



*International Federation of
Organic Agriculture
Movements*

Annual report

2000



**The IFOAM HeadOffice at the eco-centre and organic farm "Hofgut Imsbach"
Tholey-Theley / Germany**

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Foreword

I am pleased that we are able to present you with IFOAM's first Annual Report. The report shows that organic farming is coming out of its childhood and that its international federation - IFOAM - is certainly worth considering.

A look at the development in agriculture may give cause both for optimism and pessimism:

On the negative side we see things like BSE, foot and mouth disease, mass introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms, environmental damage caused by agro-chemicals and bad agricultural practice, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity and cruel animal husbandry systems, just to mention the most obvious problems. Unfair social conditions and lack of access to resources in many countries is still a huge problem. Biased international trade rules add to the problems. Overall, the agro-industrial and conventional systems don't deliver what they claim.

Fortunately all these bad news are spurring a change:

We see a tremendous growth in the organic sector: both the market for and production of organic produce is growing in the range of 20-25 percent per year. This growth is not only restricted to the so-called developed countries. In developing countries organic agriculture is a tool for rural development, for biodiversity conservation, for income generation and for food security.

In the political arena organic agriculture has leapt to the center stage in many countries. European countries are racing to reach the highest percentage of organically farmed land. International organisations such as FAO and IUCN (World Conservation Union) have also recognised the value of organic agriculture. The relevance of organic agriculture for biodiversity, animal welfare, improved quality and protection of the environment and rural development is apparent.

It is no longer possible to discuss agriculture without including at least some references to organic agriculture, and in the international arena - to IFOAM. The strength of IFOAM is not primarily the organisation itself, but rather our affiliates and the prevailing vision - the vision of an agriculture in harmony with nature.

Gunnar Rundgren
(President)

Introduction

IFOAM continues to grow "organically"

IFOAM has always been transparent on its work and continues to do its best to keep - not only its affiliates - informed about developments and progress. Until now, the major "summary" of the federation's activities was the President's biannual report, which was presented at our General Assembly.

At our last member reunion in Basel, and in light of our upcoming change to a three year rhythm for the General Assembly, it was recommended to publish annual reports. This recommendation was taken up by the newly elected World Board, who gave IFOAM's HeadOffice the mandate to put such a report together.

We herewith present you with IFOAM's first annual report, summarising and highlighting our activities in the millennium year 2000. Last year was definitely a good year for our federation. After a period of very "dynamic" (and sometimes maybe a bit "stormy") growth IFOAM is now enjoying what can be considered a constant "organic" expansion. What more can a federation wish for than having consolidated finances and a growing membership?

Well, the organic movement and its international umbrella organisation wants and needs more than that. The annual report shows its readers that IFOAM is not just all about sound finances and growth. The publication activities are developing very well, the project "Organic Agriculture 2002" and its follow up "I-GO" (IFOAM - Growing Organic) continues to be of utmost importance, especially for our membership in the developing world, and IFOAM's growing presence at conferences and events gives us a lot of opportunities to share our work and to invite others "to become part of the solution" by joining IFOAM.

In the 29 years of IFOAM's existence, the highlights presented in this annual report remain unrivalled - especially the record breaking success of our Organic World Congress in Basel.

This annual report is seen as a "first step" undertaking. More annual reports will follow, certainly allowing for room for improvements. As this is the first report of its kind for our federation, we are especially interested in your feedback, critique and proposals.

Thomas Cierpka and Bernward Geier
(Executive Directors)

1. The IFOAM World Board

Members of the World Board until September 2000

Everard N. Byer (Trinidad & Tobago); Linda Bullard (USA); Liz Clay (Australia); Antonio Compagnoni (Italy); El Hadji Hamath Hane (Senegal); Gerald Herrmann (Germany); Annie Kirschenmann (USA); Hervé La Prairie (France); Pipo Lernoud (Argentina); Gunnar Rundgren (Sweden); and Suzanne Vaupel (USA).

The **EXECUTIVE BOARD** was formed by:

The President: Linda Bullard
The Vice-President: Gunnar Rundgren
The Treasurer: Gerald Herrmann



Members of the World Board as elected in Basel, Switzerland, September 2000

Liz Clay (Australia); Antonio Compagnoni (Italy); El Hadji Hamath Hane (Senegal); Gerald Herrmann (Germany); Annie Kirschenmann (USA); Pipo Lernoud (Argentina); Prabha Mahale (India); Katsushige Murayama (Japan); Gunnar Rundgren (Sweden); and Suzanne Vaupel (USA).

The **EXECUTIVE BOARD** is formed by:

The President: Gunnar Rundgren
The Vice-President: Suzanne Vaupel
The Treasurer: Gerald Herrmann



World Board Meetings

Hannover (Germany)	February 2000 (4 days)
Switzerland	May 2000 (5 days)
Basel	August 2000 (1 day)
Basel (New Board)	September 2000 (1 day)
China	November 2000 (4 days)

Executive Board Meetings

Munich (Germany)	Jan-Feb 2000 (3 days)
Bonn (Germany)	March 2000 (3 days)
Sweden	June 2000 (4 days)
Basel (New E-Board)	September 2000 (1 day)
Munich (Germany)	October 2000 (2 days)

The World Board follows the work of our Internal Structures by assigning one Board member and one Executive Director to liaise with each group.

At the beginning of the term also, Focus Teams were organized to accomplish different tasks. Some are indicated below.

