IFOAM is the international umbrella organization of organic agriculture movements worldwide.

IFOAM’s mission is leading, uniting, and assisting the organic movement in its full diversity.

Our goal is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially, and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of organic agriculture.
Leading the World to Sustainability

At no other time has there been such an opportunity to make organic principles and systems a beacon for sustainable development. Agro-ecological agriculture, represented best by organic principles and systems, is a multifunctional solution to many global problems that are reaching crisis proportion including environmental degradation, hunger, and economic and social injustice. Recognizing this, the International Assessment of Agriculture Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), a UN backed initiative involving 110 countries, called for a radical shift in agriculture to agro-ecological systems, including valuation of farmers as producers and managers of ecosystems.

Sharing knowledge in many ways through many networks, IFOAM has been able to draw attention and hasten the turn toward agro-ecological systems based on the four principles of organic agriculture – health, ecology, fairness, and care. To accomplish this, IFOAM has been cooperating at high levels of international policy development, notably for 2008 in the formulation of the IAASTD Report; and equally important but less visibly, providing a global knowledge network and support for our members, typically local and regional organizations and their networks, who are implementing organic principles one field, one family, one community at a time.

In this Annual Report we introduce you to some of our members and illustrate IFOAM’s ultimate impact in fields, families, and communities. The stories come from Thailand, India, the Philippines, Uganda, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Italy. These are just a few places in the world where IFOAM, in partnership with local organizations and their networks, is making a difference.

As local heroes work creatively every day to implement organic principles, IFOAM stands behind them – exchanging knowledge, providing support, and sharing their stories with others around the globe, who will replicate these heroes’ work in their fields, families, and communities.

Katherine T. DiMatteo
President
The principles of Health, Ecology, Fairness, and Care are the roots from which organic agriculture grows and develops. They express the contribution that organic agriculture can make to the world, and a vision to improve all agriculture in a global context.
Agriculture is one of humankind’s most basic activities because all people need to nourish themselves daily. History, culture, and community values are embedded in agriculture. The principles apply to agriculture in the broadest sense, including the way people tend soils, water, plants, and animals in order to produce, prepare, and distribute food and other goods. They concern the way people interact with living landscapes, relate to one another, and shape the legacy of future generations.

The principles of organic agriculture serve to inspire the organic movement in its full diversity. They guide IFOAM’s development of positions, programs, and standards. Furthermore, they are presented with a vision of their worldwide adoption.
Organic agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human, and planet as one and indivisible.

The health of individuals and communities cannot be separated from the health of ecosystems; healthy soils produce healthy crops that foster the health of animals and people. Health is the wholeness and integrity of living systems. It is not simply the absence of illness, but the maintenance of physical, mental, social, and ecological well-being.

The role of organic agriculture is to sustain and enhance the health of ecosystems and organisms from the smallest in the soil to human beings. In particular, organic agriculture is intended to produce high quality, nutritious food that contributes to preventive health care and well-being. In view of this, it should avoid the use of fertilizers, pesticides, animal drugs, and food additives that may have adverse health effects.
Organic agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them, and help sustain them.

Organic systems should fit the cycles and ecological balances in nature. Organic management must be adapted to local conditions, ecology, culture, and scale. It is essential to maintain and improve environmental quality and conserve resources by reuse, recycling, and the efficient management of materials and energy.

Organic agriculture should attain ecological balance through the design of farming systems, establishment of habitats, and maintenance of genetic and agricultural diversity. Those who produce, process, trade, or consume organic products should protect and benefit the common environment including landscapes, climate, habitats, biodiversity, air, and water.
Organic agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

Fairness is characterized by equity, respect, justice, and stewardship of the shared world, both among people and in their relations to other living beings.

Everyone involved in organic agriculture should conduct human relationships in a manner that ensures fairness at all levels and to all parties. Organic agriculture should provide everyone involved with a good quality of life, and contribute to food sovereignty and reduction of poverty. Animals should be provided with the conditions and opportunities of life that accord with their physiology, natural behavior, and well-being. Natural and environmental resources should be managed in a way that is socially and ecologically just.
Organic agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

Organic agriculture is a living and dynamic system that responds to internal and external demands and conditions. Increasing efficiency and productivity should not come at the risk of jeopardizing health and well-being. Given the incomplete understanding of ecosystems and agriculture, new technologies need to be assessed and existing methods reviewed.

