as a federation and of a global action network are both stated. The proposed title, including the new addition (in orange) to the statutes, read as follows: “Statutes of an international federation and global action network that joins the efforts of its members to further Organic Agriculture as an ecologically, socially and economically sound and sustainable system of farming.”

Motion 52: For: 15 (8%) Against: 165 Motion FAILED

AGENDA POINT 53: IFOAM SELF-ORGANIZED STRUCTURES MOTION

Motion 53: Empowered Self-Organized Structures

The World Board suggested including the self-organized structures in the statutes and suggests giving voting rights to Regional Bodies. This motion was split into three parts:

• Introduction of a new Chapter: “11. Self-Organized Structures. Self-organized and self-governed coalitions and organizations sharing the visions, principles and positions of IFOAM can get the right of being a self-organized IFOAM body, carrying the name of IFOAM based on a World Board decision. Those organizations focus their activities regionally (IFOAM Regional Bodies), thematically (IFOAM Sector Platforms) or they are owned by IFOAM (IFOAM daughter organizations).”

Friendly amendment by Raymond Auerbach, seconded by Heike Kirsten, to include a reference to ‘coalitions’ (in green). The amendment was accepted by the WB and followed by a vote for acceptance of the amended motion.

Motion 53.1: For: 165 (76%) Against: 52 Abstain: 18 Motion PASSED

• 53.2 Voting rights for the Regional Bodies Chapter 5, General Assembly, paragraph 5 is adapted as follows (new in orange): “The General Assembly votes by simple majority. Members and IFOAM Regional Bodies have one vote each. ... “

Motion 53.2: For: 140 (75%) Against: 46 Motion PASSED

• 53.3 Representation rights for the Regional Bodies Chapter 5, General Assembly, paragraph 5 was adapted as follows (new in orange): “… Votes by written proxy are permitted, but restricted to a total of five, in the case of IFOAM Regional Bodies of ten votes per person.”

Motion 53.3: For: 110 Against: 106 Abstain: 10 Motion FAILED

Motion 53.4: For: 187 (84%) Against: 36 Abstain: 8 Motion PASSED

“All votes extended to the regional bodies apply to INOFO.”

Additional motion, 53.4, presented by Andrea Ferrante, seconded Sarvdaman Patel.

1st Round Election Results
Andre Leu 253 votes
Roberto Ugas 206 votes
Mathew John 190 votes
Matthew Holmes 181 votes
- -

2nd Round Election Results
James Cole 133 votes
Gabriela Soto 132 votes
Manjo Smith 123 votes
Eva Torremocha 112 votes
Frank Eyhorn 104 votes
Volkert Engelsmann 101 votes

Agenda Point 54: WB Term Motion

The new IFOAM World Board (left to right): Mathew John, Roberto Ugas (V.P.), Matthew Holmes, James Cole, Andre Leu (President), Manjo Smith, Frank Eyhorn, Eva Torremocha, Gabi Soto (V.P.), Volkert Engelsmann.
Motion 54: Six-year World Board Term and Staggered Elections
Originally stated in paragraph 7: “Every regular General Assembly elects ten World Board members.” To be replaced by: “Every regular General Assembly elects half of the World Board of ten members for a term of six years.”
Amendment proposed by Matthew Holmes, Seconded by Brian Baker: “The internal auditors, in consultation with the nomination committee will release to the membership a recommended board slate that will address the need for board continuity, as well as other considerations, including gender balance.”
Amendment was NOT accepted as an amendment and therefore discarded by the Chair.
Motion 54: For: 14 (6%) Against: 225 Abstain: 8 Motion FAILED

AGENDA POINT 55: WORLD BOARD GENDER QUOTA MOTION
Motion 55: 40% Gender Quota
The World Board suggests introducing a 40% gender quota for the World Board. This requires a new sentence in the statues in Paragraph 7 after the first sentence: “Each gender has to be represented in the World Board with a minimum of 40%.”
Motion 55: For: 75 (30%) Against: 169 Abstain: 8 Motion FAILED