World Board Focus Teams

- Internal Bodies
- Membership
- Regional Structures
- Internal Review
- Conference Committee
- General Assembly organization, programme, presentation
- Press strategy/Public relations
- Organic Trade Association-Memorandum of Understanding Negotiation
- Court of Arbitration Review

2. Head Office and staff

People employed and their positions

- Bernward Geier, *Executive Director for External Affairs*
- Thomas Cierpka, *Executive Director for Internal Management*
- Monique Fuhrmann, *Bookkeeping Administrator*
- Patrik Lauermann, *Communications Administrator*
- Laurence Leduc, *Membership Administrator (part-time and since July)*
- Karin Rauber, *bilingual secretary (part-time)*
- Helen Stork, *Webmaster (part-time)*
- Anne Boor, *Global Programme Coordinator I-GO (since October)*

Interns in 2000

- Neil Sorensen, United States (January – August)
- Faith Wangare, Kenya (August – December)



3. Events and Publications

3.1. The IFOAM General Assembly - where the organic movement shapes its future

Following the many events around the Organic World Congress (see section 7.1 below), the 16th IFOAM General Assembly (GA) was also held in Switzerland. More than 280 IFOAM member organisations were represented and committed to set the frame for the federation's future activities. Many motion proposals stimulated lively debates, such as the debate around the revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards, and set the stage for the world to continue growing organic. Treasurer Gerald Herrmann presented a sound comprehensive financial report and the presidential report from Linda Bullard showed the impressive activities and achievements of the federation since 1998. The new IFOAM World Board was elected and the delegates decided that the 15th organic world congress would be held in the year 2005 in Australia. (IFOAM Internal Letter number 74 features not only the full minutes of the general assembly but also reports from the IFOAM regional groups and the two year report of the president.)

Follow up on GA motions

The following substantive Motions were adopted by the GA in Mar del Plata 1998)

- Harmonisation Motion
- Motion on IFOAM Structures
- Standards Procedural Motions
- Motion to evaluate General Assemblies and related events
- Bio-Twin Motion
- Motion on Regional Groups having the right to choose their own mode of constitution
- IFOAM Basic Standards Motion
- Motion on IFOAM Standards Development

Reference is made to the presidential report from Linda Bullard (as published on www.ifoam.org) in regard to the implementation of the motions. The World Board dealt with all motions and submitted substantial proposals for the GA in Basel.

In Basel 2000, the members took major decisions regarding the following issues:

- The time interval between regular GAs was extended from 2 to 3 years
- The policy about Urgent Standards revisions was approved

- The procedure for Revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards was improved, but the decision power remains with the General Assembly
- The revision of the IFOAM Basic Standards was approved
- A Procedure for Variation in Standards was approved
- Australia was elected as venue for the Organic World Congress and GA in 2005
- At the next GA the Visioning Process will get major attention
- 23 recommendations formulated by members during the GA were adopted
- The Basel GA declaration regarding the protection of intellectual property rights of private organic certifiers was approved
- A new World Board was elected

(Reference is made to Internal Letters 73 and 74)

3.2. Conferences and fairs - still the liveliest platform of the IFOAM movement

The Organic World Congress was not the only opportunity for the IFOAM membership and the organic movement to get and work together. Traditionally, the Biofach fair in Nürnberg is an extremely busy platform with regard to trading and getting involved in our "healthy" business. It is also possible to enjoy an impressive congress programme, which addresses many relevant topics and conveys challenging debates on critical issues.

IFOAM also supported the organic congress programme and participated as exhibitor at the Natural Products Expo Europe, which took place in June in Amsterdam/The Netherlands. It was also involved with presentations at organic trade seminars in Geneva and Paris.

IFOAM's growing engagement in developing local markets was reflected in its support for two international seminars focussing on local marketing. The first seminar united representatives from the organic movement in Latin America at the first IFOAM Latin American local and regional organic markets conference, which took place in June in Buenos Aires/Argentina.

The African organic movement came together in November at the SEKEM farm in Egypt for a three day international workshop on "strategies to market organic products locally". Both events have shown that there is an impressive development of local markets for certified organic products not only in the

North but also in developing countries in the South (further reading regarding local market initiatives can be found in our "Ecology & Farming" magazine No. 26).

3.3. Publications

Publications remain a central tool of the promotion and networking tasks of IFOAM. They are still our main way of communicating not only with our ever growing membership, but also with the organic movement around us and "the rest of the world".

We published four Internal Letters. Number 73 was a special issue exclusively containing documents for our General Assembly and number 74 another special issue reporting on the organic world congress and the results of the IFOAM General Assembly in Basel. These two special issues alone came to about 130 pages. Apart from the English version of the IFOAM Internal Letter, we were also able to continue publishing a Spanish version.

Three issues of the IFOAM magazine "ECOLOGY & FARMING", with a total of 118 pages, were published. The main themes of the magazines were on biodiversity, a global review of the organic sector and on lobbying for organic agriculture. The regional sections focused on Switzerland and on Asia. The jubilee issue number 25 also had a special feature containing all the reports around the IFOAM Organic World Congress, World Exhibition and General Assembly in Switzerland.

The annual publication of the IFOAM member directory "Organic Agriculture Worldwide" is a well established routine. It remains not only our bestseller, but also one of the main sources of income, thanks to a great interest in placing advertisements.

IFOAM managed to publish two books in the same month (February). The first book titled "The relationship between nature conservation, biodiversity and organic agriculture" (edited by Sue Stolton, Bernward Geier and Jeffrey A. McNeely) was a novelty regarding the history of IFOAM publications. For the first time we joined forces with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in publishing this important book. The book has found wide spread interest and is still well in demand. Thanks to the financial support from the IFOAM project "Organic Agriculture 1999" (donors: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), HIVOS and NOVIB foundation, all in the Netherlands) and with some extra support from the three German foundations "Ökologie und Landbau", "Louisoder" and "Schweisfurth", IFOAM is able to distribute a significant number of complementary copies of this book to interested readers in the "third" world.

