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These days, the word ‘crisis’ is everywhere. Ecological crises are resource challenges such as preserving clean water, fertile soils, biodiversity and climate balance. The most pressing social crises are poverty and the one billion – disgracefully more than ever – hungry people. Not only does the economic crisis include the banking crisis, but also the transformations in agriculture that force smallholder farmers out of their means of subsistence. The world is in urgent need of alternatives to the past development strategies that have obviously failed!

Awareness about organic approaches to sustainability is growing. The 2009 FAO High Level Expert Forum and the 2009 Food Summit, both with IFOAM’s presence, revealed leaders humbled by these undeniable crises. Only a few dared to advocate for a second green revolution and few expressed the belief that technological fixes alone can eradicate hunger. The IFOAM message of ‘Farmers First!’ is increasingly being heard. This is, however, just the first little step in the right direction. Investments are still wasted on satisfying the interests of the agro-industry or on conventional research. Land grabbing is just one example of a phenomenon resulting from inappropriate policies. It would not happen if organic was recognized as a guiding policy for governments at all levels, for non-governmental organizations in the global North and South and for the corporate stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

Katherine DiMatteo - IFOAM President
The Organic World in 2009 at a Glance

“Organic farming has been shown to provide major benefits for wild-life and the wider environment.”

Prince Charles, U.K.

There are 67 million hectares of land, organically managed by 1.4 million certified producers. Non-certified producers, for which no official figures exist, are presumed to represent the total of certified producers many times over.


Source: IFOAM & FiBL, The World of Organic Agriculture 2010
Our **VISION** is the worldwide adoption of ecologically, socially, and economically sound systems that are based on the principles of organic agriculture.

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

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IFOAM in 2009 at a Glance

**Managing IFOAM**

- Governance & Services
  - Media & Inquiries
  - Organic Monitoring
  - Network Development
  - Thomas Cierpka (Senior Administration & HR Manager)

- Network Development

- Organic Monitoring

- Media & Inquiries

- Publications

- Membership

- IFOAM Brand

- Information Platform

**Umbrella**

- Denise Godinho (Membership & Communications Manager)

- Events

- Information Platform

**Advocacy**

- Robert Jordan (Advocacy Manager)

- Speaking out for Organic

- Campaigns

- Networking

- Conferences

- Policy Monitoring

**Value Chain**

- Value Chain

- GOMA

- PGS Project

- IFOAM Accreditation

**Programs**

- Programs

- I-GO

- Tea Project

- Africa Manual

- Other Projects

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The IFOAM World Board (from left to right and back to front): Roberto Ugas, Katherine DiMatteo, André Leu, Urs Niggli, Vanaja Ramprasad, Jacquelie Haessig-Alleje, Masaya Koriyama, Ong Kung Wai, Fabio Piccioli, Moses Kiggundu Muwanga.

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IFOAM’s strategic hub

“Many organic practices simply make sense.”

David Suzuki, Canada

In 2009 Diane Bowen served 6 months as Interim E.D.
IFOAM 2009: Our Activities

IFOAM Changes Its Face

A new IFOAM team full of fresh ideas at a time when solidarity is rare and donor support is phasing out.

Hundreds of presentations in the name of IFOAM, Participatory Guarantee System workshops, the Breeding Diversity conference, a strong organic delegation at the Copenhagen climate change negotiations, the launch of the Global Organic Market Access Project, but to name a few. All these activities contribute in 2009 to a more sustainable world in which smallholder farmers can feed the world in harmony with nature.

At the office, the Executive Director, three out of four Managers and many of the staff begin their assignments. This is a critical moment for IFOAM: There are fresh ideas and new power, but team building and the integration of new ideas with previous experience and achievements requires attention. The new team is forced to look inward to ensure its own future, as long-term, substantial support from Hivos phases out. The subsequent dramatic decline in the operating budget greatly challenges the continued provision of invaluable services to the organic world. At the end of 2009, a new strategy is ready to be presented to IFOAM’s membership. The strategy process results in IFOAM’s five pillars - the organic umbrella, organic advocacy, the organic value chain and organic programs - which will meet the needs of the expanding organic movement by providing a stronger organic umbrella and a stronger global action network.

“The resilience of our food supply lies in more diversity.”

Hans Herren, Switzerland
The Organic Umbrella. IFOAM’s membership - close to 800 Affiliates from 116 countries - is its most important asset. Creating forums where experiences and know-how can be shared, unites and strengthens the global organic movement.

The 1st IFOAM International Conference on Organic Animal & Plant Breeding, held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, brings together around 150 participants for the 4-day event. In 59 parallel sessions, experts from across the globe discuss the importance of genetic diversity and other related issues.