AGENDA POINT 56: MEMBERSHIP FEE MOTION
Motion 56: Affiliation Fee System Revision
“The GA approves an adaptation of the affiliation fee system and proposes the system as published in In Action 107 on page 34 from 2012 onwards.”
The World Board presented the proposed membership fee system with a friendly amendment, proposed by Gunnar Rundgren and seconded by António Companioni and Gerold Hermann. The friendly amendment was an adaptation to the up to 5,000,000 and over 5,000,000 Euros budget/turnover categories to 3,000 and 4,000 Euros respectively.
Amendment proposed by Pablito Villegas, seconded by James Cole: “Include an affiliate yearly budget or turnover of up to 15,000 Euros in the classification of fees. Such policy will ensure inclusive growth in membership and promote IFOAM’s policies of social inclusion of smallholders, small-scale organic producers and small organic farmer organisations.”
Amendment to Motion 56: Yes: 47 No: 134 Amendment FAILED
Amendment proposed by Gerd Schnebel, seconded by Elba Riviera: “Smallholder organizations pay during the first two years a symbolic membership fee of 20 USD/ p.a.”
Amendment to Motion 56: Yes: 53 Against: 122 Abstain: 24 Amendment FAILED
Motion 56: Yes: 128 Against: 32 Motion PASSED

AGENDA POINT 57: SUSTAINABILITY IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE MOTION
Motion 57: Sustainability in Agriculture
“IFOAM shall position Organic Agriculture better in its own and the public perception as a holistic, sustainable farming system that is committed to further develop its practices to meet traditional and new challenges. To implement this motion, IFOAM shall build an action network with allies which works out a new positioning that highlight the multiple benefits of Organic Agriculture. IFOAM shall also develop strategic recommendations regarding sustainability development for the stakeholders of the organic world.” Friendly Amendment by Frank Eyhorn.
Motion 57 (amended): Yes: Clear majority No: 0 Abstain: 1 Motion PASSED

6. DECISIONS, MEMBERS’ MOTIONS
AGENDA POINT 61: ORGANIC GREENHOUSE PRODUCTION MOTION
Motion 61: Organic Greenhouse Production
“The IFOAM standards for organic production in greenhouses must encourage an agriculture consistent with the preservation of natural balance in living soils and plants, that seeks to maintain the right level of soil organic matter and is rooted in the soil and sub-soil. All practices not consistent with the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture are to be refused. The living soil nourishes the plant and must not, in any situation, be simply an inert substrate and medium of support. Cultural practices must preserve or increase soil fertility and improve soil ecology and biodiversity. Therefore, out-of-soil culture is to be refused in organic greenhouse production, apart from organic plants sold in pots or to be replanted in soil. Rapidly soluble fertility amendments (mineral and organic) are allowed, only as a necessary complement
when other fertilization techniques have proved insufficient. Permitting such techniques to be used systematically is therefore incompatible with the organic method of agriculture. IFOAM, through its Standards Committee, will monitor existing practice and subsequent efforts to develop specific standards for organic protected crop production and will, in consultation with the membership, propose specific requirements for inclusion in a future version of the IFOAM Standard.”

Motion 61 (amended by motioners): Yes: 104 Against: 66  Abstain: 8 Motion PASSED

AGENDA POINT 62: EXCLUSION OF AGRICULTURE FROM CARBON TRADING MECHANISM MOTION

Motion 62: Exclusion of Agriculture from Carbon Trading Mechanisms
“The World Board should promote the development of alternative financing systems to support organic farming and agro-ecological approaches to agriculture that provide a real solution for climate change for vulnerable farmers and communities and a fair compensation to organic farmers for their contribution to mitigation and adaptation strategies.

At the same time IFOAM should strongly advocate against including agriculture in any speculative carbon market schemes especially those controlled by the international finance system.”

Motion 62 (amended by motioners): Yes: Clear majority  Against: 0  Motion PASSED

AGENDA POINT 35: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW PRESIDENT/ EXECUTIVE BOARD

The newly elected WB decided on the new President and Vice Presidents and informed the GA. Andre Leu was introduced as new IFOAM President, Roberto Ugas and Gaby Soto as Vice-Presidents.

