowledge, concerns, positions and issues into the work of IFOAM and the Organic Movement.

**To ensure a favorable environment for this work we call on IFOAM and all IFOAM members to:**

- promote and support initiatives related to animal husbandry including training and awards;
- include animal issues in events always whenever possible;



- stimulate governments to establish public policies to strengthen organic animal production, in accordance with the organic principles;
- support the realization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference;
- include animals and animal products in advertising, conferences and promotional material.