1. PREPARING FOR ISTANBUL in October 2014 at the Lüfti Kirdar Congress Centre

# INOFO GA: Sunday 12 Oct 2014
# Organic World Congress: Monday~Wednesday, 13~15 October
# IFOAM GA 16~17 October 2014 for delegates of organisations belonging to IFOAM

The main internal event in INOFO’s life is the three-yearly assembly of farmers delegates at (always just before IFOAM GA), for consulting, agenda-setting & organising:


At last Assembly, Korea 2011, about 50 delegates represented between them about half a million farming families. In between assemblies, these organisations are busy enough and life goes on whilst now we can also provide for common policy input in various instances where policy is made, affecting trade, food security, land rights & food sovereignty. Organic farmers organisations are defined by our practices and always have organised their own practical action locally. Now we propose to coordinate much broader collaboration on training, market prices, seed, or whatever else farmers want on the agenda.

So, how did INOFO come to be? Whilst pioneer farmers and scientists in various countries, over the previous century, practised, codified & promoted the biological production method (refusing the industrial chemical method), demand for our products in some countries grew at astonishing speed, farmers have been slow to organise professional unions. The new market counts hectares, volumes & profits, not the number of farmers per hectare. Farmers are not an influential political class and, for all farmers, the dominant organisation has been the global market with its interest in competition not cooperation, its obsession with economies of the large scale, its denial of the thriving economies of the small scale. Mass distribution has caused masses of small producers to vanish, including in Europe. Profits from mass distribution of organic products grow, but not necessarily the number of producers. Since its beginnings in 1972, IFOAM federates the whole movement and not specifically or distinctly its farmers. Now, after years of effort, the Organic farmers organisations have these beginnings of a self-organised professional network, not a new organisation but, a newly direct relationship between organic producers, allowing them a distinct voice within the movement, as well as in other places.

At this next INOFO GA, Istanbul, Sunday Oct 12 2014, a 3-year IFAD-funded program of capacity building for INOFO will have already been running for several months. This will therefore be on the agenda for the assembled delegates to discuss in Istanbul. You will be asked to approve the program and, back home, to provide for full support. Before Istanbul its impact will be limited to what the three main partners can do from their bases in Peru, Uganda & India. The initial mapping exercise, identifying all existing OFOs in each continent, is to be followed by training courses for candidates put forward by their OFOs as potential future delegates, spokesmen, convenors... The project then evolves into something better described as “union organising”, with a view to practical cooperation and political influence at local, national, regional & world levels.

Inafo Secretary, Anton Pinschof
2. LATEST NEWS FROM THE FRONT

During the week of 16~21 February 2014, representatives of INOFO met in Rome at the IFAD Farmers’ Forum. Delegates from ANPE Peru, NOGAMU Uganda, OFAI India, FNAB France & OFA Australia, plus IFOAM staff, took advantage of this occasion for a first meeting of the Steering Committee of the INOFO-IFAD Project. This gave an opportunity for the project leader, Konrad Hauptfleisch, to put IFOAM’s view of the project as well as for the project partners to seek clarification, and to develop the agenda for the next three years. The fact of IFAD supporting this initiative is significant! There is a shift towards recognising organic and agro-ecological producers in agriculture, and the members of the PSC are committed to achieving the outcomes as spelt out in the agreement. The meeting also worked through the partners’ Memoranda of Understanding, in order to gain a better understanding of the project’s legal requirements. In principle, all issues were addressed, and the group was prepared to make the necessary adjustments to their agendas in order to accommodate a joint vision for the project.

This project has its focus on building the organisational capacity of, and relations between, OFOs in the target regions (Latin America, South Asia and East Africa). Through a series of workshops, the «leaders», women and men mandated by their farmers organizations, will be trained for taking on the roles of farmers’ spokespeople, convenors, administrators etc. It is clear that IFAD would like to see farmers represent farmers at all levels of regional and global platforms for environment, agriculture and policy setting. INOFO has the stated aim to represent and advocate for organic farmers’ rights and needs, but needs to develop the institutional capacity to do so.

This project aims to do just that, and, if the first meeting of the Project Steering Committee is anything to go by, I believe that INOFO’s time has come. Farmers’ time has always come, but was rarely recognised. We hope that this project will help to put farmers on every relevant agenda of every policy forum in every nation, region and continent.

Project Leader, Konrad Hauptfleisch
3. INTRODUCING THE IFAD-INOFI PROJECT

The IFAD-INOFI Project will be implemented over a period of three years (2014-2017). The overall goal is to contribute to the empowerment of smallholder family farmers and their facilitation of market access. The focus will be on organic farmers’ organisations (OFOs) in Africa, Asia and Latin America and their own intercontinental network INOFI that can define and manifest the farmers’ strategic priorities. The objective is for INOFI to develop the capacity to support, monitor and represent the farmers organisations in order to empower representatives of national OFOs to link with the organic value chain and make them more profitable and sustainable, to share knowledge, integrate in markets (including local markets), exert political influence nationally and participate in international policy setting.

The project is co-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and lead by the project holder IFOAM. Three national organisations ANPE¹, NOGAMU² and OFAI³ are IFOAM’s project partners and play key roles in the implementation of this project and also in the post-project sustainability of INOFI.

The expected project outputs include a mapping of national and local organic farmers’ organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Furthermore, the institutional performance of INOFI shall be improved through building the capacity of OFOs to interact with their governments in the interest of their farmers and therefore the capacity of INOFI to represent the organic farmers in international policy setting. In addition, the sharing of farmers’ knowledge shall be emphasized and intensified, empowering OFOs to share their successes for improving farmers’ income and livelihood. Lastly, OFOs shall be capable of facilitating their farmers’ integration into domestic markets or export markets.

One key project component is the Capacity Building Programme targeted at representatives of organic farmers organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America and at present and future organic farmers delegates, spokesmen, convenors. It will guide them through a two-year on-the-job capacity-building process including highly intensive residential workshops and webinar training. The Capacity Building Programme aims to enable delegates from OFOs and potential farmer leaders to be able to develop, strengthen and maintain INOFI as an organisation, facilitating network-building and innovation through interaction. On an individual level, participants will develop their abilities while gaining a comprehensive picture of the development of the organic agriculture movement.

Another key component to this project will be the INOFI Newsletter, informing INOFI stakeholders and interested parties about the development, progress and outputs of the project. Stakeholders are encouraged to use this newsletter and submit any contributions to the newsletter team under info@inofo.ifoam.org.

IFOAM Value Chain and Program Assistant, Anne Thieme

¹ Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos del Perú
² National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda
³ Organic Farming Association of India
4. INTRODUCING THE LOCAL PARTNERS

ANPE - Asociación Nacional de Productores Ecológicos del Perú

Founded in 1998, ANPE Peru is the national organic farmers organization embracing 12,000 farmers in 22 regions of Peru, with 275 regional decentralized organizations. ANPE leads important advocacy platforms in Peru, such as the Alianza de Organizaciones Agrarias del Perú (CCP, CNA, FEMUCARINAP and ANPE PERU), Colectivo Perú por la Seguridad Alimentaria con Soberanía, Grupo Temático “Soberanía alimentaria y agricultura familiar” de la Coordinadora de Entidades Extranjeras de Cooperación Internacional (COEECI - GT SA AF), and Consorcio Agroecológico CAP – Perú.

For more information please visit ANPE’s website www.anpeperu.org

NOGAMU - National Organic Agriculture Movement of Uganda

NOGAMU is an umbrella organization uniting producers, processors, exporters, NGOs and other institutions and organizations that are involved in the promotion and development of the organic sector in Uganda. Established in 2001, it is now one of the highly esteemed Business Support Organisations providing a range of services to the sector.

In an effort to ensure that its services reach members in all parts of Uganda, NOGAMU works with reputable partner organisations. NOGAMU’s vision is to attain increased incomes and improved livelihoods in Uganda through adoption of Organic Agriculture through capacity building, training, research, extension and education among others.

For more information please visit NOGAMU’s website www.nogamu.org.ug

OFAI - Organic Farming Association of India

The Organic Farming Association of India was founded in 2002 at a meeting of organic farmers assembled in the city of Bengaluru, India. The association was formally registered as an association under Indian law in November 2006. Today it includes a membership of over 4,000 organic farmers and institutions committed to ecological agriculture. OFAI was also instrumental in setting up the PGS of organic certification within India, in association with FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture. Later, it helped set up the PGS Organic Council which now runs the PGS setup in India. The PGS Council caters to more than 6,000 organic farmers. A nominee of OFAI has remained Secretary to the PGS Council from its inception. The PGS secretariat is also housed in the secretariat of OFAI.

OFAI nominee, Ashish Gupta, was recently elected to the Executive Board of IFOAM-Asia. In India, OFAI organizes training schools for farmers desiring to convert from chemical to organic status; lobbies government agencies for greater importance to be assigned to organic agriculture and every two years, organises a massive convention of organic farmers to maintain solidarity, familiarity and improve the quality of organic farming. It publishes its own newsletter, The Living Field and maintains an active website which covers all aspect of organic farming India and worldwide. OFAI co-publishes the Organic Farming Sourcebook (now into its fourth edition).

For more information please visit OFAI’s website www.ofai.org

*IFOAM Value Chain and Program Assistant, Anne Thieme*
5. INTRODUCING THE IFAD-INOFI PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee assists the IFOAM Project team in managing the IFAD-INOFI Project. It advises the project team on strategic matters and provides for regional support for implementing the project. Among the Steering Committee members are the three regional coordinators from the partner organizations in India, Peru and Uganda, INOFO secretary Anton Pinschof as well as IFOAM staff: Konrad Hauptfleisch & Cornelia Kirchner. They will all be closely involved in the planning and execution of the capacity building activity, and will be crucial to the sustainability of this action beyond the project’s duration.

**Konrad Hauptfleisch**
*Chair of the Project Steering Committee and Project Leader*

As Program Manager, Konrad is responsible for the development and implementation of projects in IFOAM. His experience in capacity building, training and facilitation, especially in developing countries, will be key to the success of this project. He has experience in policy development, standards and leadership development in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Contact Konrad under info@inofo.ifoam.org

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**Moisés Quispe**
*INOFO President and Regional Coordinator ANPE, Peru*

Moises was born in the farming community of Lares, in Cusco, Peru. With a 20-year experience as organic farmer he has been supporting ANPE Perú since its foundation with the aim to build a strong and competent organic farmers organization. As Executive Director of ANPE, he has positioned his organization at the highest level for public policies in the Peruvian agricultural sector, building dialogue in a multi-level and multi-stakeholder strategy.

Contact Moises under agroecologico2003@yahoo.com

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**Claude Alvares**
*Regional Coordinator OFAI, India*

As OFAI’s Director of the Central Secretariat, Claude Alvares has been with the organic farming movement since its inception in 1984. He has been secretary of OFAI for six years since its formal registration in 2006. Furthermore, Claude was the secretary of the PGS Organic Council and editor of the Organic Farming Sourcebook.

Contact Claude under myofai@gmail.com

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**Musa Muwanga**
*Regional Coordinator NOGAMU, Uganda*

With over 15 years of experience in the organic and horticultural production and export industry, Senior Agriculturist Moses Kiggundu Muwanga (Musa) is the Chief Executive Officer of NOGAMU. Musa offers hands-on experience in the development of out-grower schemes, training and advisory support to farmers and industry staff in organic production methods, certification requirements, post harvest handling and food safety. He has made key contributions to the structural designing and setting up of an effective National Organic Agricultural Movement, not only in Uganda, but also in the other sister countries in the East African region.

Contact Musa under mkmuwanga@nogamu.org.ug
Anton Pinschof  
INOFO Secretary  
As meat and vegetable producer, Anton belongs to his local Organic farmers union. He has been a European delegate in the INOFO Council, as delegated by his national federation FNAB (Fédération Nationale d’Agriculture Biologique, France), itself thereto mandated by the European assembly of OFOs. The main event of INOFO is its intercontinental assembly of farmers delegates every 3 years which designates its executive wherein the FNAB delegate is currently Executive Secretary.  
Contact Anton under apinschof@fnab.org  

Cornelia Kirchner  
Project Manager and Administrator  
Cornelia has been with IFOAM for 2 years. Her responsibilities as Program and Value Chain Coordinator comprise the coordination of PGS activities at IFOAM including the editing of the Global PGS Newsletter as well as the coordination of various projects.  
Contact Cornelia under info@inofo.ifoam.org  

IFOAM Value Chain and Program Assistant, Anne Thieme
6. REPORT ON IFAD’s 5th GLOBAL FARMERS’ FORUM
INOFO proposal welcomed by farmer leaders

An INOFO delegation was invited to the 5th Global Farmers’ Forum in Rome (funded by IFAD), 17-20 Feb 2014. The delegates were Moises Quispe (ANPE, Peru), Ashish Gupta (OFAI, India), Musa K. Muwanga (NOGAMU, Uganda), Andre Leu (OFA, Australia) & Anton Pinschof (FNAB, France).

The delegation attended the meeting with the aim of raising awareness of the potential contribution of organic agriculture to solving most of the problems facing farmers, including the role of organic farmers and their associations in building sustainable food systems and leading the changes at country level. Moises Quispe illustrated what organic farmers organizations are doing for the future of family farming, working with youth, women & the whole value chain to establish resilient systems. He mentioned the role of organic farming for climate change mitigation and adaptation. He added that “a paradigm shift is needed in order to prioritize local markets, so that non toxic, fresh, healthy and affordable food gets to where the majority of the world’s hungry live, in rural areas.” Ashish Gupta highlighted the difficulties at national level in pushing for a sustainable model because governments subsidise pesticides & fertilizers. He also asked for support for Participatory Guarantee Systems. Anton Pinschof drew attention to land grabbing in Eastern Europe. The delegation strongly argued for the goals of Organic farming, IAASTD proposals for small farmers and the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety regarding GMOs, to be part of the Farmers Forum Statement 2014.

The Farmers’ Forum welcomed INOFO’s proposal. Over 90 farmers leaders, representing millions of smallholders and rural producers all over the world, called on governments for more effective policies and support for smallholders. They asked for promotion of agro-ecology & the organic production method and for support in strengthening farmers’ control over their production, especially seed and indigenous species of livestock and fish.

At the end of the forum, Andre Leu pointed out: “This year is a outstanding tipping point for agriculture. In this International Year of Family Farming, the farmers leaders from every continent have clearly stated that the focus must be on the vast majority of the world’s farmers, the smallholder family farms, rather than large scale agribusiness, because these family farmers comprise one third of the world’s population and produce 70% of the world’s food. Most importantly, this should be done through the organic & agro-ecological method, through participatory systems and farmer empowerment.” Farmers’ voices and proposals are clear. Now governments must listen to farmers demands and support the agro-ecological model for family farmers.

IFOAM Chief Food Security Campaigner, Cristina Grandi

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay Tuned!
Please visit the IFAD-INOFO Project website for more information and updates:

Contribute!
We encourage all OFOs to participate in this newsletter! Please feel free to send comments and report on your events and actions! Contact the Project Steering Committee under info@inofo.ifoam.org!