AGENDA POINT 63: FARMER CO-OPTATION MOTION

Motion 63: Farmer Co-optation
“May it please the General Assembly of IFOAM to congratulate the outgoing World Board for establishing the Inter-Continental Network of Organic Farmers’ Movements [INOFO], giving permanency to PGS by converting the Task Force to a Committee and setting up a Task Force on Good Governance to set

in process reform in its working systems and make it more ‘farmer friendly’ than it was before.”

Moses Muwanga presents the motion, amended by the motioners; the last section was removed by the motioners after the Motion Bazaar and thus obtained the support of WB.

It is pointed out, however, that the amendment did not address the original aim of motion as it removes the proposal to co-opt two farmer representatives. The Chair decides to withdraw the amended motion on a technical point of order but a clear message to the WB is that smallholder farmers need to be engaged.

AGENDA POINT 64: FAMILY FARMS MOTION AND FAMILY AGRICULTURE MOTION

Motion 64.1: Family Farms
“IFOAM should encourage and participate in medium and long-term research, in order to enable the integral assessment of organic systems of family farms, including monetary income and its impact in the quality of life of the families, especially for those who are internationally defined as living in ‘poverty’ conditions. To that end, it shall in particular establish and build alliances and cooperation with specialized research organizations and local experts, capable of delivering integral evaluations in the mid and long term in developing countries.

It shall take into consideration available research done in this field and explore collaboration with other initiatives to assess the impact of farming systems on the livelihoods of family farms.”

Friendly amendment by Frank Eyhorn.
Motion 64.1 (amended): For: Clear unanimous  Against: 0  Abstain:0 Motion PASSED

Motion 64.2: Family Agriculture
“IFOAM, as signatory organization for the declaration of the International Year of Family Agriculture, shall lead the positioning of Family Agriculture – and its campaign- in the main networks, platforms and dialogue and cooperation spaces it participate, based on IFOAM’s Smallholder Position Paper highlighting successful stories of family farmers members around the world.
IFOAM shall put emphasis on:

- The contribution to social, economic, environmental and cultural sustainability in developing countries.
- The promotion of better visibility, valuation and equity of family Organic Agriculture in governments and public policies.
- The promotion of policies, programs and development projects with research and innovation components.
- The role and participation of consumers.”

Friendly amendment by Elizabeth Henderson, seconded by Michael Sligh, to add the following bullet points:

- The importance of ensuring fairness and social justice for all who labor in agriculture.
- The gender balance in family agriculture recognizing the key roles and responsibilities of women.

**Point of order:** The amendment was said to detract from the advocacy aim of original motion. **The Chair's position was to disallow the friendly amendment.**

**Motion 64.2 (original):**

- For: Majority
- Against: 0
- Abstain: 2
- Motion PASSED

7. OWC/GA 2014 AND CLOSURE

**AGENDA POINT 71: PROPOSALS FOR OWC/GA 2014**

The GA voted unanimously for Istanbul 2014. The dates 4 - 14 October 2014 received general support.

**AGENDA POINT 72: IFOAM RECOGNITIONS**

Recognition awards now follow specific criteria to make them an award for excellence. Other service recognition will now be done via a certificate of appreciation. IFOAM’s Recognition Award was given to Laura Montenegro (Argentina), Francis Blake (UK), Beate Huber (Switzerland), Vitoon Panyakul (Thailand) and Bo van Elzakker (Netherlands).

Moment of reflection: Markus Arbenz and Katherine DiMatteo shared final thoughts on OWC/GA.

**AGENDA POINT 73: CLOSURE BY THE NEW IFOAM PRESIDENT AND HAND-OVER OF THE MANDATE BY THE CHAIR TO THE NEW WORLD BOARD**
Advocacy

By Robert Jordan

With agriculture a hot topic at the Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa (CoP17) and with the next Earth Summit (Rio+20) in June next year (20 to 22), it is an important period for IFOAM to get its messages out and influence outcomes. International policy discussions on Food Security are also in an important phase with IFOAM represented on the FAO’s Committee on Food Security (CFS) that met in Rome in October (15 - 22).

