

IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance

Results from a questionnaire addressed to participants of the 2nd IFOAM Organic Animal Husbandry Conference, September 12-14, 2012 in Hamburg, Germany

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Introduction

At the second IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference "TACKLING THE FUTURE CHALLENGES OF ORGANIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY" 12-14th of September 2012 in Hamburg/Germany the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance was presented.

In order to get a feedback on the needs of the participants, a questionnaire was distributed to the participants and was collected afterwards. This report summarises the most important results. More detailed responses are found in excel spreadsheets.

Number of participants

Totally 82 persons participated in the survey of which 75 showed interest to get more information about the IAHA. The large majority of participants came from Europe (58) and in particular from the organising country Germany (16).

Tab. 1: Number of participants and persons interested in the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance

CONTINENTS	Total number of participants	Showed interest in Animal Husbandry Alliance
Global	82	75
Africa	4	4
Asia	9	9
Europe	58	52
Nord America	5	5
Oceania	2	2
South America	4	3

Classification of the organic husbandry relevance nationally

In Tab. 2 a summary of the national relevance of organic animal husbandry is given, grouped by continent and by the main animal groups. We have not grouped the answers by country.

Africa: Generally all animals groups have been judged as technically little developed. More herds are reported for beef and dairy cattle, goats and sheep.

Asia: The majority of experts believe that most animals groups have been technically little developed. More herds are reported for dairy cattle and goats.

Europe: The majority of experts found the following animal groups as technically good developed: Beef and dairy cattle, pigs and chicken with many herds and goats and sheep with fewer herds. Turkeys, farm fish and bees were rather seen as developed but with few herds still in many countries.

North America: Only dairy cattle were clearly indicated as well developed with many herds. Beef cattle, pigs and chickens were indicated with more herds, but the opinions on the technical development were divided.

Oceania: The number of respondents (2) was too little to get a clear picture.

South America: Generally none of the animals groups have been judged as technically little developed. More herds are reported for beef dairy cattle.

Tab. 2: Classification of the relevance of organic animal husbandry nationally

CONTINENT	State	Beef cattle	Dairy cattle	Buffaloes	Goats	Sheep	Pigs	Chickens	Turkeys	Farm fish	Shrimps	Molluscs	Quails	Bees	Others
Africa	TOTAL	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Td	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tld	5	5	2	5	5	3	4	2	3	1	1	1	5	1
	M	2	2	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	F	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	1
Asia	TOTAL	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Td	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Tld	4	5	4	6	5	4	6	2	2	2	1	3	4	1
	M	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	5	3	2	4	2	2	5	2	0	2	1	2	2	1
Europe	TOTAL	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57
	Td	35	47	9	31	33	37	41	17	15	1	1	3	15	2
	Tld	10	1	6	16	11	12	4	11	6	2	2	3	12	1
	M	31	43	2	7	13	18	34	3	0	0	0	0	8	3
	F	18	9	17	37	36	34	19	30	23	7	6	12	23	2
North America	TOTAL	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Td	2	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Tld	1	0	1	4	5	5	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	
	M	2	3	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	
	F	2	1	3	4	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	
Oceania	TOTAL	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Td	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Tld	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	
	M	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	F	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	
South America	TOTAL	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	0
	Td	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Tld	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	
	M	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	F	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	
Td	Technically developed														
Tld	Technically little developed														
M	Many herds														
F	Few herds														

Main difficulties concerning organic animal husbandry

In an overall global perspective the feeding and animal welfare were seen as the most difficult. Other areas indicated as difficult were in the technical areas: Health management, Therapeutic methods, breeding and accommodation. Regarding the organisational/political challenges the lack of governmental support and the lack of technical assistance as well the insufficient market

development was seen as much more important than certification and lack of knowledge about rules.

As the number of experts was small in Non-European countries, there are just some tendencies visible regarding the priority of difficulties.

Africa: No clear picture the more technical challenges (several mentioned including animal welfare). Lack of technical assistance as main political difficulty.

Asia: technically feeding and health management and politically the lack of technical assistance, lack of knowledge about rules and lack of governmental report and partly also certification.