Another book publication was the proceedings for the 6th IFOAM International Organic Trade Conference titled "Quality & Communication for the Organic Market". On about 270 pages, the editors, Willie Lockeretz and Bernward Geier, managed to compile all the major presentations of the IFOAM organic trade conference, which took place in October 1999 in Florence/Italy.

It was possible to present the delegates participating in the Organic World Congress, and related events, with three proceedings at their arrival in Basel. This outstanding achievement was due to the FiBL Institute, our partners responsible for organising the congress and events in Basel. Without doubt, the heaviest IFOAM publication ever produced is the record breaking 750 page proceedings of the scientific conference (part of the Organic World Congress). In 10 chapters it contains approximately 500 papers and abstracts. It can even be said that, with its content and weight of two and a half kilograms, it is doubtlessly the most comprehensive collection of organic knowledge and expertise published so far. The proceedings are still available from the IFOAM HeadOffice for only 24 US Dollars.

Apart from the 13th International Scientific Conference, two other publications were ready to be handed out to the participants of two international events organised in the context of the organic world congress. The 6th international congress on organic viticulture proceedings as well as the 2nd international seminar organics in the supermarket proceedings are sold out by now, but luckily still publicly available via the webpage at FiBL in Switzerland: www.ifoam2000.ch

When it comes to IFOAM's publication activity, the year 2000 was without doubt an extraordinary year. The magazine remains unrivalled with its international content and perspective and enjoys a readership in about 110 countries all over the world. The revenue of publication sales remains to develop positively and generated an income of 50.000 Euro for the IFOAM budget in the year 2000.

4. Internal Structure

From the General Assembly in Sao Paolo (1992) until the last GA, IFOAM was guided by what was known as the "Regionalisation Policy" in its effort to adapt its structure to the needs of a truly global federation with member organizations on every continent. There was a further refinement of this policy in Mar del Plata (1998), which opened up new possibilities for groups of IFOAM members. The World Board immediately

started developing a policy on “Internal Bodies” and reflecting on whether and to what extent regionalisation was effectively promoting the interests of the organic movement.

A new development was that IFOAM members from a single country started requesting recognition as an IFOAM group. The Board subsequently welcomed the first request from Italy, which was in line with the World Board’s commitment to facilitate the free association of IFOAM members. IFOAM also made considerable progress on a proposal to set up a pilot program on “Service Information Points” (SIPs) in regions and countries in which the organic movement was considered to potentially benefit from a stronger local presence of IFOAM.

The following list shows the internal structure of IFOAM. Roughly half of the total number of groups have been formed since Mar del Plata in 1998.

Regional Groups

(RA= Regional Assembly, M= Meeting)

- Asia: Coordinator Shinji Hashimoto (Japan), e-mail: QZW07502@nifty.ne.jp
- Anglophone Africa: Coordinator Fred Wajji (Uganda), e-mail: Uganda@wvi.org
- Francophone Africa: Coordinator Pascal Badjagou (Benin), e-mail: redad@leland.bj, RA March 2000, Senegal
- DACH-LUX: Coordinator Helga Willer (Germany), e-mail: willer@soel.de, RA January 2000, Germany
- AgriBioMediterraneo: President Ranko Tadic (Croatia), e-mail: eko-liburnia@ri.tel.hr
- EU countries, President Francis Blake (UK), e-mail: fblake@soilassociation.org, RA Nuremberg, February 2000
- Central & Eastern Europe initiative: Coordinator Ferenc Frühwald (Hungary), e-mail: fruhwald@mail.datanet.hu
- Latin America initiative: Coordinator Oscar Mandieta (Bolivia), e-mail: aoheb@mail.megalink.com, M Argentina, July 2000

National Groups

- IFOAM Italy (applied for WB approval)

Committees

- **Standards Committee**, Coordinator: Eva Mattson, e-mail: eva.mattsson@krav.se
Members: Brian Baker, USA; Alexander Beck, Germany; Jorge Casale, Argentina; Christine Kariuki, Kenya; Mark Levick, New Zealand; Brian McElroy, USA; Christina Micheloni, Italy;

Eckart Reiners, Germany; Josef Tyburski, Poland; Xingji Xiao, China;

Corresponding Members: Rod May, Australia; Otto Schmid, Switzerland; Franz Vanderhoff, Mexico

- **Program Steering Committee** (Project: OA 2002/I-GO), Chair: Gunnar Rundgren, Coordinator: Anne Boor (e-mail: a.boor@ifoam.org)

Members: Elisabeth Nabanja-Makumbi, Uganda; Hay Sorée, India; Maheswar Ghimire, Nepal; Pipo Lernoud, Argentina (as interim)

- **Development Forum** (replacement of the former Third World Working Group, under construction)

Working Groups

- Genetic Engineering Working Group
- Events and Conferences Working Group

Interest Groups

- Trade Members
- Farmers Group
- Forum of Consultants
- IFOAM-Accredited Certification Bodies

Task Forces

- Accreditation Criteria Revision Task Force
- EU Relations Task Force
- Globalisation Task Force, Coordinator Ong Kung Wai

Delegations

- Codex Alimentarius, FAO/ WHO, Head of Delegation Otto Schmid
- *Ad Hoc*: IUCN, UNO/ CSD, FAO coordinated by Bernward Geier

Negotiating Teams

- Memorandum of Understanding with OTA on Accreditation to the American Organic Standards

Service Information Points

- under discussion for West Africa (francophone), North America, and Australasia

5. The IOAS

The International Organic Accreditation Service (IOAS) is an independent non-profit organisation that accredits organic certification bodies. IFOAM Accreditation is based upon an agreement between the IOAS and IFOAM and two IFOAM Documents, the IFOAM Basic Standards (IBS) and the IFOAM Accreditation Criteria.