Food Security - CFS

IFOAM President Andre Leu and Chief Food Security Campaigner Cristina Grandi were in Rome in October at FAO’s 37th meeting of the CFS. A key outcome of the meeting was the acknowledgement that smallholder farmers produce much of the world’s food and a call for CFS members states to ensure public investment, services and policies for supporting smallholders – something IFOAM has been advocating strongly for in recent years:

‘Smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, play a central role in producing most of the food consumed locally in many developing regions and are the primary investors in agriculture in many developing countries’. Paragraph 26 of the 37th Meeting’s Final Report

Of concern however was the gross misuse of the principles of agro-ecology and attack on organic agriculture in Annex 1 of the ‘Land tenure and International Investments in Agriculture’ report prepared for the CFS by their High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE). IFOAM spotted this ‘under-the-radar’ inclusion and rigorously raised it at the meeting. While the report’s recommendations on addressing ‘land-grabbing’ are a step-forward it appears that FAO wants to weaken the definition of agro-ecology to include synthetic inputs – especially for smallholders. FAO probably recognizes that it can no longer ignore the increasing calls for the scaling-up of agro-ecological approaches but at the same time is under pressure to maintain support for synthetic inputs and ‘business as usual’.

IFOAM addressed together with SOCLA (The Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology) this adverse development with an official letter to the HLPE. IFOAM will keep pushing for greater recognition and support of the world’s smallholder farmers as outlined in IFOAM’s Smallholder Position Paper.

The HLPE’s report on ‘Price Volatility and Food Security’ criticized the green revolution, called for the incorporation of externalities in the cost of food production and quoted the UN report on “Agro-ecology and Right to Food”. However this report was not supported by the CFS due to pressure from members of the G20 who wish to gain control over food security policies.

Finally the CFS presented its first draft of the Global Strategic Framework (GSF), which was drafted without the consultation of the CFS civil society mechanism (CSM). The draft was unacceptable to the civil society organizations as in particular it failed to explain the real reasons behind hunger. IFOAM supported an alternative document written by the CSM. During the CFS plenary some countries supported the need for FAO to consult with the CSM in the drafting of the next version.

Climate Change - UNFCCC

IFOAM had a strong delegation at CoP17 in Durban and a full program of activities headed-up by new IFOAM President, Andre Leu. IFOAM shared an exhibition booth with Fairtrade International and had two side events inside the UNFCCC negotiation area. On December 2, IFOAM had a side event in conjunction with the Government of Malawi; ‘Overcoming Food Insecurity with Adaptation Actions: Building on Lessons from Sub Saharan Africa’. On December 3, in the African Pavilion, IFOAM had a follow-up to its event at the UNFCCC meeting in Bonn earlier this year with the African Union Commission and the World Food Program, which was hosted by our South African member Professor Raymond Auerbach of the Rainman Landcare Foundation. The
event; ‘Addressing Hunger & Climate: Putting Vulnerable Rural People at Centre of Agenda - Ecosystem & Community Based Approaches to Resilient Rural Livelihoods in Africa’. This meeting was webcast live by IFOAM and also included a dialogue session with the IFOAM delegation and event partners after the event. Also joining our delegation and presenting at various events was be IFOAM member Sue Edwards of the Institute of Sustainable Development in Ethiopia.

In terms of the negotiations some of the big issues negotiated in Durban were the establishment of the Green Climate Fund and how to impose emissions reduction targets once the Kyoto Protocol expires at the end of 2012. Two hot topics relating to agriculture are the proposed Agriculture Working Group and Soil Carbon Trading.

IFOAM lobbied for ecosystem-based and people centered approaches to agriculture that put the needs of local people, the rural poor, smallholders and pastoralists ahead of those of commodity traders - including carbon. Such advocacy is targeted broadly at Parties and Observers and is informed by the member’s motion on the ‘Exclusion of Agriculture From Carbon Trading Mechanisms in Speculative Markets’ that was adopted at the IFOAM General Assembly in Korea in October.

**Rio+20 and the Green Economy - UNCSD**

The Rio+20 Earth Summit is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to holistically address the development path that planet earth is currently on. The UNCSD Secretariat has received over 600 submissions from organizations and individuals from around the world – including from IFOAM. The submissions will be reviewed and used in the preparation of a ‘Zero-Draft’ negotiating document for the Summit. The drafting of the submission was an opportunity to bring together in one document many of the key issues that IFOAM is currently advocating for. IFOAM is working closely with Biovision including co-hosting and presenting at several Rio+20 side events at UNCSD meetings in Geneva, Switzerland and in New York City, USA in December as part of the Rio+20 preparatory process and is helping them broadly promote their Time To Act submission to UNCSD.

