



Winners of Organic Farming Innovation Awards Establish Fairness in Regional Value Chains & Enhance Resistance to Disease and Pests.

The winners of the 2014 Organic Farming Innovation Awards (OFIA) were announced on 14 October 2014 at an awards ceremony during the Organic World Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. The Grand Prize was awarded to Bio Suisse for their incorporation of fairness principles in their organic system. The Science Prize went to Mr. Stephen Ng'ang'a Wainaina from the Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya, for his tree tomato grafting technology, an innovation that enhances resistance to fruit disease, pests and drought.

Winner of the OFIA Grand Prize

The Grand Prize was awarded to Bio Suisse for their introduction of an alternative system of fairness in regional value chains, a system not based on inspection and certification but on establishing dialogues on fairness across the value chain. These requirements are now part of the Bio Suisse system and include a code of conduct, stakeholder round table discussions, an ombudsperson for fair trade relationships, and the conduction of a survey on fairness and satisfaction among farmers and traders who use the Bio Suisse Bud label. Daniel Bärtschi of Bio Suisse notes, "Fairness from field to fork is a prerequisite for sustainability. Moreover, fair trade relations are also crucial for long-term success in organic farming. Thus, mutual trust is strengthened and all stakeholders benefit." Commenting on their choice of winner, the OFIA jury described the system as "a great farmer to consumer win-win scenario." For more information please click [here](#).

Winner of the OFIA Science Prize

The Science Prize went to Mr. Stephen Ng'ang'a Wainaina from the Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya, for his tomato grafting technology. By grafting bug weed and tree tomato, two compatible plants, the stems and root systems of both are strengthened. This brings about long-term resistance to fruit diseases, pests and drought, and, also increases the quality of the farmer's produce. Stephen Ng'ang'a Wainaina, Executive Director of the Organic Agriculture Centre of Kenya points out, "We can now reap the multiple food and economic benefits of grafting bug weed with tree tomato. We can produce nutritious fruit to feed the hungry, provide fodder to feed livestock, and also generate income by selling higher quality fruit for a higher market price." The OFIA jury praised this innovation for its potential to "equip small-scale farmers with the knowledge to significantly improve their own and consumer livelihoods." For more information please click [here](#).

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the Rural Development Administration (RDA), initiators of OFIA, congratulate this year's winners and look forward to honoring more organic farming innovators at the next OFIA ceremony.



Organic Farming
Innovation Award

About OFIA

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and the Rural Development Administration (RDA) established the Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA) to honor the great work of organic innovators. It is awarded every three years in two categories: The Grand Prize with a sum of 10,000 USD and the Science Prize with a sum of 5,000 USD. For more information please click [here](#).