Organic 3.0: Meeting Agroecology?

SPAIN BIDDING TO HOST IFOAM OWC 2020 IN VALÈNCIA
1 Introduction

The Organic World Congress (OWC) of IFOAM is held every 3 years in a different country. The aim of the congress and related activities (Conferences, General Assembly (GA), Side-events and Organic exhibition) is to share experiences, innovations and knowledge on the organic world, while giving the organizing country global visibility. Spain is bidding to host the 20th OWC at a very crucial successfully grow of the organic surface.

València, the 3rd most populated city of the country is the venue offered in a crucial historical moment for the valencian agriculture after the first Organic Regional Action Plan launched in 2017.

In Spain, the organic movement has grown four times in the last two decades. Furthermore there is a growing Agroecology movement with a lot of young people coming back to the countryside. In this sense, the OWC will play a critical and unprecedented role in supporting the convergence of the Spanish organic farming and the agroecological movement. At the same time, it will enable solidarity among organic and agroecological farmers across all the continents, supporting the efforts, as the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations (INOFO) are undertaking. For these reasons, the proposed topic of the 20th OWC would be “Organic 3.0: Meeting Agroecology?”.

Valencian Region has been in the business of agriculture for over ten thousand years. The earliest signs of agriculture are found in the arabic orchard traditions, “Horta”. This sustainable tradition has been abandoned in some areas of the country in the mid-60s with the advent of the conventional agriculture. However, over the last 20 years, there are several initiatives, from local smallholders, applying agroecology and organic practices.

2 Hosting country - Why Spain?

The Spanish surface dedicated to organic production has currently achieved an historical number of 1,968 Mill ha, which represents about 15,0 % increase than previous year.

Spain is the first country in the European Union in organic farming surface, then Italy (1,387 mill. h’), France (1,118 mill. h’) and Germany (1,047 mill. h’).

Currently there are around 40.000 organic operators in Spain, which 5.825 are processors and manufacturers.

In the last decade Spanish organic per capita consumption has grown up in a significant way reaching number 8th in EU-28 countries in 2016 (32€ person/year).

Organic products are sold in nearly all supermarkets. Also, there are many specialized organic and herbs shops all around the country (up to 5.000 shops). For example, Valencia city holds around 100 specialized organics shops.

Spain was the third European country establishing a national regulation (1988), before the European Union Regulation in 1991. Social and environmental issues were major subjects defended by the small farmers and associations of organic farming in the negotiation process when building a legal framework.

On the other hand, Spanish organic organisations have good connections with Latin America Agroecology movement mainly due to common language and history.

Furthermore, the Spanish organic sector has close relationships with the Mediterranean organic movement through the Agribio Mediterraneo IFOAM Regional Group due to the proximity and history.

Another reason for presenting this bid is because the IFOAM OWC has never been celebrated in Spain.
Spain is located at the South of Europe with a surface of 505,940 Km², being the 5th largest country around Europe. It is organised in 17 autonomous regions becoming number 30th in population out of 196 countries. Madrid is the capital city.

The total population in 2016 was 46,468,102 inhabitants. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per year was 1,134,650 Mill€, with an annual GDP per capita close to €24,000. Spain is country number 30th in the GDP rank with an increase of 3.2% over the last year. Its public debt is 99.4% of the GDP. However unemployment rate is over 18% of the working population. Spain is the 17th country with the major export economy worldwide with 240.000 Mill€ and 280.000 Mill€ imports.

The main sectors are services (tourism), industry, commerce and agriculture. In agriculture, it is distinguished by the export of citrus, pork meat, wine, olive oil and vegetables. The most imported products are maize, soya seeds, crustaceans and molluscs production.

4 Proposed host city: València

The country has already hosted several international events, like the Olympic Games 1992 in Barcelona. When visitors arrive in València, the city seems to be decked out to greet them. And reaching the city from any part of the globe is easy and convenient thanks to a modern network of links with world business centres.

València is a city for encounters and contrasts. The legacy left by the cultures and civilisations which have reached these shores in the past still remains alive in the city’s monuments and streets. València is a city that never sleeps. It has a rich cultural life with festivals, concerts, shows and exhibitions all year round. Dialogues flow smoothly, ideas float back and forth easily, lines of communication are always open and people feel at their ease.