Precaution and responsibility are the key concerns in the management and technology choices in organic agriculture. Science is necessary to ensure public and ecological health. However, scientific knowledge should be combined with practical experience, accumulated wisdom, and traditional and indigenous knowledge. Decisions should reflect the values and needs of all who might be affected, through transparent and participatory processes.
Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

–The State of Food Insecurity, FAO, 2001

One of the most basic challenges of governments and communities around the world is to provide a secure and sustainable supply of healthy food for their citizens. But while affluent regions and social classes often deal with surplus production and consumption, for nearly one-fifth of the global population, food security is a constant struggle.

One country facing food security challenges is the Philippines. Already confronted with a growing population, Filipinos now experience local food shortages, deteriorating health, and environmental degradation – all exacerbated by the shift of their agricultural resources to an industrial export-based system.

MASIPAG, an IFOAM member, is meeting these challenges head-on. A farmer-led network of organizations and local communities, MASIPAG represents more than 30,000 farmers throughout the Philippines. Being a strong advocate for health and food security, MASIPAG’s mission is to improve the quality of life for Philippine farmers through a shift from conventional agriculture to a more sustainable community-based system.

The Catholic Church is playing a key role in MASIPAG’s sustainable agriculture program. Bishop Ramon Villena in Nueva Vizcaya, Luzon has a clear mandate for priests in his parish: “The Church, which has an unselfish interest in the well-being of the people, especially the marginalized poor, must teach positive alternatives like sustainable agriculture,” says the Bishop, “Healthy organic food must be prescribed as part of the doctrine of the Church.”

The parish-based Saint Vincent Cooperative, a MASIPAG member, provides loans and capital to support the local farmers and their communities. They decided to expand their activities to support organic and sustainable agriculture methods after determining that the MASIPAG program not only reduces farmers’ production costs but also offers them and the whole community more nutritious food and a healthier environment. Wanting to set an example and promote a healthier lifestyle, they opened up the parish school as a market for organic products and began serving organic food for school meals and church gatherings.

A weekly radio program organized by Father Vic Tiam, one of the parish priests and a
sustainable agriculture advocate, has been a powerful tool for information and discussion on sustainable agriculture. And an ecological island, managed by the parish, has been set-up as a holistic educational opportunity for young people to learn the basics of sustainable agriculture and ecology.

Father Vic also holds seminars with local farmers on the benefits of sustainable agriculture. The farmers integrated a trial organic farming program into their work. They planted 50 varieties of rice, eventually selecting ten varieties for mass production. The results – improved pest and climate resistance and better product quality and variety – convinced everyone that organic agriculture works.

MASIPAG farmers believe that switching to sustainable farming has positively affected their lives by providing them with safer food, improved health, strong yields, and an abundant supply of food and seeds. Marcelino dela Rosa is a MASIPAG farmer in Nueva Ecija, Luzon. “After five years of organic farming, I now find fulfillment in what I do. I am happy in the knowledge that the food I provide my family is healthy and safe.”

IFOAM promotes food security and health by supporting emerging organic sectors in developing countries like the Philippines. Its comprehensive information packages and recommendations are passed on to farmers and other community members through member advocacy agencies such as MASIPAG. IFOAM produces tools for developing the organic sector and for training organic farmers, producer groups, inspectors, and others on regionally appropriate methods and benefits of organic farming.

With IFOAM, MASIPAG and the local Catholic Church leading the way, farmers and consumers in the Philippines are discovering the benefits of growing and eating organic food, and sustainable agriculture is fast gaining recognition as a viable solution for health and food security.

Food Security and Health

- Designed to transfer region-specific knowledge on organic farming and marketing to stakeholders, IFOAM’s web-based, multi-language Training Platform was disseminated throughout IFOAM networks in 2008. In addition to providing training materials, the platform offers information on training courses and links to other training resources.

- To assist its international action network to address the global food crisis, IFOAM provided information and tools; for example, a leaflet on Organic Agriculture and World Food Supply, which urges a systems-based dialogue on the question, “How is the world going to be fed?”