Accreditation is an essential component of the IFOAM Guarantee System. The IBS define what certified operators (growers and processors) shall do and the Accreditation criteria define how certification bodies shall operate. Accredited Certification Bodies (ACB's) receive annual surveillance visits to ensure that they remain within the accreditation guidelines.

The year 2000 produced the fastest growth in the Accreditation Program since its inception in 1993, resulting in 16 ACB's and 9 applicant certification bodies.

IOAS Board of Directors end of 2000

Roger Blobaum (USA)
Bo van Elzakker (Netherlands)
Sapsa Heinonen (Finland)
Ong Kung Wai (Malaysia)
Franz Rivetti (Italy)
Vitoon Ruenglentpanyakil (Thailand)
Robert Duxbery (UK)

Accreditation Committee end of 2000

Ahmed El-Araby (Egypt)
Robert Duxbery (UK)
Urs Meier (Switzerland)
Elke Roder (Germany)
Roberto Ugas (Peru)
Michael Sligh (USA)
Jochen Neuendorff (Germany)
Vitoon Ruenglentpanyakil (Thailand)

IOAS Staff

Ken Commins (USA, Executive Director)
David Crucefix (Spain, Assistant Executive Director)
Jan Deane (UK, Accreditation Programme Manager)
Susan Hepper Froelich (USA, Office Coordinator)
Jean-Marc Aube (Quebec, Canada, Lead Assessor)

6. Organic Agriculture Programme

6.1. The project Organic Agriculture 2002 (OA 2002)

Based on the evaluation of the former 3-year program OA 1999, the IFOAM World Board decided to support IFOAM's continued engagement in

developing programs. However, the focus of OA 2002 (the follow up program) was more specifically geared towards IFOAM's core objectives. With active participation of the IFOAM structures and all IFOAM members, 5 project areas were defined. The main objectives of the OA 2002-program were:

1. to strengthen Organic Agriculture in Developing Countries by implementing local structures/networks to disseminate information about organic agricultural practices and certification/accreditation schemes according to IFOAM policies and provide strategies to access and develop direct and distant markets.
2. to assure the influence of members from Developing and CEE Countries in policy making within IFOAM.

Funded by HIVOS, the Netherlands, the programme bridged the period between OA 1999 (Finalized in May 1999) and I-GO (started in October 2000).

With regard to the main achievements and impacts of the 5 projects listed below, please refer to IFOAM's web-page and the IL 74:

- Project 1: Data collection and farm system comparison (P1)
- Project 2: The organic harmonisation system
- Project 3: Lobby and outreach
- Project 4: Strengthening IFOAM's structure
- Project 5: Local Development: training, extension, direct market development and social responsibility

6.2. The project "IFOAM – Growing Organic" (I-GO)

During the year 2000, IFOAM's new four year programme "IFOAM – Growing Organic" (I-GO), was developed and finalised. It is based on the experience of the IFOAM programmes "OA 1999" and "OA 2002".

Aimed at strengthening the Organic Agriculture movement worldwide, I-GO focuses on the development of Organic Agriculture in developing and CEE countries, where approximately half of IFOAM's members are located.

The first funding contract was signed in December 2000 with HIVOS, IFOAM's long-term supporter, from the Netherlands.

The funding period for I-GO began in October 2000 and will last until December 2004, according to the contract.

For more detailed information, please see IFOAM's web page (www.ifoam.org) or, if you are an IFOAM affiliate, IFOAM's Intranet (www.ifoam-net.org).

One of the highlights, which IFOAM was able to sponsor through I-GO, was the workshop on local marketing, in Egypt, organised by the Egyptian Biodynamic Association (EBDA).

Contact: Global Programme Coordinator Anne Boor
a.boor@ifoam.org

7. Financial report 2000

The financial year 2000 was closed with a positive result for IFOAM (see the income-expenditure-statement and balance sheet below):

- the increase of the expenditures developed slower than expected,
- the overall income development was positive,
- the project funding for IFOAM's four year programme "IFOAM - GROWING ORGANIC (I-GO)" could be assured up to 60 percent of the proposed budget.

The following specific reasons led to a positive result for the year 2000:

Membership fees are the main income source for IFOAM's core budget (52%), followed by book sales and subscriptions (including advertisements) (17%), conference overheads (10%) and project overheads (10%).

The membership fee income increased by 20% in 2000 although the total number of affiliates decreased slightly. 94 new Members and Associates were welcomed in 2000, a significantly higher number than in 1999 (61). 118 Members and Associates were excluded due to their non-payment of fees. Only 2 Members cancelled their membership from their side.

The book sales increased by 10% compared to 1999, due to the publication of three new IFOAM books in

2000 - the Vignola, Florence and Basel conference proceedings – in addition to the new edition of the IFOAM Directory and Basic Standards.