Giving continuity to its thematic leadership, IFOAM brings cutting-edge topics to the fore and provides its Affiliates the opportunity to network and exchange knowledge during organized meetings at the BioFach trade global trade fair in Germany and also at the regional BioFach trade fairs in the USA, China, India, Latin America and Japan.

In addition to the many regular IFOAM publications, two new studies and one guide are launched to stimulate critical thinking and give practical advice on how to fulfill the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture: ‘Organic Agriculture & Women’s Empowerment: Analytical Case Studies from around the World’; ‘How Organic Are Agrofuels? Assessing Agriculture-Based Biofuel Systems; and the ‘Guide to Biodiversity and Landscape Quality.’

Achievements

- IFOAM breeding conference;
- Participation in 9 trade fairs;
- 20 newsletters;
- Articles in non-IFOAM publications;
- Statistics book;
- Membership directory;
- 6 other publications.

Breeding Conference in Santa Fe, USA: Visit to the Seeds of Change farm.
**Organic Advocacy.** Multinational agro-chemical and seed companies are relentlessly targeting smallholders in some of the poorest countries. IFOAM does not stop shouting its message loud and clear: ‘People before commodities!’

IFOAM’s participation in the Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) ‘High Level Expert Forum on How to Feed the World in 2050’ ensures that organic agriculture’s role in safeguarding food security and livelihoods is duly noted. Victory for this ‘Food Security & Livelihoods Campaign’: FAO’s Director-General Jacques Diouf acknowledges that “organic agriculture contributes to hunger and poverty reduction and should be promoted.”

In a side event on ‘Growing genetic resources in organic agriculture’ at the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), IFOAM advocates for organic’s role in safeguarding nature’s resources and optimizing their usage.

Through IFOAM’s ‘High Sequestration, Low Emission, Food Secure Farming’ campaign, the organic movement is represented at the Copenhagen climate change negotiations, COP 15. Taking advantage of the interest in climate change discussions, a suite of three publications and case studies are developed to showcase how organic agriculture can affordably and sustainably mitigate and adapt to climate change.

In Africa, IFOAM builds awareness among policy makers of the potential of organic agriculture to improve local food accessibility and livelihoods.

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**Achievements**

- Climate change campaign launch;
- 3 climate change publications;
- 4 press releases;
- Participation in 8 major U.N. events.

UNIDO: IFOAM’s E.D. explains why organic agriculture is an opportunity for the world.
Organic Value Chain. Alternative certification schemes are often eyed with suspicion, but they reduce costs and benefit smallholders. IFOAM promotes new alternatives to improve market access and reduce trade barriers.

2009 heralds the turning point in a 5-year process, as intensive dialogue with all stakeholders results in an agreement on the revision of the Organic Guarantee System. The concept of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) is now actively integrated into IFOAM’s strategic direction. Promotion of PGS by raising awareness and building capacity thereof is achieved in international workshops (e.g. in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Italy and Sri Lanka), and through the dissemination of relevant material and the launch of the monthly Global PGS Newsletter.

In 2008 IFOAM saw, as a result of intensive lobbying efforts, group certification being accepted by the National Organic Standards Board of the USA. IFOAM continues to liaise with the U.S. Administration to ensure that group certification is integrated into national regulations. A study is carried out to evaluate reactions to a possible extension of the scope of applicability of group certification.

In collaboration with FAO and UNCTAD, IFOAM seeks to reduce organic trade barriers and facilitate recognition for organic labeling through the launch of the Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) project, specifically targeting Asia and Latin America.

Achievements

- OGS development;
- Global PGS Newsletter launch;
- 12 PGS events;
- Study on Group Certification;
- Launch of GOMA project.

A Participatory Guarantee System: Field inspections.
Organic Programs. I-GO, FOAM’s biggest ever project, is concluded after 8 years: Organic agriculture in the South is encouraged and small-scale farmers are empowered through knowledge.

I-GO II reaches its end. The mission to develop organic agriculture in the global South is accomplished through awareness-raising, capacity-building and the development of market access. Africa is a priority, and activities consciously target the continent:

Through the Africa Pavilion at BioFach, producers are linked to buyers, developing their international networks. The African Manual brings together the knowledge and regional influence of three national organic movements - Uganda, Senegal and Zambia - to create a handbook for organic agriculture that is easy to use and understand. A fund-raising, capacity-building workshop contributes to the institutional development of national organic movements. Representatives from 9 countries learn how to generate income in order to minimize their reliance on external sources of funding. Finally, the 1st African Organic Conference is held in Kampala, attracting 255 participants from 27 countries.