**The Organic Value Chain**

*By Joelle Katto-Andrighetto*

The past few months have been an intensive period of strategic developments within and around the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System. Efforts have been largely concentrated on the Organic Guarantee System OGS), namely the IFOAM Family of Standards, but the drafting of the IFOAM Standard has also taken kept the Standard Committee and OGS staff busy since the beginning of the year. A new category of tools for policy advocacy has been created, with the approval of two policy briefs, one on organic imports and one on PGS. IFOAM has also used other channels to promote desirable guarantee system frameworks, such as through the GOMA project, through consultancy advice to national associations, and through participation in the ISEAL Assurance Code drafting process.

**IFOAM Family of Standards**

After the launch of the Family in February at the BioFach, we received 17 applications from standard owners. The Organic Value Chain department and the IFOAM Standards Requirements Committee have been assessing these standards against the COROS (approved by the membership in July). Seven of them have already been approved. Others are still under assessment. Meanwhile, IFOAM is promoting the use of the Family and of the COROS assessments towards governments and other decision makers, as an efficient way to approve equivalent standards for the purpose of organic import authorizations. Australia and Saudi Arabia have already endorsed this approach. More info [HERE](#).
The IFOAM Standard Committee (SC), appointed in November last year, continued to work intensively on the new IFOAM standard, and completed this work by October. In August, the committee published responses to the comments received during the February-March comment period. Thereafter, focus was put on achieving the mandate of the World Board to make the standard equivalent to the EU regulation, at least on the plant production and processing parts. The draft IFOAM Standard Version 0.2 was sent out to the membership for motions on November 8, with a deadline of January 8. More info HERE.

The IFOAM Standard

IFOAM’s vision and recommendations on how to best approach the issues of PGS and imports in organic regulations have been debated by the World Board and formalized into approved Policy Briefs. These should become powerful tools to encourage and guide governments to legally recognize PGS as valid guarantee systems for their domestic markets, as well as to facilitate removal of technical barriers to organic imports into their country. Both Policy Briefs are available HERE.

GOMA Project

The second meeting of the GOMA Asia Working Group, which is developing a framework for regional cooperation, took place in Seoul just prior to the Organic World Congress. The most significant development from this meeting was a decision by the participants to work diligently toward a multilateral agreement for recognition in the region, which will include regulating countries, and also include means for approval of products from non-regulating countries. The GOMA Project Management office is now preparing technical materials to facilitate knowledge and confidence necessary for countries to accept one another’s organic regulatory systems as equivalent, and to facilitate the recognition of certification in case of non-regulating countries. GOMA project staff, with support from others at the IFOAM Head Office, are now heavily focused on implementing the GOMA Conference scheduled on 13-14 February in Nuremberg. More info available on the GOMA website.

Consultancy advice on standard development

IFOAM staff went to Burkina Faso and then Turkey on the request of local organic associations to advise them in the process of development of their own organic standard. In both cases, training was delivered on useful international reference or starting point, and advice was given in terms of reflecting on the objective, desirable scope and added value of a local...
standard and on the participatory and consultative methodology for its development.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ISEAL ASSURANCE CODE DRAFTING PROCESS

Although IFOAM stopped its ISEAL membership in 2010, it had expressed that it would remain active in concrete areas of work of relevance to the organic sector. The development of the new “Code of Good Practice for Assuring Compliance with Social and Environmental Standards”, often referred to as “Assurance Code”, is an area where exchange of ideas and experience with other socio-environmental schemes was seen as pertinent. Joelle Katto-Andrighetto was nominated to join the ISEAL Assurance Code Committee, in order to bring the experience of the organic sector, among which the PGS experience. The drafting of the code has been an interesting exercise, as it opts to adopt a rather flexible and innovative normative approach to address all levels of assurance, including group certification, PGS, CB operations and oversight of CBs. The draft Assurance code is now open for public comments until December 31, 2011. More info HERE.