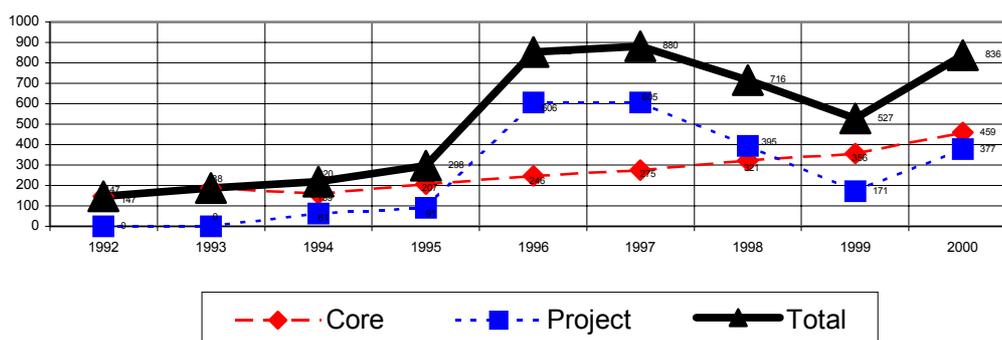
On the expenditure side the staff number was enlarged by a half-time *membership and subscription administrator*. A full-time *Global Project Coordinator* started in October for the IFOAM Growing Organic program (I-GO), who is financed through the program.

Once again, World Board (WB) meetings and activities in 2000 were significantly sponsored by IFOAM members and partner organisations. We are grateful to the Schweisfurth Foundation (Germany), Forschungsinstitut für Biologischen Landbau (FiBL, Switzerland) and China Environmental Organic Food (CEOFC, P.R. China) who hosted a complete four day World Board meeting each. In addition, some board members raised significant funds for their own travel expenses. I-GO financed the participation costs of Board members from Trinidad & Tobago, India, Senegal and Argentina. Because of the overall support IFOAM received, only around 25% of the meeting and travel costs for the Executive and the World Board had to be paid for from IFOAM's core budget.

The Organic World Congress in Basel led to both a significant increase of conference income on the one hand, and an increase in travel and organisational costs for the conference and the Organic World Exhibition (Zofingen) on the other hand.

The World Board had intended to hire two new members of staff within the year 2000: a Conference and Event Manager, who was also to be responsible for more active Public Relations, and an Organic Guarantee System Coordinator. As these positions were filled later than planned (February 2001 and April 2001), the money was not spent, but reserved for the year 2001. Additional reserves were earmarked for the Standards Committee and the IFOAM Accreditation Seal.

CORE AND PROJECT INCOME FROM 1992 TO 2000 in EURO X 1000



IFOAM BALANCE SHEET IN EURO X 1000

(figures from reports of Coopers & Lybrand respectively PwC Deutsche Revision)

ASSETS	1998	1999	2000
Bankaccounts	204	377	446
Member Fees dues	0	4	1
Financial Assets	1	1	2
Tangible Assets (Office equipment)	17	11	11
Non-tangible Assets (Software)	3	2	0
Other current assets	68	45	32
Project Assets	0	8	0
Trading stock	4	5	5
TOTAL ASSETS	298	453	496

LIABILITIES	1998	1999	2000
Accrued liabilities	22	21	17
Accounts payable	36	12	22
Other liabilities	9	9	9
Project Funds	140	248	183
Investment reserves	0	55	149
Equity	77	91	110
Profit / Loss	14	19	7
TOTAL LIABILITIES	298	453	496

IFOAM Income - Expenses audited Report in EURO x 1000

CORE INCOME

	1999	2000
Fees	audited	audited
members	173	206
associates	32	38
supporters	17	20
registration	3	5
Subtotal	225	269
Services		
conferences overhead + GA income	9	51
booksales + subscription magazine	45	52
advertising Dir+E&F	35	37
overhead services	49	50
honorarium & patronage	6	17
gifts/ donation 3W	10	5
interest+exchange+reimbursements	23	27
dissolution of reserves	6	1
miscellaneous	1	10
Core	408	519
Project	199	377
Total Income	607	896

CORE EXPENDITURES

staff & social fees	176	198
board meetings & activities	13	16
Standards Committee	10	10
printing costs + book purchase	46	52
travelling HO & representation & events & GA costs&Bior	15	42
rent & utilities & insurance	12	13
postage	23	22
office supply & communication & repairs	10	11
auditing & advices	13	15
seal reserve fund	5	0
bank charges	2	4
depreciation & loss of claims	14	33
miscellaneous	1	6
Core	340	422
Project	199	377
Total Expenditures	539	799
Seal Reserve	0	5
Reserves SC	5	5
Reserve Staff position	45	80
Margin core	19	7

8. Highlights

8.1. The Organic World Congress – IFOAM's highlight of the year

In August, almost 2000 people from over 100 countries found their way to Basel/Switzerland to participate in the Organic World Congress "IFOAM 2000 - The World Grows Organic". Never before in the history of the organic movement have so many people from so many countries come together to learn from each other, discuss the future of the organic movement and meet the challenge of the rapid growth of organic agriculture all over the world.

Central event during the congress was the 13th international IFOAM scientific conference, which attracted about 1350 participants. With this once again record number of delegates a wealth of information was shared in plenaries, workshops and a poster session. The conference featured more than 500 presentations in up to 10 concurrent sessions and offered a creative and lively platform to exchange the latest facts and findings of organic agriculture from the fields to the dinner tables. It left no doubt that the theme of the congress "The world grows organic" reflects a reality all over the world. 1000 people attended the organic dinner party, where culinary organic delights presenting the best of Swiss cooking combined with a great show about Switzerland, culminated in a dance party which lasted well into the morning hours.

Meanwhile well established, the third IFOAM Organic World Exhibition was yet another impressive gathering of the organic movement. Never before had an IFOAM event attracted as many as 30 000 visitors to a single venue, in this case the beautiful and romantic town of Zofingen. Stands from 25 countries lined the streets offering the best of organic. Italy, the highlight country, presented many of its organic "temptations".