The CFC project on the development and production of organic tea in China and India is well underway. In India, field trials are carried out and research results evaluated. In China, inspectors are trained and the capacity of OTRDC, our local partner, greatly increases. Through an agreement for cooperation with the Soil Association, OTRDC is now a Soil Association inspection body, allowing farmers to become certified and sell their produce to the U.K. market.

Achievements
• 8 project agreements;
• 18 training workshops;
• Focus on the global South.

Organic Tea Project: Joelle Katto-Andrighetto examines freshly harvested tea leaves.
The Value Chain in Focus

Organic Producers. When sensitively combined with the needs and traditional knowledge of smallholders, organic farming can strengthen their farming systems and increase productivity, resilience and independence.

70% of the world’s food is produced by a web of small producers, including 1.5 billion smallholder farmers. These farmers form the backbone of food security in the developing world. They are also the creators and custodians of the world’s agricultural biodiversity and they nurture our climate change adaptation potential, which depends on genetic diversity. However, these producers are being squeezed from all sides, often ending up in a vicious cycle of debt-bondage.

Under the guise of feeding 70% more people by 2050, agro-chemical companies are aggressively targeting smallholders in a systematic effort to integrate them into their value chains. However, rather than ‘outsourcing’ productivity and resilience to chemical companies, smallholders require support to strengthen their farming systems through ecological intensification. Ecological knowledge applied in the form of ecological practices is the key to high yielding, resilient organic farming systems. Composting, rotations, inter-cropping and other practices stimulate and intensify ecological functions such as nutrient cycling, pollination, carbon sequestration, and pest and disease regulation. Resilience to droughts, soil erosion, floods and heat, as well as decreased dependence on fossil fuel-intensive inputs, strengthen smallholder performance and independence.

Another challenge faced by small-
scale farmers is displacement and the subsequent loss of livelihoods. Farmers and pastoralists are being displaced by a global land grab, fuelled by governments of food-insecure countries and by private investors taking advantage of high international food prices, low land values and cheap labor costs. Land in some of the world’s poorest and hungriest countries is now in the control of foreign governments and companies. These developments turn local producers into consumers and decrease local food accessibility. As a consequence there is increased reliance on international food markets, making local people more vulnerable, dependent and hungry.

Climate change is making farming harder. In many areas, farmers need support to cope with the unsustainable exploitation of resources resulting from population growth and poor agricultural practices. Increases in temperature and the frequency of droughts stifle production capability further. Capacity building is required in the ecological intensification of farms to regenerate and stabilize degraded lands, raise water tables’ water-holding capacity, increase economic and environmental resilience and lift production. Given the anticipated shifts in regional climates and the rapid spread of pest and diseases, scientific research is needed to help smallholders accelerate breeding programs.

IFOAM’s role will continue to be to bring these messages to international forums like the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN climate change negotiations and the World Summit on Food Security. In particular IFOAM is fighting for greater recognition and protection of smallholder farmers within the UN, where climate policies, mechanisms and funding could have a catastrophic effect on global warming, biodiversity loss and food security if industrial agriculture, rather than smallholder farming, is incentivized.
**Processing and Trade.** Consumers pay more for products that they perceive to be of higher quality. The challenge? Communicating ‘Organic.’

Consumer demand for organic products is concentrated in North America and Europe. These two regions alone account for 97% of global sales, worth an estimated 50.9 billion U.S. dollars in 2008 and, despite the financial crisis, the global market for organic products continues to grow in 2009.

For now, affluent countries continue to be the main consumers of organic products; this is what official figures reveal. It is, however, estimated that around 10,000 of small operators are involved in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) worldwide, producing organic food for local markets and their own consumption. Figures on the volume of organic produce thus traded are still unknown, although recognition for this concept is growing and it is now viewed by many as one of the most promising tools for developing local organic markets, especially in less favored regions or countries.

A challenge faced by manufacturers is that consumers are faced with a proliferation of ‘sustainable’ products that dilute the identity of organic. Although organic by definition holistically embraces concepts like ‘fair’ and ‘locally produced,’ socio-environmental standard systems are appropriating the meaning of organic. Assuring that ‘organic’ remains an effective, easily communicable concept that consumers associate with social, environmental, economic and personal benefits, is a necessary, albeit difficult, task. New requirements to satisfy customer demand for products that reflect and guarantee their ethical choices at every level of the supply chain, from field to plate, from raw material to packaging, will continue. Inevitably, manufacturers’ ability to respond to these demands while integrating innovative approaches into their operations, will determine their competitiveness.
**Organic Services and Development.** The vision of a world with sustainable agriculture and product supply is advanced by a rapidly growing organic support sector united by IFOAM.