IFOAM PROGRAMS

By Joelle Katto-Andrighetto

The latest success in project management was achieved in partnership with Peruvian and Canadian partners, under the leadership of the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina in Lima, Peru. In the context of this project, IFOAM received the mandate to implement a study on assessing the importance of PGS and Seed Management or other forms of social processes for sustainable community development worldwide. The two other projects under current implementation are the OSEA II project in East Africa (started in November 2010) and the CFC project on organic tea (started in 2007). The China component of this last project has been completed, with a final evaluation mission in June, while the Indian component is still running.
Updates on

IFOAM’s Strategic Pillars

THE ORGANIC UMBRELLA
By Denise Godinho

IFOAM’s Membership Grows

As the year draws to a close, we acknowledge with satisfaction that our membership has in 2011 grown by over 100 affiliates to 870 in 120 countries. We welcome the most recent newcomers to the global organic movement (see pages 25-26) and warmly thank our ‘veterans’ for their continued support and loyalty!

MAGAZINE TO CONTINUE FREE FOR IFOAM AFFILIATES IN 2012!

At the start of the year we were able to re-launch Ecology & Farming as a print magazine, thanks to our publishing partners Peter Brul and Jaap van der Westering. Despite our initial announcement that Affiliates would need to subscribe - albeit at a discounted rate - in order to receive a copy, through persistence, hard work, the interest of advertisers and the generosity of our partners, we were in 2011 able to send all IFOAM Affiliates five free editions of the magazine. We are happy to be able to confirm that the four editions that will be published in 2012 will continue to be entirely free of charge for IFOAM Affiliates.

However, as the viability of the magazine greatly depends on the income generated through advertisements and subscriptions, we call on you to help us keep Ecology & Farming going. So, if you like it, tell a friend. If you love it, contact us about advertising opportunities today (see ad on previous page for more details).

2012 EDITION OF IFOAM MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

At the start of every year we publish a comprehensive listing of IFOAM’s membership in the ‘Directory IFOAM Affiliates’. The Directory provides easy and reliable access to information on the full diversity of the organic movement, represented by close to 900 IFOAM Affiliates from all over the world.

In 2011, for the first time since its launch, we opened up the Directory to an even broader readership by making it a free e-publication. International organic and sustainable stakeholders can conveniently download the Directory from the IFOAM website - the full information on the organic movement at the distance of a click!

The 2012 edition will be launched on January 31, 2012. All IFOAM Affiliates and subscribers to our information mailings (currently 17.000 recipients) will receive an e-mail notification with a direct link to the publication.

MEET US AT BioFach 2012

IFOAM will warmly welcome you at its booth in HALL #1, BOOTH #240. Interested in our work and wanting to schedule a meeting with one of our managers? Curious about our publication library or sponsorship options? Do you want to know where and when IFOAM will hold its congress sessions at BioFach? Or do you simply want to pay your membership fee, make a donation or find out about becoming an IFOAM Affiliate?

IFOAM staff will be happy to give you all the information you need! We look forward to meeting you this coming February in Nuremberg, Germany.

BRAND YOUR EVENT ‘IFOAM’

Every year IFOAM helps organizers of organic and sustainable events to reach a maximum number of interested international stakeholders target audience. Founded in 1972, IFOAM’s name and logo are among the internationally most recognizable trademarks for the organic sector.

If you are an organic event organizer looking to explore visibility options, please consult our promotion packages or contact Martin Pairet, m.pairet@ifoam.org.
Hi Everybody,
My name is Laura, I come from a small village in the country near Bologna (Italy) and in the last four years I’ve been engaged in studying and working in fair trade. I’m currently finishing my Ma degree in “Local development, cooperation and international markets” and for the final thesis I decided to focus on PGS, so I joined IFOAM in July to do a 6-month internship with the IFOAM Program Department, where I am working with Flávia for PGS matters and assisting Joelle in OGS-related tasks. I got to know the PGS reality while I was volunteering for Terra Madre (Torino, Italy) in 2010 and I was really astonished by the extent of the impact that such organic certification systems can have in supporting local communities... The unique experience of being here represents for me the chance to directly be in touch with PGS organizations all over the world at the same time. And finally, after reading many publications and articles, it’s interesting to follow the PGS ferment and debate in its daily path: this allows me to always learn something new from all of you. So... warm greetings to everybody and maybe you’ll hear from me sooner or later!