Europe: Technically main difficulties are feeding, animal welfare in first priority and then health management, therapeutics, breeding and accommodation (housing). Politically main difficulties mentioned: Lack or insufficient governmental support and market development for animal products.

Oceania: no analysis made (only 2 respondents).

South America: lack of technical assistance as main political difficulty. No clear picture the more technical challenges.

Tab. 3. Main difficulties concerning organic animal husbandry in the country

CONTINENT	Total number of participants	Animal welfare	Accommodation	Feeding	Breeding	Health Management	Therapeutics (e.g. homeopathy)	Certification	Market	Lack of knowledge about rules	Lack of technical assistance	Lack of government support
Africa	4	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	5	3
Asia	9	5	2	8	3	6	3	6	4	7	8	7
Europe	58	36	25	42	28	30	29	5	23	2	12	22
North America	5	3	3	0	2	2	2	1	3	1	3	4
Oceania	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
South America	4	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	1
Global	82	51	34	54	37	44	40	16	38	14	35	42

Successful experiences to share/to show (what species?)

Tab. 4 shows that mainly participants from Europe can share successful experiences of dairy cattle, but also of beef cattle, pigs, chickens and goats. Only little technical areas were mentioned by the participants such as feeding and market development. From other continents only few propositions were made.

Tab. 4. Areas where successful experiences could be shared and for what species

CONTINENT	Beef cattle	Dairy cattle	Buf-falos	Goats	Sheep	Pigs	Chick-ens	Other ani-mals
AFRICA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASIA	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	1
EUROPA	9	22	3	7	10	14	12	5
N-AMERICA	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
OCEANIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S-AMERICA	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	13	28	4	8	11	14	16	7

CONTINENT	Animal welfare	Acco-modation	Fee-ding	Bree-ding	Health Manage-ment	Thera-peu-tics	Certifi-cation	Market	Lack of know-ledge about rules	Others
AFRICA										
ASIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
EUROPA										
N-AMERICA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
OCEANIA										
S-AMERICA	1	0	5	1	1	2	0	4	0	1
TOTAL	2	1	5	1	1	2	0	6	0	6

The participants mentioned concrete examples of successful experiences (list not complete):

In general: Welfare assessment: Canadian animal Welfare task force, Animal based indicators (Germany, UK, Switzerland); Pastoral systems (India), Agroforestry systems for small scale systems with animals (Sudan); Health improvement on herd level (Pro Q Switzerland); Mixed species grazing (DE and CH) Economic costs such as labour, machinery (Germany); etc.

Bovine: No use of antibiotics (US, Netherlands); Organic milk production (Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands and others).

Pigs: Outdoor pig production (UK, Denmark), protein feed (Sweden).

Poultry: many countries.

Small ruminants: several countries.

Bees: Bee management (Mexico, Italy).

Other animals: Camels (India).

Policy/programme on organic animal husbandry development

In total 37 participants mentioned that in their country a policy programme does exist for organic animal husbandry development, mostly from Europe and South America (see Table 5).

Interesting proposed issues to exchange more information (exemplary not fully complete) were:

Agroforestry concepts: Integration crop/livestock/fruit/trees for wood (Brazil, UK); Biodiversity and landscape (Germany, South Korea, Switzerland);

Breeding: organic breeding goals (Austria, Switzerland, Sweden).

Feeding systems: Grazing systems and organic certification (Germany, India, Norway, Switzerland); Less concentrates (Norway, Switzerland); Nutrient efficiency (Germany, Sweden);

Accommodation: Rearing of laying hens and dairy cows / making profit out of outdoor runs (dual purpose runs) (Netherlands); Specify what "organic animal husbandry" means (Germany)

Animal welfare: development of suggestions in regard to regulations about animal based parameters for health and welfare / development from resource-based regulations to animal based (Austria, Germany, Italy, Netherland, Norway and Switzerland UK)

Health management: (Belgium, Mexico, Nicaragua, Philippines);

Alternative therapeutics: Non-antibiotic treatment of infectious disease (Austria, Canada, Netherlands, Sudan, Switzerland, US); Control of chicken parasites using herbal extracts (Canada); Probiotics (Indonesia); Integrative medicine (Italy); Bio-active herbs (Italy, Switzerland); Parasite treatments (Belgium, Switzerland)

Product quality: quality of organic milk production (Poland)

Aquaculture: Fish aquaponics (Argentina and Colombia), fish welfare and organic aquaculture (Switzerland)

Educational concepts: Education of local farmer (Burkina Faso, Italy), Farmer's school (DK)

Sustainability assessment: Combination and widening the assessment procedures to evaluate farm success to aspects of land use, animal welfare and fulfilling goals consumers have in mind, if they link on organic farming (Belgium Germany, Norway); Climate gas emissions (Belgium).