More info: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1schrhK1pM

València’s Council
Valencia Conference Centre
Valencian citrus
València was founded as a Roman colony in 138 BC, and called Valentia. It has a population of over 1,500,000 inhabitants and it is the third largest city in Spain. The city is situated on the banks of the Turia River, on the east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, fronting the Gulf of València on the Mediterranean Sea. Its historic centre is one of the largest in Spain, with approximately 169 has. This heritage of ancient monuments, views and cultural attractions makes València one of the country’s most popular tourist destinations. It is also a bilingual city: Valencian and Spanish are the two official languages.

The surrounding area of the city (“l’Horta”) is still a fertile area for vegetables and citric crops. The origin of València comes from the Al-Andalus period, as a consequence of the introduction of the arabic irrigation tradition, just like the North African Berbers did. In addition to the typical crops of the Roman period (cereal, vine, olive), the rice and the tiger nut (Cyperus esculentus) and some new vegetables from Al-Andalus (typical from the damp zones); such as aubergine, artichoke, etc., were introduced. The crops per excellence are the horticultural products, hence the name of this environment.

The Valencian Horta as we know it today was developed in the medieval times, during the Islamic period. An important fluvial infrastructure was created, mainly thanks to the construction of ditches and assuts (little dams that led the waters of the Turia River and the precipices that could drain marshy areas and bring down the watering to the fields). Likewise, different activities were boosted and developed near those infrastructures, such as the watermills, which profited the water flow of the ditches and the washbasins near the houses and farmsteads.

The “Tribunal de les Aigües”, an institution of Justice to settle disputes arising from the use of irrigation water by farmers in several Irrigation Communities still in use, has more than a thousand years of history and it is recognized in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.

It might be surprising that people preserve the Valencian Horta agricultural traditions so near to the city and also the presence of traditional cabins for agricultural purposes, called “barracas”, as well as the traditional paths along the Horta, even if the city has caused negative effects because of the building of many landfills, wasteground, and workshops.
Clima conditions València has a Mediterranean climate with short, very mild winters and long, hot and dry summers. Its average annual temperature is 18.4 °C.


Currency Euro

Flight Connections The city has 62 international flight connections. Most of them are with main European cities such as London, Paris, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Madrid, Lisbon, Zurich, Amsterdam or Moscow.


Hotel capacity There are around 8,000 hotel rooms in the city which offer more than 17,000 beds. Most of this capacity is concentrated in the four-star category.

Venue proposed The Valencia Conference Centre (Palacio de Congressos de València) is a multipurpose municipal building designed by the British architect Norman Foster and inaugurated in 1998. It has 3 auditoriums (with capacity for over 3,500 persons, plus 9 committee rooms, 2 multipurpose rooms and a total of 1,000 m2 for exhibition). Its roof is covered with solar panels which is just one of the numerous eco-initiatives that have been implemented and have all contributed to saving the inadequate use of natural resources.

The Valencia Conference Centre has been awarded as an ECO pioneer sustainable project due its manager excellence, which has been implemented by the Centre and recognised by the European Federation of Quality Management, and a team of staff who are committed to the environment.

The proposed leading hosting organization for the 20th OWC is the Spanish Society of Organic Farming/Agroecology (SEAE), the oldest member of the International Federation of Organic Farming (IFOAM) of Spain. It is a non profit and non-governmental organic association founded in 1992, from the civil society with the vocational purpose to serve as a scientific society, registered at the Internal Affairs Ministry with number 113,415 with the purpose to joint interested organic operators, researchers, advisors, technicians and other supporter persons and associations promoting organic farming and Agroecology and rural sustainable development considering the social and cultural heritage of farmers, that could contribute for a sustainable development model based on the growth of the society and its individuals.

Currently, SEAE is focused on developing initiatives to promote the organic sector and Agroecology in Spain, establishing several public and private partnerships in order to influence agricultural policy, providing technical and scientific support to organic and agroecological practitioners.

6 Hosting organisation and supporters
Several meetings were organised to establish a local consortium for this candidature.

