

The Organic Farming Innovation Award, OFIA (by IFOAM and RDA) calls for innovative research for organic farming

OFIA Declaration for Organic Innovations

We, the participants of the OFIA Summits 2012 and 2013 in Hamburg, Germany and Lima, Peru,

committed individuals and representatives from institutions sharing the Organic vision and supporting it from a farmers, researchers, promoters, certification and other perspectives,

coming together

to reflect about the importance of innovations for the development of Organic Agriculture,

express

our concerns about the obstacles for organic and non organic farmers, which are dedicated to sustainability in agriculture and which are at the same time challenged to design their production system competitively in order to sustain a decent livelihood for their families,

declare our conviction

1. *that* organic farming should be built on tradition and science;
2. *that* innovation derive from farmers, advisers and scientific and non-scientific researchers individually and collectively. Innovation may be systematically developed or occur through open mind and inventive attitudes to improve the livelihoods of certified and non-certified organic farming families throughout the world;
3. *that* innovations are imperative for further development of organic farming and a prerequisite to achieve the organic visions and the implementation of the four organic principles;
4. *that* all organic actors ought to share innovations and ideas and to highlight successes. Organic Agriculture scientists and advisors are particularly responsible to use their opportunities to solve farmers' problems and develop solutions so that farmers can exploit potentials to the best possible;

demand

1. *that* scientific institutions reflect their research policies, agenda setting and priorities to address the most important farmers' needs by making innovations ready for application on farmers' level;
2. *that* the research institutions target the organic farmers and aim at farm impact with a partnership approach to implement a participatory research;

and share their brainstorming of problems to be solved and of potentials to be explored, suggesting

1. *that* farmers preparing for conversion to Organic Agriculture have the knowledge for a transition with limited economical, environmental, social and cultural risks and maximum affordability in order to strengthen their resilience through smart organic farming practices and excellent farm system design;
2. *that* research acknowledges and proactively documents indigenous knowledge and traditional methods in order to develop innovative practices suitable for farmers;
3. *that* advisory services and extension is made a priority so that innovations find the way from and to research and farmers while not missing the opportunities of facilitation of farmers to famers extension, which includes the South-South collaboration;
4. *that* research develops and suggests bio-divers productive systems applying the principle of ecological and social intensification;
5. *that* research looks into the nutrient management of organic farmers for feeding the soils with local and organic means guaranteeing productivity of soils with regeneration and development of soil fertility;
6. *that* research enables farmers to rear animals and treat plants with respect of all forms of living creature in the organic farm's system and that the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species and varieties/breeds is growing rather than getting lost more and more;
7. *that* research breeds new organic crop varieties and domestic animal breeds performing well in organic systems;
8. *that* research provides solutions for managing massive plant and animal disease invasions and weed infestations occurring locally, nationally and internationally;
9. *that* innovative and well adapted tools and appropriate mechanical devises for farm operations, management and marketing are available;
10. *and that* research facilitates the social and cultural integration of organic farming families and helps them to champion successful and sustainable farming.

OFIA Innovation Summits, in Hamburg, Germany 2012 and in Lima, Peru 2013

About the Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA):

The Organic Farming Innovation Award (OFIA) is the prize of the Organic Movement to highlight organic innovations of scientists, extension agents and practitioners.

Once every three years, at the Organic World Congress (OWC), IFOAM (Germany) and RDA (South Korea) award great organic innovations and their discoverers to boost their uptake and to motivate other stakeholders to push innovation forward for the benefit of organic farming. OFIA is an initiative of the government of Korea in remembrance of the OWC 2011.

The OFIA committee:

Dr. Sung Hoon Kim (RDA, South Korea), Dr. Hyeong-Jin Jee (RDA, South Korea), Andre Leu (IFOAM, Australia), Markus Arbenz (IFOAM, Germany), Prof. Uygun Aksoy (Common, OWC, Turkey). Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain (last grand prize winner, Bangladesh). Secretariat: Markus Arbenz, RDA liaison: Dr. Minho Lee (RDA, South Korea)

More information at <http://www.ifoam.org/en/organic-farming-innovation-award>