After graduating from Hacettepe University, Turkey, I applied for the European Voluntary Service. I was incredibly excited when the sending organization offered me the chance to do a voluntary service at IFOAM and I still feel the same excitement as an Administration and Advocacy Volunteer here. With its international and experienced staff, IFOAM has helped me obtain experience and awareness not only in the worldwide organic movement and its importance, but also in many professional matters. Now I have a satisfying answer for the question “What have you done for the world?”: I volunteered for organic. Without any doubt, I will be trying to support and promote organic at any opportunity in the future and I will be always “proud to be part”.
Organically, Mustafa Gündogdu

Greetings everyone!
As a long-time devotee of organic food and culture and an evangelist for the organic mission, I feel very fortunate to join IFOAM’s team. Since 1995 I have been directly involved with all aspects of organic frameworks - from seed to final product, illiterate smallholder to multinational giant, and fledgling CB to national government. I have acted at all levels of the regulatory paradigm, from inspection to accreditation and beyond, and am eager to help IFOAM in its role to unite and lead the world towards widespread adoption of organic principles and practices. We have much room and potential to grow and I am excited to help spark ideas and collaboration throughout the organic movement. Personally, in addition to having been a producer at various times over the years, from working on organic farms to owning a small organic business, my current pursuit of a permaculture dream here in the Pacific Northwest keeps me grounded amidst the global travels demanded by my career. Come visit! And to be sure, I look forward to meeting you where you are.

Organically, Mustafa Gündogdu
Let the Good Products Flow!
Global Organic Market Access in 2012 and Beyond
13-14 February 2012
Nuremberg Messe
Nuremberg, Germany

featuring these keynote speakers:

Harsha Singh
Deputy Director-General
World Trade Organization

Kathleen Merrigan
Deputy Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture

Tumusiime Rhoda Peace
Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture
African Union Commission

Franz Fischler
former Commissioner of Agriculture,
Rural Development and Fisheries, European Union

Global Organic Market Access
in partnership with

For more information, please visit www.goma-organic.org
EcoLOGICAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONFERENCE,
UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF ORGANIC FARMING IN AFRICA

By Hervé Bouagnimbeck

On November 15-16, 2011, IFOAM successfully organized together with the African Union, the Kenyan Organic Agriculture Network (KOAN) and COLABORA the international conference under the title: ‘Ecological Organic Agriculture: The Alternative for Africa’ at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Some 200 participants from 24 countries throughout the world attended the conference, including representatives from farmers’ organizations, governments, intergovernmental institutions, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, private sector, universities, and research institutions.

IFOAM was represented at the conference with a high level delegation, including IFOAM President Andre Leu, who opened the conference; World Board Member Manjo Smith; and Africa Office Coordinator Herve Bouagnimbeck. A number of IFOAM members attended the event.

IFOAM is grateful for the effective collaboration with the African Union, its members and other partners; and will continue to work with them to bring an united front to the potential of organic agriculture for Africa and accelerate the uptake of organic agricultural practices on the continent.

The conference had a number of important outcomes:
• The African Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative and Action Plan were embraced by stakeholders as an important step towards mainstreaming ecological organic agriculture into national agricultural production systems in Africa.
• The African Union expressed more support to Ecological Organic Agriculture which is an important step in growing the capacity for African governments to develop sustainable, resilient and productive farming on the continent.
• The Second African Organic Agriculture Conference to be held May 1-3, 2012, in Lusaka, Zambia, was presented and an international planning committee was formed.
• UNEP expressed more support to ecological organic agriculture, first, by hosting the conference and the associated exhibition within its headquarters, but also by encouraging more stakeholders to participate in its promotion in Africa.
• The late Prof. Wangari Maathai was honored for her outstanding achievements with the ‘One World Very Impacting Person - Award’, which was received by her daughter Wanjira Maathai. Read the full press release HERE.
• Several highly convincing examples throughout the continent of the enormous development and progress organic agriculture can bring –