Suggested activities for IAHA

Only few answers were given to this question. Tab 7 summarises the suggested activities. The main proposal was networking and knowledge exchange at conferences and workshops. Some mentioned the IFOAM/ISOFAAR 2014 congress/conference in Turkey. Several participants were interested in closer research collaboration and in education/training.

Interesting proposals for more concrete activities were (exemplary not fully complete):

Vision and overall concept: clear aims (Austria, Germany, Norway).

Conferences: Regular smaller workshops, seminars and conferences (Germany, Norway); Thematic Conference on organic animal husbandry in tropical and subtropical countries (Ethiopia, Iraq, Nicaragua); Strong presence of the subject in next IFOAM/Isosfar world congress 2014 (Brazil, Switzerland).

Communication: Website (Brazil, Philippines), Develop a global network (Bangladesh, Brazil, Finland, India, Nigeria, Pakistan); Web presence in IFOAM Newsletter 4x a year (Brazil, Philippines); Success stories (India).

Educational and training: Exchange of learning concepts and educational material in different languages (Finland, Nicaragua, Serbia); training scholarships (Philippines); training for farmers (Iraq); field trips in undeveloped regions (Serbia); Initiate international PhD student course (Sweden); mapping education on organic farming (Italy); Create a "common" strategy for training of farmers, vets, technicians, etc. (Italy).

Certification: Training for organic animal husbandry certification (India).

Research: Lobbying for more research funds for organic animal husbandry (India, Netherlands Switzerland); research about knowledge transfer and exchange between farmers and scientists (Germany, Italy, Netherlands); Initiation of research collaboration (Sweden).

Marketing for organic animal products: Added value chain for organic products marketing (Sudan).

Policy: Positions development (IFOAM).

Tab. 7. Suggested activities for IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA)

CONTINENT	Website/News-letter	Training/Education	Knowledge exchange, networking	Workshops, Conferences	Research collaborations	Others
AFRICA	0	2	2	0	1	1
ASIA	1	4	2	1	2	0
EUROPE	1	5	10	11	6	5
N-AMERICA	0	0	1	1	0	1
OCEANIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
S-AMERICA	1	1	0	0	0	0

There were also some technical issues and themes highlighted:

Animal welfare: Recommendations regarding animal husbandry /welfare standards (Canada, Italy - rabbits); Indicators for animal welfare (Belgium, Norway, UK); Transport and Slaughter (Germany, Switzerland).

Feeding: Alternative Nitrogen /Protein sources to urea (Namibia); Chickens and rabbit feed optimisation (Namibia); Outdoor and pasture grazing systems (Denmark, Germany, Switzerland).

Breeding: breeding methods suitable for organic animal husbandry (Poland, Switzerland).

Veterinary medicine: Set up a list serving for veterinarians and farmers to discuss ways to treat animals organically (US); Technology transfer especially alternative veterinary treatments (Namibia);

Exchange of experience for practical veterinarians - working with organic farms to improve the health management + animal welfare (Austria); Training/Education for veterinary profession on organic husbandry & treatment approaches (UK).

Summary

The participants of the Second IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference showed a clear interest in the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance. The large majority wants to be involved in the Alliance.

As a matter of fact the development of organic husbandry is quite different between continents and also between countries.

The difficulties mentioned are relatively broad and are both of technical as well as organisational/political nature.

Mainly participants of Europe and North America and Asia mentioned successful experiences they could share with others.

Mainly participants from Europe and South America mentioned interesting policy programmes.

Several interesting issues were proposed, where participants want to exchange with others.

Suggestions for activities mentioned mainly networking, knowledge exchange at conferences and workshops. Furthermore research collaboration and education/training were mentioned.