- In order to support government and civil society organizations to address food security by proactively developing sustainable agriculture, IFOAM compiled and distributed valuable case studies and related guidance under the title Building Sustainable Organic Sectors.
High in the Andes Mountains of Peru, a potato farmer is giving us all a lesson in the value of traditional culture and agricultural biodiversity.

Biodiversity reflects the number, variety, and variability of living organisms. It includes diversity within species, between species, and among ecosystems. The enhancement of biodiversity and its use to promote better livelihoods are essential guiding principles in organic farming. A farm's biodiversity is affected by qualities such as the diversity of organisms in the soil, the variety of plants and animals that are produced, and the relationship of farmed land to the natural landscape in and around it. Generally speaking, the greater the biodiversity, the healthier the ecosystem.

Traditionally, farmers would plant many different crops in a small area in order to feed a diverse diet to their families and communities. In contrast, modern agriculture involves covering a wide area with a single type of crop and eliminating any other plant or animal that would compete with that crop for space or nutrients.

Agricultural biodiversity and support of traditional cultures has found a champion in the National Association of Ecological Producers of Peru (ANPE). ANPE is an IFOAM member and one of the largest grassroots organic organizations in Latin America with 12,000 affiliates in 22 regions of Peru. A leading agro-ecology organization, ANPE is protective of agro-biodiversity, respectful of cultural identities, and committed to food sovereignty, environmental care, and improved quality of life for the people of Peru.

When Moises Quispe, ANPE’s Executive Director, is asked whom one should speak to about agricultural biodiversity and farming based on traditional culture, without hesitation, he says, “You must visit Lares and speak to Don Julio.”

Don Julio Hancco lives approximately 4000 meters above sea level in the Pampacorral Lares Valley in the province of Calca, Peru. Because of the harshness of the terrain and the extreme weather conditions at this altitude, his land is only suitable for growing potatoes and animal grazing.

Known as the man who has custody of the knowledge of native potatoes in the Peruvian Highlands, Don Julio is using methods and technologies passed down to him from his ancestors. “My father left me many of these potato varieties that have their own history and represent my family,” he shares proudly.

Don Julio’s land is a natural pantry for 184 varieties of potatoes. They are red, black, and
blue; some are bitter and some are sweet. People come from all over Peru to taste and enjoy them.

“Each variety has unique scents, colors and special features. This is why I work to preserve them,” states Don Julio. “Some can be grown in two-and-a-half months and others will take seven or eight months.”

Supported by the systems and tools passed on by IFOAM through ANPE, Don Julio continues to preserve his ancestors’ knowledge while searching for more endangered varieties that he can pass on to future generations.

By leading the international movement for organic agriculture, IFOAM enables organic farmer groups like ANPE to exchange knowledge with other groups worldwide. Demonstrating to international policymakers that ecologically-based, biodiverse agricultural systems are essential to sustainable development, IFOAM affirms that both scientific research and traditional knowledge play an important role in the further development of these systems.

“No that ANPE is a member of IFOAM,” says Moises, “we have the opportunity to hear the voices of farmers from all over the world. This offers us encouragement as a grassroots organization and has a great impact on our work. We can share Don Julio’s story and knowledge with other traditional potato farmers in countries like Nepal and South Africa and return their knowledge to him.”

So, through a careful combination of ancient traditions, modern innovation, and knowledge exchange, farmers like Don Julio are preserving and promoting both cultural and agricultural biodiversity.
Climate change associated with global warming and dramatic fluctuations in energy costs are daily realities in the lives of farmers all over the world. In Thailand, a farmers’ cooperative, Green Net, began to look at this issue directly in its work with approximately one thousand smallholder organic farmers.

Founded in 1993, Green Net promotes sustainable agriculture and provides farmer groups with access to fair-trade markets. To achieve their vision of being a leader in promoting organic farming through environmental and socially responsible farming practices, and to gain access to the knowledge and information they needed to reach their goals, Green Net became a member of IFOAM in 1995.

“I realized that climate change was an important issue after hearing a speech by former IFOAM President, Gunnar Rundgren,” said Green Net Executive Director, Vitoon Panyakul. “At that point I became very interested in this issue and started to prepare a project to help our farmers adapt.”

Green Net began to hold discussions with farmers, beginning by focusing on the Yasothorn Province, an area in Northeast Thailand facing increasingly irregular weather patterns characterized by flash flooding and droughts.

Thongsan Juangsang is a farmer in the Yasothorn Province. “When farming season came, I would always have rice seedlings to transplant to the paddy fields. Farming is something I rely on to make a living. But nowadays, rice seedlings barely survive until the transplanting period and those that do survive are not able to mature into rice plants.”

There is very little irrigation in the Yasothorn Province, the groundwater is often saline, and as the water tables are low, the farmers must rely entirely on rain to irrigate their crops. The farmers began to recognize that many of the methods of organic and sustainable farming could play an extremely important role in helping them adapt. Practices such as installing ponds and artesian wells, using local organic fertilizers, enhancing biodiversity, and gaining self-sufficiency in food and fuel increased the resilience of their farms and enabled them to thrive, despite the challenges caused by climate change.

Iam Sompheng is a farmer from the Yasoothorn Province who began farming organically in 1996. “All the good wild vegetables have returned, and I am seeing many herbs and vegetables that I have not seen in 30-40 years. Diversifying has helped in that rice...
production is no longer sufficient in itself. Now we earn much more per day selling organic veggies and produce. Also, the organic fields hold the moisture better.”

As a low emission, high sequestration farming system, organic agriculture significantly reduces the contribution of farming to global warming. Emissions are much lower due primarily to the use of local renewable plant-based inputs rather than synthetic nitrogen fertilizers which are energy-intensive to produce and transported over long distances to farms, where they release high levels of greenhouse gases.

While Thailand’s organic farmers work to address the issues of climate change at home, IFOAM continues to provide information and a forum for exchange of knowledge and ideas on a global level. By bringing relevant information to and from practitioners in the field, often through local members, IFOAM supports the work of these smallholders. IFOAM also assists farmers at the policy level by informing international policymakers and other influential players about the ability of organic farming to adapt to climate change and mitigate global warming.

At IFOAM’s Organic World Congress held in Modena, Italy in June 2008, an all-day workshop was held on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change. “The Organic World Congress was a wonderful learning experience for me,” said Vitoon, “especially the workshop on climate change. It had very usable information for me and the farmers associated with Green Net.”

“IFOAM has helped to make a difference in the lives of the farmers in Thailand,” observed Michael Commons of Green Net. “IFOAM’s work in addressing issues like climate change and providing forums where ideas are exchanged and knowledge is developed, has enabled small farmers to innovate and demonstrate organic agricultural practices that effectively address climate change impacts and reduce dependency on external inputs.”

In June, 2008 IFOAM representatives urged participants at events connected to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy in Rome to consider how organic agricultural practices can provide important solutions to climate change.

At its signature Organic World Congress held in Modena, Italy in June, 2008, IFOAM organized a full-day workshop, Organic Agriculture and Climate Change, which engaged large audiences on topics such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy use, and bioenergy and food security.

As a first step toward voicing the position of truly sustainable agriculture on a controversial topic, IFOAM prepared and distributed a background paper, How Organic are Agrifuels? – Assessing Agriculture-Based Biofuel Systems against the IFOAM Principles of Organic Agriculture.
Asrabai is a farmer from Dhangaon village in the Marathwada region of central India. She owns a two-acre farm where she grows millet and vegetables. For years, Asrabai worked alone and struggled to make a living. She sold her produce to a local middleman, who in turn sold it for a higher profit in the nearby city of Aurangabad.

But now, thanks to an innovative system championed by IFOAM, Asrabai has been able to join with other farmers to form the Aurangabad Organic Bazaar. Here, she interacts directly with her customers and educates them about her products and organic farming practices. By marketing her produce directly, Asrabai has developed new skills, built social capital, and increased her profits by 40%. The Aurangabad Organic Bazaar has been so successful that it now operates in 14 locations and has improved the livelihoods of thousands of farmers like Asrabai.

The system that has helped put Asrabai in control of her own fate is called a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). Through her PGS, Asrabai is now able to join with a network of farmers, producers, and consumers in the community to jointly certify their products as organic using a system of standards that have been developed to accommodate their own local needs. Built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange, Participatory Guarantee Systems are powerful tools for improving local socio-economic and ecological conditions of farmers and rural communities around the world, particularly in developing countries. With PGS, Asrabai is able to get her products recognized as organic without the prohibitive costs of traditional third-party organic certification. And in the process, farmers are able to learn from each other and enhance their knowledge of organic farming. Old traditional knowledge, which may have otherwise been lost, is now being practiced and passed on as a result of including some of the older farmers into the group.

IFOAM leads the world in advocating and supporting Participatory Guarantee Systems. Assisted by a team of PGS experts, IFOAM supports the development of PGS in India and countries all over the world as a means for smallholders to enter a system of committed organic production and to provide more consumers with high-quality organic products.

At last count, there are 237 local rural development groups working with PGS in India. One of these groups is the Keystone Foundation, which supports indigenous communities in the Nilgiris, a district in India’s southern state of Tamil Nadu. An IFOAM member, Keystone’s mission is to enhance the quality of life and the environment of these smallholders by using eco-development approaches. Keystone’s Director, Mathew John,
believes that PGS has been a vital tool for assisting in this mission. He states, “Participatory Guarantee Systems allow us to bring a large number of farmers into the organic fold who have not been able to access the third party systems of being certified organic.” Mathew has not only been facilitating PGS in his community but is currently an active member of IFOAM’s PGS committee. His participation enables him to support his local community and bring the Indian experience of PGS to the rest of the world via IFOAM.

The experience in India has shown that the major benefits from working with PGS are farmer learning and empowerment, facilitating development of local markets, encouraging community building, supporting local economies, building social capital, and supporting the growth of organic agriculture.

Mathew sees IFOAM as a vital partner in Keystone’s efforts. “IFOAM has helped us to coalesce our work by opening up a huge network of ideas and partners who are working on similar issues around the country and the world. It has brought together a whole set of institutions working on organic agriculture and focused on a very strong platform of Participatory Guarantee Systems.”

IFOAM’s work on Rural Development in 2008 emphasized Participatory Guarantee Systems as a powerful tool that empowers smallholders and producers to secure their income and build social capital in their community.

◆ In June 2008, IFOAM established the international definition of PGS. Participatory Guarantee Systems are locally focused quality assurance systems. They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks, and knowledge exchange.

◆ IFOAM developed a voluntary questionnaire in multiple languages for PGS participants to evaluate how they are meeting key PGS requirements. This tool is also being used by IFOAM to collect information about existing PGS worldwide and facilitate information exchange and network building.

◆ IFOAM established an online PGS platform providing a global overview of PGS initiatives and making available pertinent documents.
After years of domination by huge conventional coffee plantations, several hundred independent coffee farmers in the northern region of the Dominican Republic were finally returning to their roots by going organic. With organic coffee in high demand around the world, the Dominican Republic had found a promising niche on the international market. Communities that had been hit hard by poverty were feeling renewed possibility and prosperity thanks to conversion to organic farming and group certification, an innovative system developed by IFOAM. Believing it imperative that smallholders are not marginalized and unduly excluded from the organic sector due to factors beyond their control, IFOAM has been developing criteria for group certification since 1994.

This system enables smallholders to be certified as a group through an internal control system, which is inspected each year by a third party certification body. Farmers organized in such groups receive oversight and training through the group’s internal control system in ways that are consistent with their language and culture. Benefits include not only making certification financially feasible for the farmers, but also providing knowledge exchange and training. Group certification has improved the lives of not only the smallholders in the Dominican Republic but hundreds of thousands of farmers worldwide, allowing them access to international organic markets and the enhanced income associated with them.

Gabino Justino Peguero is an organic coffee farmer in the Dominican Republic. “As a small individual farmer, I would not be able to sell my crop for export,” states Gabino. “By joining with a group, I have access to the larger markets. I am able to meet the costs, and the burden on my family is much less.”

But in 2007, the promise of a better life that group certification had brought to smallholders in the Dominican Republic was threatened. Taking a strictly technical approach to its organic regulation, the USDA in the United States considered that it would not allow group certification. The result of such a decision would have meant an immediate and sustained loss of market access for most developing country smallholders producing organic products exported to the United States, the world’s largest organic market.

It was essential for IFOAM to react to this issue immediately and defend the interests, not only of the smallholders but of the organic sector as a whole. Beginning in 2007 and throughout 2008, IFOAM worked with both the USDA National Organic Program...
NOP) and its advisory body, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), educating them on the mechanisms and benefits of group certification and suggesting new USDA guidelines that would be consistent with the NOP regulation. To reinforce this information IFOAM organized its members and partners to submit similar comments.

As a result of these efforts, in November 2008, the National Organic Standards Board recommended group certification guidelines consistent with the suggestions developed and promoted by IFOAM, creating a path for the USDA to retain group certification under the US organic regulation.

By continuing its work to support and protect group certification, IFOAM assures smallholders around the world of a credible and effective certification system for access to international markets, and keeps alive the prosperity and the possibility that has returned to the Dominican Republic.

**Market Access**

- Aiming to preserve smallholders’ organic market access in the United States, IFOAM supplied historical and technical information on group certification to the technical committee assigned to draft a National Standards Board recommendation on group certification for the USDA National Organic Program. IFOAM representatives also met with USDA officials in Washington D.C. and delivered oral comments on the issue at the National Organic Standards Board meetings.

- Seeking to enhance market access for smallholders, IFOAM joined other members of the International Social and Environmental Labeling Alliance (ISEAL) to explore ways to harmonize and streamline group certification requirements across various labeling schemes, e.g. fair trade and organic. IFOAM participated in a working group that benchmarked group certification criteria and identified essential good practices for inclusion in an ISEAL guide on group certification requirements.
The New Green Revolution purports to increase the productivity of small farms while significantly reducing poverty and hunger in Africa, mainly through improved hybrid seeds and chemical fertilizers. But, history proves that green revolutions of the past did not solve world hunger problems. For example, the first Green Revolution introduced in the 1970-90s in Asia was far from being a sustainable solution to poverty and hunger; instead it resulted in farmers’ dependency on expensive chemical inputs, land degradation and desertification, destruction of natural resources, a dramatic decrease in ground-water levels, and farmers’ suicides due to increasing debts.

Africa may experience the same problems, or worse. The costly technological packages of the Green Revolution -- new seed varieties, genetically modified crops, and chemical farm inputs -- will shift African agriculture to a system dependent on expensive agro-chemicals and hybrid seeds. This shift will not only lead to farmer indebtedness but to the destruction of Africa’s agro-biodiversity and natural resources, which are the very foundation of agriculture.

The recent report by the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) – an intergovernmental process supported by over 400 experts and many UN agencies – concludes that there is an urgent need to move away from destructive and chemical-dependent industrial agriculture and focus on small-scale farmers and agro-ecological farming to avert the current food crisis and meet the needs of local communities in a sustainable way.

Organic agriculture, though still not widely implemented in Africa, reduces poverty and hunger by establishing sustainable livelihoods for farm families and their communities. Organic systems deliver a high number and degree of ecosystem services and rural development benefits while maintaining and often increasing agricultural productivity, which is essential to Africa’s sustainable development. In the Tigray region of Ethiopia, yields of crops under organic soil management were 3 to 5 times higher than those treated only with chemicals. In Ghana, rural women have increased their income over 90 percent through the collection, processing, and trade of certified organic Shea nuts. This means a huge improvement in the well-being of their children and households as well as a contribution to the development of the local community.

Despite these benefits, organic agriculture receives little support from African governments and is not integrated into the main agriculture policies. The absence of national policy statements on organic agriculture is a major constraint to the development of the organic sector. But slowly, policymakers across Africa are beginning to realize that the answer to
their food security problems is organic farming. In Uganda, where farmers comprise 80% of the population, thousands of smallholders are increasing their incomes by converting to organic farming and tapping into the growing organic marketplace.

The private sector has been instrumental in shifting the attention of government policymakers to organic agriculture. For example, with support from IFOAM and other partners, The National Organic Agricultural Movement of Uganda (NOGAMU) was formed in 2001 as a member organization to unite farmers, producers, exporters, and other stakeholders in the development and promotion of organic agriculture. An active IFOAM member, NOGAMU now represents over 35,000 farmers and maintains a broad agenda including policy advocacy, production, research, training and education, certification, and market access.

Over the last three years, a primary focus of NOGAMU has been to work with the Ugandan government to develop the first Organic Agricultural Policy. With help from IFOAM and other global organizations, NOGAMU drafted the policy to address the growing need for governmental support in opening up further opportunities for growth in the organic sector. Once adopted, the organic policy will clearly spell out the plans and direction that the government can take to support the further development of organic agriculture. Having an organic policy in place offers access to financial resources, educational and training programs, and increased market opportunities for organic farmers. Not only that, but it secures a platform for future discussions with the Ugandan government about adopting agro-ecological agriculture as its main strategy for sustainable development.

According to Moses Muwanga, Chief Executive Officer of NOGAMU and IFOAM board member, “IFOAM played a key role in the development process of this policy. Providing essential information and evidence, IFOAM was critical to us in convincing government officials of organic agriculture’s proven track record and further inspiring our vision of truly sustainable development in Uganda.”

Ifoam Addresses

Public Policy

- Cooperating with Greenpeace and other global organizations, IFOAM successfully upheld agro-ecological farming as the new direction for agriculture proposed by the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology Development (IAASTD). According to the IAASTD Report, this farming system, which is best exemplified by organic agriculture, ‘would recognize farming communities, farm households, and farmers as producers and managers of ecosystems.’

- In Ethiopia, IFOAM joined with the African Union, FAO, and the Ethiopian Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development to enable stakeholders from Africa and international institutions to map the way forward for ecological agriculture in Africa.

- Bringing together members of its knowledge network in West Africa, IFOAM empowered them with tools and techniques for securing policy support for organic agriculture from governments and other institutions.
Graziano Poggioli, Chancellor of Food and Agriculture for Italy’s Modena Province from 2004-2008, wanted to further his vision of showcasing the province as a world-class example of sustainable development. A pioneer for organic agriculture in the region, Graziano shared his vision with his colleagues from the regional government of Emilia Romagna and the private sector. Joint discussions about implementing their vision led to a proposal for the local and regional governments to partner with IFOAM and host IFOAM’s 2008 Organic World Congress in Modena.

“We chose Cultivate the Future as the title of the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress, because we believe that the contribution made by organic agriculture is fundamental for guaranteeing generations to come with a healthy, fair, correct environment for harmonious living that respects people and the earth. The Modena area boasts a centuries old agro-food tradition that is a benchmark for world food and wine, and the development and growth of organic agriculture plays a central role, from both an economic point of view and also in preservation of the land itself.”

From the beginning, the governments’ goals for hosting IFOAM’s Organic World Congress were clear: share the principles of organic agriculture with a larger segment of the rural community, increase organic production and distribution in their region a minimum of 10%, network with the global organic community, facilitate knowledge and training for local producers and policymakers, and use this as an opportunity for all stakeholders in the organic and fair trade community to work together.

In 2005, the government established the public-private consortium, ModenaBio, to organize the 2008 Congress. “From the beginning, we knew that nothing could be accomplished without the cooperation of private organizations and the involvement of farmers and traders. It was important to include the entire organic community in the planning process.”

ModenaBio’s Executive Director, Paola Bonfreschi, began to hold meetings with farmer associations, local distributors, and government officials to establish strategies centered on the Congress. As one result, ModenaBio formed an agreement with a large distributor to offer a discounted price on all organic products during the month of June when the Congress was being held. According to Paola, working closely with IFOAM was invaluable in getting her job done. “IFOAM’s stamp of approval as an international body gave me the credibility I needed to speak to various stakeholders and encourage their participation in the Congress. They provided the appropriate language for me to communicate clearly our
goals and objectives to everyone involved.”

One year later, the results were in. During the Congress and beyond there was a 20% increase in the sale of organic products. Distribution has increased and the working relationship between government officials and small producer associations has improved. Farmers markets have begun to appear in different communities and are providing more options for consumers to purchase organic products at a lower price.