The 6th international congress on organic viticulture brought together about 200 experts from the wine sector. Apart from its broad range of presentations the two day congress featured a worldwide organic wine competition (including a wine tasting of the 15 winning wines selected from the 110 wines in the final round of the contest).

Parallel to the Scientific Conference, the 2nd international seminar "Organics in the Supermarket" took place. This event attracted over 270 participants who enjoyed an overall update on the state of the art in organic marketing.

A first ever IFOAM seminar on "Organic Food Processing" brought together another 190 participants. The seminar clearly reflected the challenge for

organic products oscillating between naturalness and convenience.

Finally, various pre- and post-conference tours gave hundreds of participants a first hand learning experience about the impressive success story of organic agriculture in Switzerland, the host country.

At the closing session of the scientific conference the so-called "Basel declaration" was adopted, which outlines prospects and tasks for the organic movement

(For more details regarding the IFOAM Organic World Congress please refer to the IFOAM magazine Ecology & Farming number 25 and the IFOAM webpage www.ifoam.org)

8.2. Lobbying and liaisons - promoting "organic" and reaching out

While our intensified lobbying activities around the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) continued in 2000, there were two highlights of IFOAM's lobbying engagement. IFOAM's President Gunnar Rundgren (Sweden), World Board Member El Hadji Hamath Hane (Senegal), Ranjith De Silva (Sri Lanka) and the Executive Director Bernward Geier made up the IFOAM delegation at the 8th session of the committee for sustainable development (CSD), which met in April at the United Nations in New York. The CSD is the follow-up "institution" of the environmental world summit, which took place in Rio in 1992. A main task of the CSD is to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21. Every year one main theme is chosen. In 2000 it was agriculture. IFOAM had developed a lobby position document and had significant input in the so-called "task manager report", which was compiled by the FAO as a central document for the CSD session. Furthermore IFOAM was able to contribute significantly to one of the so-called UNO background papers for the CSD meeting. For the first time in IFOAM's lobbying efforts, the official documents at CSD had proven to be more than just an "alibi" reference to organic agriculture. Supported by many other NGO delegates supporting our movement IFOAM was instrumental in making sure that organic agriculture was "centre stage" at the UNO/CSD meeting in New York.

A second highlight of IFOAM's lobby activities was the participation at the World Conservation Congress from the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which took place in October in Amman/Jordan. IFOAM had sent the World Board members Annie Kirschenmann (USA) and Antonio Compagnoni (Italy) together with its Executive Director Bernward Geier to Amman. The delegation joined forces with IFOAM's honorary

president, Hardy Vogtmann, who was representing the German Federal Agency for Nature conservation, of which he is the President. Together with his federal institute, we presented a motion covering biodiversity and organic agriculture and supporting the continued cooperation between IUCN and the organic movement. The second IFOAM motion was on the relationship between genetic engineering, biodiversity and organic agriculture. The biodiversity motion was debated extensively in the general assembly, but was passed without significant changes. The motion on genetic engineering was obviously touching a nerve at IUCN and provoked a major debate at the congress and IUCN general assembly with its 2000 delegates. The challenging nature of this motion is illustrated by the fact that with over 100 motions debated over a total of about 14 hours our motion was discussed for almost one and a half hours alone. Among the congress participants were also IFOAM member organisations from countries such as Vietnam, India and Poland, which are also active members of IUCN. Together could we make sure that organic agriculture received quite some attention at this world gathering of the environment movements.

Lobbying activities on behalf of IFOAM are carried out by many activists - not only by members of the World Board. One example is our participation at the Codex Alimentarius sessions of FAO/WHO elaborating the "organic" codex guidelines. Key IFOAM activists, and many of our members, are involved in lobbying at national and regional levels tirelessly positioning organic agriculture. They make sure that our solution potential is gaining recognition/consideration everywhere, especially in the international "arena". For further reading on IFOAM's activities in the field of lobbying and outreach we recommend the IFOAM magazine Ecology & Farming number 25.

8.3. Neem Tree Trial - IFOAM was part of the victory

IFOAM was involved in a major victory against bio-piracy when the neem patent at the European patent office (EPO) was completely revoked. The neem tree patent number 436257 had previously been granted to the United States of America (Department of Agriculture!) and to the multinational cooperation W.R.Grace for fungicides derived from seeds of the neem tree.

The legal opposition to the patent had been lodged 5 years ago via a joint initiative of the research foundation for science, technology and natural resource policy directed by the renown Indian scientist Vandana Shiva, Magda Aelvoet from the Green party (former member of the European Parliament and current environment minister of

