ABOUT OFIA

Every three years, at the Organic World Congress (OWC), IFOAM – Organics International and the Rural Development Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea honor the organic innovations of scientists, extension agents and practitioners, with the Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA).

An initiative of the government of Korea, launched after the Organic World Congress, 2011, OFIA highlights the role innovation plays in furthering the development of organic agriculture worldwide.

In its early stage, organic farming was practiced by a small group of pioneers, convinced of their alternative approach - Organic 1.0. They relied on traditional knowledge, ideas and experiences. With time, the value chain for organic products was optimized and price premiums for organic products introduced. Recent developments in organic farming and consumption (Organic 2.0) show a dynamic growth of the markets, with a fairly slow new uptake of organic agriculture by farmers. Bottlenecks in the uptake of organic farming are often production problems or lack of trust among farmers in the ability of organic methods to deal with issues such as fertilization, plant protection and animal health. While in some cases these problems can be solved through learning existing and regionally practiced methods, innovations are imperative to making organic farming more competitive and a viable alternative to the current food production system.

IFOAM – Organics International is now moving towards Organic 3.0. This concept is still taking shape, and innovation and innovation committees will play a vital role in it. OFIA is proud to support and highlight the exceptional innovators whose work is bringing us closer to the global uptake of organic agriculture!
MEET OUR WINNERS

OFIA WINNERS 2011
The first OFIA awards ceremony was held on September 30, 2011 during the 17th Organic World Congress in Namyangju City, South Korea.

The winner of the Systems Value Track (Grand Prize) was Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain from Bangladesh with his paper “Organic Sack Garden Ensuring Nutrition and Improving Food Security in Small Scale Households”.

The Research Track (Science Prize) went to Dr. Soonbae Kwon from South Korea for his paper “Inhibitory effects of the extract from Quercus dentata gallnut against plant virus infection”.

To learn more about the innovations from 2011, click here.

OFIA WINNERS 2014
The second OFIA awards ceremony was held on October 14, 2014 during the 18th Organic World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.

Jörg Schumacher and Bio Suisse won the Grand Prize for the innovation of the Bio Suisse fair trade system among organic farmers, distributors and customers.

The Science Prize went to Stephen N. Wainaina of the Organic Agriculture Center of Kenya (OACK) for grafting tree tomato on its wild relative, bugweed, thus substantially improving the nutrition and income of numerous communities in rural Kenya. To learn more about the innovations from 2014, click here.

The third OFIA will be awarded during the 19th Organic World Congress in November 2017 in New Delhi, India. Details on how to apply can be found on www.ifoam.bio/ofia.
OFIA SUMMITS

IFOAM – Organics International and RDA organize an innovation summit in the years between the awards. The summits highlight the need for research in novel ideas and showcase the impact of outstanding innovations. The events boost awareness of the benefits of organic agriculture within and beyond the organic community and inspire researchers to focus even more on exploring ways to support organic farmers.

The first OFIA Summit took place in September 2012 in Hamburg, Germany, during the 2nd IFOAM Organic Animal Husbandry Conference.

The second OFIA Summit took place in September 2013, during the 4th Latin America Congress of Agroecology in Lima, Peru.

The third OFIA summit took place in October 2015 during the Regional Conference on Marketing & Innovation in Organic Farming in Chungbuk Province, South Korea.

The fourth OFIA Summit will take place on November 11, 2016 during Biofach India in New Delhi. The summit will have the thematic focus “Nurturing the Culture of Innovation in Organic Agriculture”.

The Rural Development Administration (RDA) is the central government organization responsible for agricultural research & services in the Republic of Korea. Website: www.rda.go.kr

IFOAM - Organics International is the worldwide umbrella organization of the organic agriculture movement, uniting more than 800 affiliates in 120 countries. Website: www.ifoam.bio

For more information about and updates on OFIA please visit our website: www.ifoam.bio/OFIA