The organisations involved in this process were the followings:

**Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica-Agroecología (SEAE) / Spanish Society of Organic Farming/Agroecology (SEAE).**

**Generalitat Valenciana (GVA): Conselleria d’Agricultura, Medi Ambient, Canvi Climàtic i Desenvolupament Rural / Regional Ministry for Agricultural, Environment, Climate Change & Rural Development.**

**Ayuntamiento de València/ València’s Council.**

**Regional Ministry for Agricultural, Environment, Climatic Change & Rural Development.**

**València Townhall / Dept for l’Horta, Tourism Dept & Congress Palace**

**Palacio de Congresos de València / València Conference Centre**

**Comité d’Agricultura Ecològica of Valencia Region (CAECV) / Semi-public organic control body**

**Ecological.bio / Local IFOAM member**

**Spanish Society for IberoLatinamerican Agroecology (SILAE) / ONG for international cooperation in agroecological projects in impoverished countries.**

The initiative is also supported by all the rest of the IFOAM members in Spain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMPOAS Asociación Mediterraneán de Productores y Operadores de Agricultura Sostenible</td>
<td>Advisors and operators association of advisors and operators of sustainable agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asociación Valor Ecológico</td>
<td>Andalusian &amp; Castilla-La Mancha organic operators certified by CAAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babyplant S.L.</td>
<td>Company breeding organic plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consell Català de la Producció Agrària Ecològica (CCPAE)</td>
<td>Semi-public organic control body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOCERT IBERICA</td>
<td>Private organic certification body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMECA Federación de Cooperativas Agrarias con productos ecológicos</td>
<td>Federation of Agrarian Mediterranean Cooperatives with organic products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratorios ORDESA</td>
<td>Food Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATURECO SL</td>
<td>Distribution company of organic products</td>
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<tr>
<td>Servicio de Certificación CAAE, SL</td>
<td>Private organic certification body</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOHISCERT S.A.</td>
<td>Private organic certification body</td>
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</tbody>
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Other supporters (non IFOAM members), authorities, associations and entities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asociación Vida Sana</td>
<td>Organic and natural consumers association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centro de Estudios Rurales de Agricultura International (CERAI)</td>
<td>NGO for international cooperation in agricultural and rural projects in third world countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diputaciones Provinciales de Alicante, Castellón y Valencia</td>
<td>Political Counties/Province Small Parlements of Alicante, Castellon and València</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federación Española de Productores Elaboradores Ecológicos (FEPECO)</td>
<td>National Federation of Organic Processors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intereco</td>
<td>Association of public &amp; semi-public organic control bodies (Private)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerio de Agricultura Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente MAPAMA</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery, Food and Environment (National)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA-Plataforma Tecnológica Agroecológica</td>
<td>Agroecology Technological Platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universitat de Valencia (UV)</td>
<td>Public University for Literacy and Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV)</td>
<td>3rd relevant public University of Spain with Agronomist studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universidad Miguel Hernández (UMH) Elx (Alicante)</td>
<td>Public small University with Agronomy and Agroecology Masters Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarios sin Fronteras (VSF)</td>
<td>NGO for international cooperation in food, animal production &amp; related issues in third world countries</td>
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</table>

Also, several conventional organisations with an organic branch support this candidature:

- Federación de Cooperativas Agroalimentarias
- Coordinadora de Organizaciones Profesionales Agrarias (COAG)
- Unión de Pequeños Agricultores (UPA)
- La Unión de Uniones
- ASAJA, Asociación de Jóvenes Agricultores. Young Farmers Association

Following environmental associations are also supporting this bid:

- Amigos de la Tierra
- Ecologistas en Acción
- Friends of the Earth
- Foundation Global Nature
- SEO/Bird Life
- WWF Spain

Finally, some other Rural Associations are supporting this bid:

- FAR Foro de Acción Rural (conformed by 17 National rural associations, like REDR, RE DER, working with LEADER methodology)
- Plataforma Rural (conformed by 7 national organisations)
Experience of the host

SEAE has a vast experience in organizing international (world/global) Conferences with IFOAM, in Spain. The first one was ECOULIVA in 2002 in Genave and Puente Genave on olive tree and olive oil production; the second was on Organic citiculture in Gandia (València) in 2005 and the last one was on “European Policy for Organic Production: business as usual”, celebrated in 2010 in Madrid at CSIC main building, organised in collaboration with IFOAM EU Regional Group, the first one located out of Brussels.