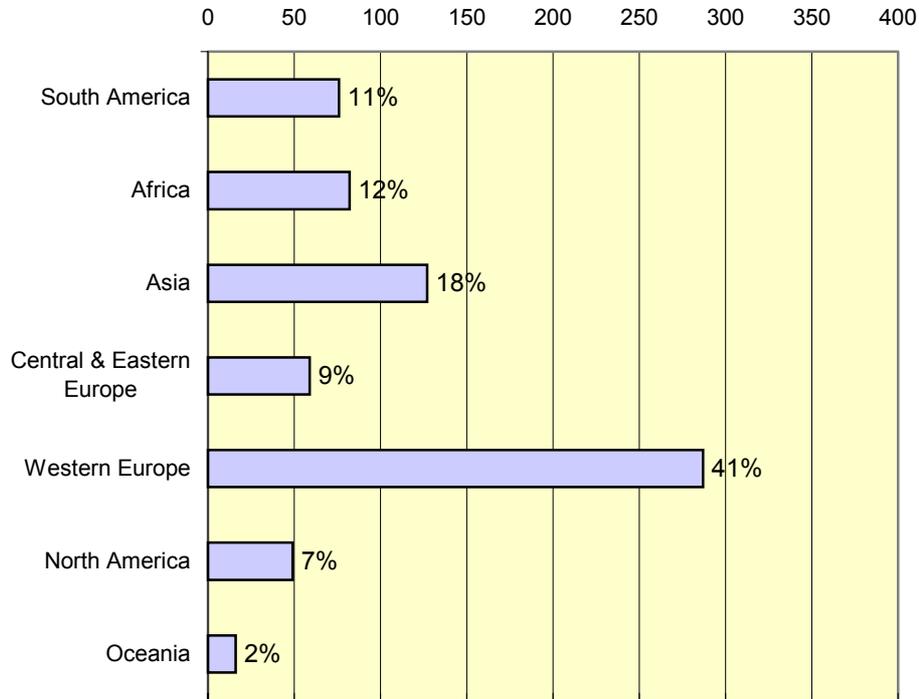
Belgium) and IFOAM's president in 2000, Linda Bullard. Following extensive testimony by expert witnesses, the panel judged that there was no innovative step involved in the claimed "invention". IFOAM played the major role in organising the logistics around the two day hearing at the European patent office and was supported by the Schweisfurth Foundation in Munich. Besides a well attended press conference, we had helped to organise a demonstration in front of the EPO building at midday of the first day of the hearing on May 9th, holding banners reading "No patents for theft" and carrying signs representing all the European patents, which have been granted or are pending on the neem. A two metre tall neem tree, whose scientific name means the "free tree", was symbolically "freed" from patents for public use by a delegation of scientists and farmers from India and Sri Lanka. They then presented an EPO representative with 500.000 signatures of Indian citizens demanding that all patents on the neem be revoked.

It was the first time that IFOAM had been involved in a legal challenge. In her statement, our past president Linda Bullard had commented on the importance of this year's long campaign and legal challenge with the following words: "This is a great day not only for us but for all people throughout the world, especially from the third world, who have been fighting to take back the control of their resources and knowledge systems from the patent regimes of the North. We are gratified about the decision's recognition of the intellectual achievements of the South and urge the patent office to reject the 11 neem patent applications which are still under examination. We hope that our victory will mark a turning point in the struggle against bio-piracy."

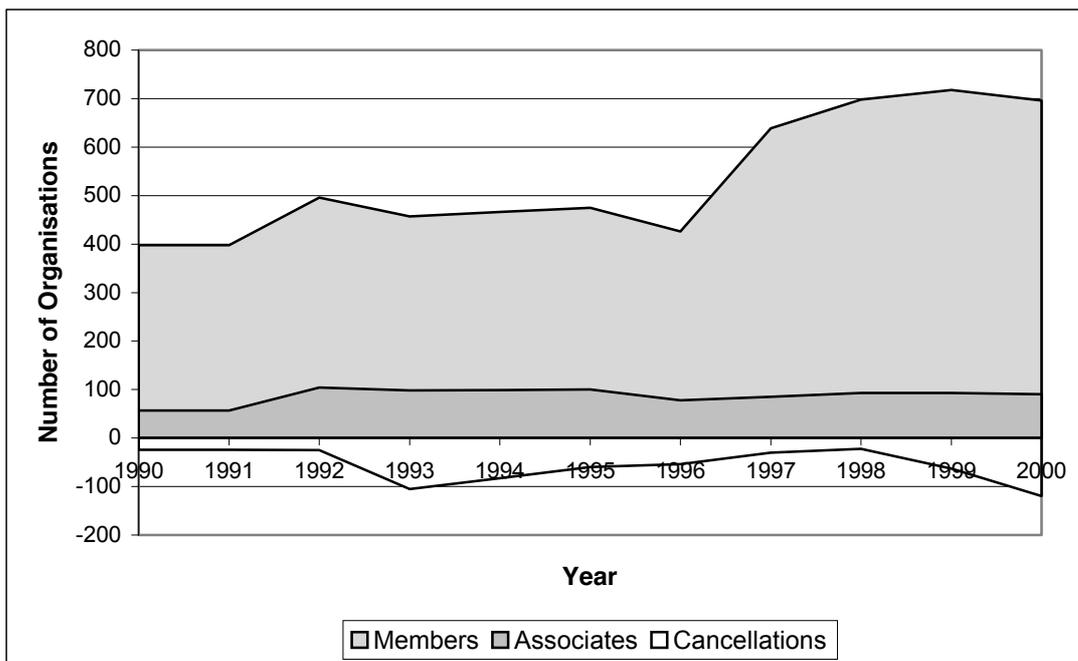
Well, so far the EPO has not rejected the other 11 neem patent applications. What is more is that in the meantime, the patent holders have filed an appeal to the EPO court decision. This means the struggle will continue - the "Davids" will not hand over the heritage of the Neem tree to the "Goliaths".