To fulfill the dream of a sustainable rural world, based on the principles of organic agriculture, IFOAM unites a multitude of institutions whose activities strengthen the organic value chain from outside of it. They contribute through: the representation of national organic movements (e.g. NOGAMU, Uganda), research (e.g. FiBL, Switzerland), standards development (e.g. Soil Association, UK), certification (e.g. Ecocert, globally), consultancies (e.g. Grolink, globally), advocacy work (e.g. BÖLW, Germany), network building (e.g. Avalon in Central Asia), the funding or implementation of development projects (e.g. SIDA in East Africa), media and communication work (e.g. Organic Processing Magazine, USA) or the organization of events (e.g. Menope, Arabic Emirates).

**2009 Highlights**

- Out of several million organic farmers and processors, 1.5 million are certified by one of 488 organic certification bodies. 27 Participatory Guarantee System initiatives, including 3913 farmers, are certified in 18 countries.

- The Organic Research Centre Alliance (ORCA), initiated in 2009, unites 9 institutions, including IFOAM and FAO, committed to mainstreaming organic in scientific research for more diverse, more resilient and more socially just food production models.

- BioFach Global Fairs - under the patronage of IFOAM - organized 6 leading trade fairs in Germany, in the USA, Brazil, China, India and Japan.

- Development cooperation donors increasingly recognize that investing in agricultural programs more consistently leads to poverty alleviation than the funding of other sectors - and that investments in organic agriculture are even more effective. In 2009, Hivos is the leading agency fighting poverty through the adoption of organic approaches.

- IFOAM’s daughter company IOAS, (International Organic Accreditation Service), the Organic World Foundation (registered in 2009), and 10 IFOAM groups (independent organizations carrying the IFOAM name, e.g. IFOAM EU) complement IFOAM by implementing the IFOAM-Accreditation, fundraising, networking and lobbying.
COOL FARMING FOR A HEATED PLANET

HIGH SEQUESTRATION, LOW EMISSION, FOOD SECURE FARMING. Scaling up climate-cooling, high sequestration, low emission farming practices: Organic farming as a tool to strengthen the world’s small food producers.

Rather than jump on the carbon band wagon, IFOAM is endeavoring to provide guidance within the international climate change negotiations.

Organic agricultural systems sequester on average 560 kg of CO2 per hectare per year more than conventional systems in temperate regions. In tropical regions the difference lies at an average of 1 tonne of CO2 per hectare. These benefits, however, could potentially be dwarfed by the devastating impacts of industrial agriculture, should agriculture as a whole be recognized and rewarded as carbon sinks in climate policies.

Industrial agriculture accounts for approximately 32% of greenhouse gas emissions. The majority of these emissions are not accounted for under agriculture. The conversion of primary ecosystems, such as rainforests and savannahs, into meat, oil and soy-based animal feed production is accounted for under the category of ‘land use changes.’ The manufacture and distribution of fossil fuel intensive chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are accounted for under energy and transport categories respectively. As a result, only the ‘on-farm’ or ‘direct’
emissions, which amount to 14% of total global greenhouse gas emissions, are officially allocated to the agriculture sector.

The inclusion of agriculture in climate policies, mechanisms and finance can be expected to incentivize whatever type of farming is able to accurately measure, report and verify (MRV) carbon sequestration. Small and complex farms like organic farms would be disadvantaged by facing much higher MRV costs than large and simple industrial farms based on monocultures. They would be further disadvantaged as it is unlikely that ‘indirect’ agricultural emissions from land use changes and input manufacture would be penalized. Rewarding farmers for sequestrating carbon while ignoring their indirect emissions would subsidize ecosystem destruction and biodiversity loss, encourage land grabbing and the displacement of small producers and the agro-biodiversity they nurture, and reduce food accessibility, thereby significantly increasing hunger and starvation – all in the name of climate change mitigation.

In order to have sufficient economies of scale to even access carbon markets and carbon finance, smallholders would need to be organized into groups. IFOAM believes that organizing farmers should serve the primary purpose of establishing a platform for capacity building in eco-intensification. Farmers can be brought into organic production systems that increase the resilience and performance of their farming systems. Such initiatives could potentially also become a vehicle for accessing adaptation funds - one area in which climate policy could significantly benefit small-scale farmers.
Farmers First to Feed the World. One billion hungry people is unacceptable. ‘Farmers First!’ strategies, empowering peasant families with organic methods, are real alternatives to so far unsuccessful conventional agriculture strategies.