When asked if she felt that the goals and objectives of having the Organic World Congress in Modena were achieved, Paola responded, “Absolutely. Through IFOAM’s global network, we gained access to knowledge and information from groups all over the world. Public and private sector stakeholders continue to work together for the growth of organic agriculture and regional sustainability. There are more organic producers and the understanding of organic agriculture’s benefits has greatly improved. Having the Organic World Congress in Modena gave us the opportunity to share our land and knowledge with others who have common goals and interests. It was good for our land and for our community.”

---

**Public/Private Cooperation**

- Cooperating with regional and local governments, IFOAM brought its worldwide network together at the Organic World Congress in Modena, Italy to share knowledge and cultivate the future of sustainable agriculture. The Congress sessions, attended by 1700 people from 110 countries, included topics on innovation and ecosystem services in organic agriculture, government agricultural policies, indigenous knowledge, women’s roles, and accessing organic markets.

- IFOAM and its partners, FAO and UNCTAD, successfully concluded the *International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF)*, which identified ways to reduce barriers to organic trade arising from the proliferation of organic standards and regulations. The Task Force was a cooperation of representatives from 29 countries, 8 intergovernmental agencies, and 25 civil society and private sector organizations. At its final meeting in 2008, the ITF launched two practical tools and several recommendations to foster equivalence and harmonization among government organic regulations and private guarantee systems.
Financial Summary

*as of December 31, 2008*

### Income Statement

**(Euros x 1000)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Audited 2008</th>
<th>Audited 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project income*</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>1,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,592</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,969</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>828</td>
<td>768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project expenses</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>1,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,590</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,887</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net result
Allocation to appropriated reserves
Result

* Project income includes overheads from projects

### Balance Sheet

**(Euros x 1000)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Audited 2008</th>
<th>Audited 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank accounts</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member fees due</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial assets</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets (equipment + software)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading stock</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>462</strong></td>
<td><strong>696</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project funds</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated reserves</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit/Loss</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>462</strong></td>
<td><strong>696</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Rounding differences +/-1 within the calculations may occur)
Giving Thanks to Our Donors and Program Funders for Their Support in 2008

IFOAM Growing Organic II
and The IFOAM Africa Office

International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalency

Africa Pavilion at BioFach

Development, Production and Trade of Organic Tea in China and India

Sponsorship Program for the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress

Building Capacities on Certification of OA in the Pacific

Enhancing Market Access for African Organic Products

Elaboration of a Manual for an Effective Enhancement of Biodiversity on Organic Farms

Establishment of a Technology Platform for the Organic Food Sector and Regional Development
and Development of a Research Agenda for the Organic Food Sector

Support of the IFOAM Internship Program

In-kind contributions:
Lebensbaum
Rapunzel
City of Bonn
Acknowledgements

produced in cooperation with John Beske Communications
Written by Prem Glidden
Designed by John Beske
Edited by Diane Bowen

Thanks to the following for contributing to this report
Paola Bonfreschi, ModenaBio
Hervé Bouagnimbeck, IFOAM
Michael Commons, Green Net
Antonio Compagnoni, ICEA
Patricia Flores Escudero, IFOAM
Monique Fuhrmann, IFOAM
Mathew John, Keystone Foundation
Robert Jordan, IFOAM
Inger Kallander, Consultant to SSNC
Joelle Katto, IFOAM
Moses Muwanga, NOGAMU/IFOAM
Vitoon Panyakul, Green Net
Moises Quispe, ANPE
Catherine Reynolds, IFOAM
Roberto Ugas, IFOAM
Anna Wissmann, IFOAM
Arnd Zschocke, IFOAM

IFOAM World Board

President: Katherine DiMatteo, USA
Vice President: Andre Leu, Australia
Vice President: Roberto Ugas, Peru
Jacqueline Haessig Alleje, Philippines
Moses Kiggundu Muwanga, Uganda
Masaya Koriyama, Japan
Ong Kung Wai, Malaysia
Urs Niggli, Switzerland
Fabio Piccioli, Italy
Vanaja Ramprasad, India
Health, Ecology, Fairness, Care

Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment, promote fair relationships and create a good quality of life for all involved.

Join our network to advance Organic Agriculture. Together we have the power to change the way food is produced, transformed and traded... For our own health and the health of the environment.

Make a Difference!
Your support is vital.
Take a stand for organic: help now!

Visit: www.organicworldfoundation.org

Our Nature is Organic