9. Membership Development

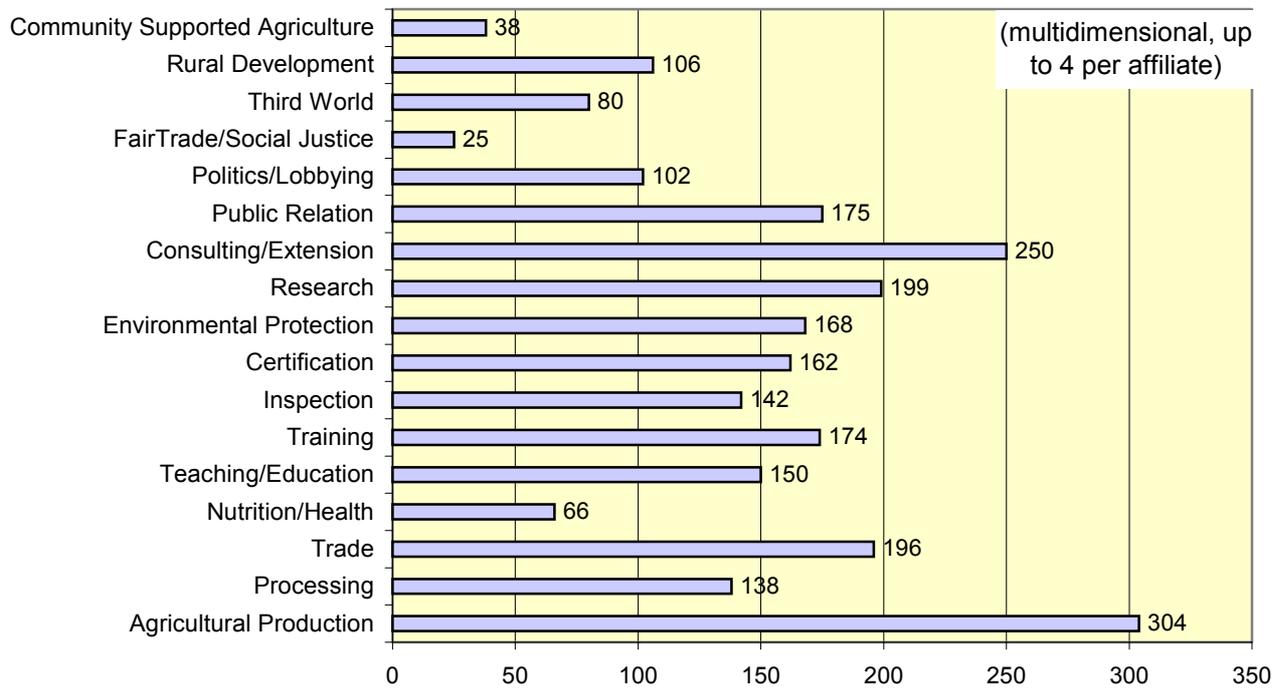
9.1. Origin and Number of IFOAM Affiliates (December 2000)



9.2. Development of the Membership/Associate Affiliation from 1990 to 2000



9.3. Activities of IFOAM Affiliates (December 2000)



(Total: 696 Members and Associates)



What is organic agriculture?

Organic agriculture includes all agricultural systems that promote the environmentally, socially and economically sound production of food and fibres. These systems take local soil fertility as a key to successful production. By respecting the natural capacity of plants, animals and the landscape, it aims to optimise quality in all aspects of agriculture and the environment. Organic agriculture dramatically reduces external inputs by refraining from the use of chemo-synthetic fertilisers, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals. Instead it allows the powerful laws of nature to increase both agricultural yields and disease resistance. Organic agriculture adheres to globally accepted principles, which are implemented within local social-economic, geoclimatical and cultural settings. As a logical consequence, IFOAM stresses and supports the development of self-supporting systems on local and regional levels.

IFOAM's Mission

- *We represent the worldwide movement of organic agriculture and provide a platform for global exchange and co-operation.*
- *We are committed to a holistic approach in the development of organic farming systems including a sustainable environment and the needs of humanity.*
- *By the expertise of its members IFOAM opens the way for implementation of above aims in every day's life.*

The federation's main function is co-ordinating the network of the organic movement around the world. IFOAM is a democratic federation and grassroot oriented. Major activities within IFOAM are carried out by our World Board, various committees, working groups and task forces.

Major aims and activities are:

- To exchange knowledge and expertise among its members and to inform the public about organic agriculture.
- To represent internationally the organic movement in parliamentary, administrative and policy making forums (IFOAM has for example consultative status with the UNO and FAO).
- To set and regularly revise the international "IFOAM Basic Standards of Organic Agriculture and Food Processing" (these IFOAM Basic Standards are translated into 19 languages!).
- To make an international guarantee of organic quality a reality. The International Organic Accreditation Services (IOAS) runs the IFOAM Accreditation Programme, to ensure equivalency of certification programmes worldwide.

What IFOAM has to offer:

IFOAM offers many platforms for information exchange e.g. at the numerous international, continental and regional IFOAM conferences, or through our publications such as the magazine Ecology & Farming and conference proceedings. Our increasing international outreach activities give the organic movement a voice and influence which can no longer be ignored by those responsible for agricultural policy.

Through our directory "Organic Agriculture Worldwide", and also through our network of international contacts, we can link you with the partners you are looking for in any area of organic agriculture.

As the worldwide organic movement has now progressed beyond being a niche production and market situation, therefore further growth and extension of our network and partnerships are essential. There are many ways to join the IFOAM partnership and to contribute to, and benefit from our worldwide movement and network.

Some benefits for IFOAM members and associates:

IFOAM membership is open to associations of producers, processors, traders and consultants as well as to institutions involved in certification, research and training committed to organic agriculture. Organisations or private companies not predominantly organic and individuals which subscribe to the aims and principles of organic agriculture may join IFOAM as either associates or supporters. Some of the benefits for members and associates are:

- Subscription for one of the IFOAM's magazines (English or German) including the IFOAM Internal Letter
- Discount at IFOAM conferences
- Listing in IFOAM Directory and free copy
- 20 % discount on IFOAM's publications
- Free copy of the IFOAM Basic Standards

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IFOAM's official language and most of our publications are English, but you can contact the Head Office also in German, French and Spanish.