Besides this, SEAE was the official Secretariat of the Regional Group of IFOAM “AgribioMediterraneo” (ABM), during four years (2004-08) at SEAE HeadOffice in Catarroja (València). During that period, several conferences, Board and general meetings have been organized like the Mediterranean Conference in Palma de Mallorca in 2009. SEAE has also participated in some events of IFOAM ABM with the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR) or Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN), like the one in Sousse (Tunisia) or Agadir (Morocco). SEAE has one person at the ABM Board since 2004 and was leading the IFOAM EU Spanish representation since 2000 till 2014. Since that year SEAE is IFOAM EU Council substitute and one SEAE Board member is actively participating in the EU Farmers Group Board of IFOAM EU. Different SEAE members have been present in the last IFOAM OWC, organised in Copenhagen, Denmark (1996); Mar del Plata-Argentina (1998), Basel-Switzerland (2000), Victoria, Canada (2002), Adelaide, Australia (2005), Modena-Italy (2008), Korea, (2011), Istanbul-Turkey (2014) and also have actively participated in the IFOAM EU Congresses and events in Europe. SEAE has throughout the last 16 years participated in other International Seminars that takes place in different place in Europe with different partners such as IFOAM EU, IFOAM ABM, Nuremberg Messe (Biofach), and Governmental agencies that we will be able to assure the financial and organizational capability to host for the second time an International IFOAM event. Regarding the proposed topic SEAE was participating in the Conference on “Organic 3.0: The Next phase of organic development – visions, trends and innovations”, celebrated in Goesan County (South Korea) in October 2015, presenting the links between Agroecology and Organic 3.0.

Furthermore, SEAE has also been participating in several Agroecological events in Latin America, some of the MAELA Movimiento Agroecológico de América Latina y El Caribe, a sub-regional organisation, and particularly in some regional relevant Assemblies like the one in Risaralda, Colombia (1999), or Central America meeting in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and other event in Central America in Costa Rica. In the last six years SEAE was participating in the Sociedad Científica Latinoamericana de Agroecología (SOCLA) in three Congresses organised in Mexico, Lima (Peru) and La Plata (Argentina) Congresses and in two projects.

Host co-organizers and cooperative sponsors/support

We plan to have at least two contracted operational co-organizers that have a good experience and ability to organize international events. First contacts where already established and will be confirmed once established and confirmed the election of our candidature.

We also plan to have a set of financial and institutional supporter and sponsor partnership with public and private sectorial organisations and companies. Letters of support and capability will be provided for assurance.
The proponents agree to follow the orientation for the Congress Program according to the suggestions of the Congress Steering Committee. The suggestive calendar for the event should also be discussed in the future. The most relevant topics desirables for the Local Consortium are the followings:

- Climate change, resiliency and organic farming
- Soils management: Preventing degradation, erosion and Organic matter
- Cultivated biodiversity and local and traditional sites
- Agroecology and organic farming, adaptation and transition
- Community supported agriculture
- Food sovereignty and food quality, peri-urban agriculture and local foods systems
- Mediterranean organic citriculture
- Marketing rights, direct sales and marketing short chain
- Organic food and long distances
- Organic farming and biodiversity.
- Water management in organic farming: agroecological practices
- Organic farming, public procurement and collective catering

Local Consortium wants to increase the presence and exchange of knowledge from Practitioners from Latin-American, North African the Middle East Asian countries and Europe. In order to make this happen, organizer will make and special effort to support their participation travels and stay expenses, by negotiating with different international agencies, like Bread for the World and other Nord Europeans ones supporting international organic or agroecological projects, including the official Spanish Agency for International Cooperation & Development (AECID), and with the Iberoamerican Programm for Science and Technology for the Development (CYTED) as previously SEAE has been already involved in two different projects with the first Agency and two other with the second Agency. One network project on biodiversity is still in progress (BIORED), where entities from seven countries (Argentina, Colombia, Brasil, México, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela), are involved.

The innovation of this OWC is to join academics, researchers, practitioners and social movements in the same path to exchange and discuss about the topic of the Conference.

The proponents agree with the Terms and Conditions listed and described at the Policy 15 of the IFOAM Policies in order to fulfill all responsibilities and financial commitments.
The following proposed budget is based on the conditions that all services listed and funding would come on a financial basis. In case our bid is the chosen one, we would like to have the opportunity to present a full detailed financial plan for the organization. IFOAM Contract Costs have not been considered for this initial bidding budget proposal. Some of the governmental and institutional sponsors are not eligible to transfer funds to private institutions or non-public events, however they can be supporter and provide services, venue and materials that can be used for this purpose, as long as we have documented interest agreements.

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective events</td>
<td>700,000€</td>
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<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>800,000€</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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### Expected cost

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<td>Operational</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
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<td>Congress Promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congress Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congress Transportation</td>
<td>200,000€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Catering</td>
<td>500,000€</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congress Trade Show</td>
<td>100,000€</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,000,000€</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**12 Contact**

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