The food security situation has worsened in recent years and reached a sad record of over one billion hungry people in 2009. The current world food supply provides, after losses, 2786 kcal per person and day, i.e. 10-25% more than the caloric requirement of a healthy adult. Main causes for hunger are not undersupply but poverty and insufficient livelihood opportunities. In sub-Saharan Africa, smallholder farmers account for both 90% of agricultural production and 73% of Africa’s rural poor. Worldwide, 75% of all hungry people live in rural areas and have the potential to produce sufficient foodstuffs. Yet, people lack access to healthy resources (e.g. land, water, and seeds), locally adapted agriculture strategies and knowledge to adapt to environmental challenges such as climate change and economic crises.

Agriculture, within the next decades, is expected to increase its productivity by 70%, while at the same time coping with soil erosion, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity and climate change scenarios. The most recent debate on agriculture and food security is characterized by a renaissance of productivity-oriented strategies. Some of them rely on technoscientific large-scale agribusiness options which profit from economies of scale in a considerable way but are neither ecologically nor socially sustainable, nor are they efficient in land use. However, addressing the problem of ‘how to feed the world in 2050’ is not so much a challenge of

The 4 Principles

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.
productivity. The proposed ‘second green revolution’ does not provide an answer to the challenge of providing the underprivileged access to healthy food and neglects the priority of the poor to have access to resources and appropriate farming systems, and develop personal skills.

Organic farming is a powerful tool based on the utilization of biodiversity. Farming communities relying on their ecosystems and traditions, combined with the innovation of organic research and experience, improve their soils, animal welfare and their families’ livelihood. Statistics show that organic farmers in industrialized countries have a higher income than their conventional colleagues. Impact studies in developing countries reveal increased resilience and prove that farming communities taking up organic agricultural practices consume a more varied diet and enjoy better health. It is widely known that yields of organic crops are slightly lower in temperate zones, with optimal conditions particularly in the first years after conversion. However, it is also widely ignored that organic farmers achieve higher yields on marginal land. Overall, organic agriculture performs similarly with less investment. With a strategy of eco-intensification, it is possible, even in the future, to feed the world with organic agriculture.

**Livelihood Cases**

**Food on cotton fields:** The organic cotton market developed from US$ 240 million to US$ 5 billion in only eight years. 250’000 ha in 22 countries in Asia and Africa cultivated by small producers are the basis for improved livelihoods for 222’000 farming families. The introduction of crop rotation rather than monoculture assures food production for self consumption of women and children.

**Regaining unproductive soils:** How to regain degenerated land or desert with organic agriculture and holistic, people-centered approaches is showcased by the Tigray and Sekem initiatives in Ethiopia and Egypt. Thousands of people found confidence in their ability to feed their families, and, as a result, the government of Ethiopia put organic practices at the heart of national agriculture development policies. Egypt supports rewarding organic agriculture in the climate change debate. Like many other organic pioneers, the initiators were awarded with the Alternative Nobel Prize.

**Cooperatives for the benefit of the community:** El Ceibo and many other cooperatives in the lowlands of Bolivia and Peru find prosperity for their communities, well known for their organic cocoa and coffee production. Their principle is to respect life, cultures and the environment in their sensitive forest ecosystems, breaking out of the exploitative conventional agriculture system. Their success also entails everything from an improved diet to better retirement provisions, health care and educational support for the communities.
We thank all our Affiliates, Donors, Supporters and Volunteers!

**Donors:**

- **Over 250,000€**
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- **100,000-250,000€**
  - Norad, Norway
- **50,000-100,000€**
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  - Daejeon Organic Agriculture, S. Korea
  - Gosan Agricultural Coop., S. Korea
  - Gyeonggi Province Agricultural Tech. Center, S. Korea
  - Hanon Restoration, S. Korea
  - INOFAM, S. Korea
  - Jingeun Agricultural Coop., S. Korea
  - Korean Fed. for Sust. Agriculture Organizations, S. Korea
  - Korea Organic Farming Association, S. Korea
  - Migeum Agricultural Coop., S. Korea
  - Organic Materials Lab, S. Korea
  - Paldang Saemyung Salim Solidarity, S. Korea
  - Paldang Saemyung Salim Solidarity Coop., S. Korea
  - Wabu Agricultural Coop., S. Korea
  - Yangpyeong Nadri, S. Korea
  - Bisolbi Inter, Russia
  - Institute for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia
  - Wong Oi Lee, Malaysia

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*In nature’s economy the currency is not money, it is life.*

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**Vandana Shiva, India**
Organic agriculture is a production system that sustains the health of soil, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved.