

IFOAM - Organics International

WORLD BOARD TERM REPORT

2017 - 2021

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Welcome



Dear Members of
IFOAM - Organics International,



Last year, we reached out to you regarding the planned General Assembly scheduled for September 2020. Confronted with the measures and impact of the pandemic, you voted for a postponement. You also expressed therewith your trust in the board members of IFOAM - Organics International and other duty bearers, like the Internal Auditors, who agreed to extend their term with an additional year. We all had hopes that 2021 would give us the opportunity to meet in person. We ask for your understanding that we needed to take the decision that this time, we meet virtually only.

This World Board report shows you the contributions of your board members and the achievements the global office made under their strategic guidance these past four years. We not only attended to your motions, but also worked hard to strengthen the fabric of our movement. We have been claiming seats at international negotiations tables, successfully based on the legitimacy of our membership and your experiences that we were able to bring forward.

The international office has seen changes over the last years. Not only have I been offered the position of Executive Director, we also grew in staff and turnover. As such we worked hard to further professionalise and have our 'backbone' grow from these positive developments, so that we can better serve and increase our membership. Be it by providing you insights in our advocacy rationale and efforts or when offering the opportunity to contribute to global campaigns like [#IGrowYourFood](#).

We trust that our newsletters, mailers, blogs, reports and background information have kept you informed and we thank you for all your contributions to these. With your everyday actions and important work, you prove that change is possible, and this is a message we were able to amplify. And with the Sustainable Development Goals deadline only 9 harvests away, we need to continue our important work and team up with others who march in the same direction. By learning from each other and by enforcing and amplifying our work, we are able to push for the much-needed transformation towards true sustainability.

So it is important that we meet this year: due to the pandemic, farming took an even more prominent place on the global agenda and our organisation has an important role to play! Please make sure to register, as our virtual inclusive gathering will provide the opportunity for you, our members, to steer the strategic direction of our organisation, so that we can come out of the pandemic stronger as a movement!

Louise Luttkholt
Executive Director



Interview with Peggy Miars

As your tenure comes to a close, what would you consider the highlights of your time as President of IFOAM - Organics International?

One of my first and most important responsibilities was chairing the Executive Director Recruitment Committee in early 2018. It was an inspiring process that allowed me to get to know my new World Board colleagues and to discuss what is important in a leader of a highly-respected international nonprofit organization. Another highlight was visiting various countries and getting to know members around the world. I have worked in the U.S. organic sector for 25 years, and my work on the World Board opened my eyes to so many different realities, opportunities and possibilities beyond what we know in the United States!

Where do you see the greatest challenges and indeed potential for organic in the coming years?

I think both the greatest challenge and the greatest potential for organic is climate change. We have all been affected in some way by dramatic occurrences caused by climate change, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards, wildfires, floods, or drought. These drastic events that destroy property, homes and lives are occurring more often. When people are struggling to simply survive, choosing or growing organic foods is not at the top of their minds. On the other hand, when people stop to think about the causes of climate change and what they can do to help, they realize that organic

can be an answer. By sequestering carbon in soil, reducing nutrient and soil runoff, avoiding practices and chemicals that destroy fertility, and embracing nature as part of the farming process, farmers and consumers have a better choice in organic. We saw tremendous growth in organic sales during 2020 and the pandemic as people made the connection between what they eat and their health.

Do you have any words of advice to share with your successor?

Share the workload! One individual cannot sustainably represent IFOAM - Organics International in all regions of the globe. Other World Board members are happy to help and to represent in their regions. Get to know the leaders of the Regional Bodies because they represent the membership. While it is impossible to talk with every member, staying in touch with the Regional Bodies allows you to stay in touch with the membership.

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In hindsight, I wish that I would have kept a diary about my travels and the people I met. I could write a book!

Peggy Miars

Our World Board

2017-2021



*We thank our World Board members
for their hard work!*

*Left to right: Edith van Walsum, Frank Eghorn, Karen Mapusua,
David Amudavi, Jennifer Chang, Gerold Rahmann, Julia Lernoud,
Hans Herren, Peggy Miars, Bablu Ganguly.*

Executive Board Commitments



Peggy Miars
President

- Chaired the Executive Director Recruitment Committee, evaluated and interviewed shortlisted candidates and selected the current ED.
- Represented IFOAM – Organics International at several conferences, meetings and trade shows around the world, e.g. ExpOrganicos (Mexico), Canada Organic Trade Association Policy Conference (Canada), Natural Products Expo West (USA), Organic & Non-GMO Forum (USA), IOAS Board of Directors Meetings (various countries).
- Took on numerous speaking assignments, official duties and interviews, e.g. with high-level government officials.
- Honored obligations in regard to IFOAM – Organics International’s partnership with BIOFACH trade fairs, speaking at the opening ceremonies, congress sessions, participating in official occasions, as well as supporting with my presence at the booth e.g. at Natural Products Expo West. I explored options for an increased collaboration with IFOAM North America.
- Participated in pre-BIOFACH Organic Leadership Courses, bringing in my perspective on leadership.
- Participated in Board meetings of IFOAM North America and connected with our North American membership.
- Supported membership acquisition, connecting with potential members in North America.
- Participated in the IFOAM – Organics International Action Group Leadership Seminars and had various meetings with Self-organized Structures.
- Wrote a blog post for [Organic Without Boundaries](#) on International Women’s Day.
- Helped recruit new World Board candidates, encouraging them to run for the World Board.
- Wrote an article on U.S. organics for the German magazine Ökologie & Landbau.
- Met with the Executive Director on a regular basis to discuss organizational and World Board matters.

Jennifer Chang Vice President



- Participated at the 2019 Organic Farming Innovations Summit, the OFIA Summit (USA) and engaged with the funding partner, the Rural Development Administration (South Korea) with a view to securing the extension of their contract with IFOAM – Organics International.
- Gave support to the OAAEA project, acting as a resource person and translator for extension agents (South Korea).
- Acted as co-trainer at the Organic Leadership Course (OLC) South Asia (India) and invited speaker at the OLC EU's Leadership Session.
- Represented IFOAM – Organics International at numerous international events where I delivered keynote speeches and met with high-level government officials, e.g. in China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan.
- Pursued fundraising opportunities, pitching the joint organization of the 2022 Goesan International Organic Expo and celebrations of IFOAM – Organics International's 50th Anniversary, as well as securing sponsorships for the Organic World Congress 2021.
- Acquired funds to support the attendance of representatives of Intercontinental Network of Organic Farming Organizations (INOFO) in several events, ensuring farmer representation at events in Asia and at COP 24 in Katowice, Poland.
- Spoke at the opening ceremonies and/or congress sessions of the different BIO-FACHs, e.g. India, South East Asia (Thailand), China, Germany.
- Engaged with regional members during my travels and pursuit of opportunities to involve them in activities of IFOAM Asia or the International Office (e.g. conversion to the Family of Standards).
- Member of the World Board Membership Reform Task Force.
- Facilitated local contacts with IFOAM - Organics International, e.g. the expression of support for organic development and interest in further cooperation by the Prime Minister of Vietnam.
- Acted as representative at the COP24 Katowice and Japan – 'Agriculture is the Solution' – Otsu, Japan at the '4pour1000' event jointly organized with IFOAM - Organics International.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding between ALGOA and the International Network of Eco-Regions (INNER) in Rome, Italy, on behalf of IFOAM - Organics International.
- Organized the Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) + 4 International Summit, securing funding for the contribution of IFOAM - Organics International in terms of program development and international visibility.
- Secured funding for the launching of the 'World Organic Youth Summit'.
- Actively lobbied the central government of the Philippines with the IFOAM members in the country for the inclusion of PGS in the national organic standards.
- Organized the "Women in Organic Agriculture in Asia (WOAA)".



Karen Mapusua Vice President from 2020

- Represented IFOAM - Organics International at several high-level meetings with government officials, e.g. at the Food and Agriculture Organization's Asia and Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) where organic development was discussed, or in consultations like that conducted in New Caledonia and Fiji on pesticide regulations and organic policy/ regulation development.
- Contributed to the Task Force working on the strategic revision of the Self-organized Structures of IFOAM - Organics International.
- Consulted with members on forming a Self-organized Structure under the umbrella of IFOAM - Organics International.
- Promoted IFOAM - Organics International's vision including:
 - » Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS): e.g. discussions with the development partners to strengthen and consolidate PGS developments in the Pacific, or discussions on future PGS developments and other forms of certification to meet diverse market and producer demands, and funding opportunities for this.
 - » Fundraising for Organic 3.0 related activities: e.g. converting large-scale commercial farmers to regenerative organic practices and empowerment of women through organic value chains.
 - » Facilitated side events about organic farming in Small Island Developing States at COP 24.
 - » Television and radio interviews, workshop and public event openings about organic agriculture and/or rural development in the Pacific region.
- Explored and pursued opportunities to meet and engage with members from the region and other small island regions, e.g. opening workshop and providing technical assistance to a public private organic initiative in Mauritius.
- Represented IFOAM - Organics International and keynote speech at the Organic Cotton Summit in Nagpur, India.
- Participated as an invited speaker in the 'Leadership Day' of the Organic Leadership Course of IFOAM - Organics International.
- Participated in the Global Alliance for Organic Districts Core Group.
- Presented in several webinars and online fora relating to subjects such as the impact of the EU regulation on less economically developed countries, organic food systems, and organic agriculture as a development tool in partnership with organizations such as the International Trade Centre, ALGOA, IFOAM Organics Europe, and Global Landscapes Forum.

Frank Eyhorn

Vice President until end 2019



- Supported the ED selection with focus on process, assessments, candidates' tasks, and reporting.
- Co-authored the paper 'Sustainability of global agriculture driven by organic farming' published in Nature Sustainability and related promotional activities, including three webinars on coherent policies in which authors of the paper presented the content to policymakers.
- Project proposal for the Food for Life campaign concept development pitched to and approved by two Swiss donors. The concept served as the basis for the EU-funded DEAR project and lay the foundations for what is now the **Honest Food** campaign.
- Contributed to planning the next phase of the SDC-funded Nutrition in Mountain Areas project.
- Fundraising and project proposal development for IFOAM – Organics International on several strategic themes, e.g. transformative sustainable food systems, agroecology, food security, coherent policies and sustainable city region food systems.
- Provided guidance, further development and promotion of the True Cost Accounting paper.
- Provided feedback on the 'Organic World Congress 3.0' consultancy.
- Prepared and moderated the seminar 'Leading change in Agriculture and Food Systems: Organic Visions and Strategies' at IFOAM – Organics International's 'Changing Leadership' event.
- Contributed to providing a counter-response to anti-organic media coverage.
- Explored options to leverage investments into agroecological businesses with the Agroecology Fund and the Global Alliance for the Future of Food.
- Presented the potential of the organic sector to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to encourage them to up-scale their organic portfolio.

World Board Commitments



David Amudavi

- Participated in the BIOFACHs with speaking assignments at the Science Day of the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International, a side event with German development cooperation organisations, and other congress sessions, e.g. The Future of Organic Agriculture in Africa; The Future of Certification; Global Market Overview: An African Perspective.
- Participated in the virtual BIOFACH in the IFOAM - Organics International session on Global Organic Market Overview. As one of the five panelists, I explored the market information from the IFOAM – Organics International/FiBL statistics book and deepened understanding of trends and strategic market positioning from several parts of the world. I presented the overview for Africa. Also participated as one of five panelists looking at Boosting Organic Trade in Africa: Analyses, Trends, Strategies.
- Participated in the Task Force dealing with the strategic review of the Self-organised Structure and the annual Action Group Leadership Seminar.
- Represented IFOAM – Organics International and the ecological organic agriculture initiative through a televised interview and briefing (Kenya Television Network - KTN), and had an article published in 'The Organic Farmer Magazine' and in the Daily Nation's Seeds of Gold.
- Presented about IFOAM – Organics International's work and themes at several events, e.g. Global Organic Market Overview and Moving Towards Organic 3.0 at the PELUM Kenya Networking Symposium.
- Provided support in organising the Training of Teams of Facilitators (ToToF) programme under the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) project funded by BMZ through GIZ.
- Provided support to several IFOAM – Organics International projects and activities, e.g. the Training of Trainers (ToT) for Organic Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) in Mountainous Areas (Kenya); the launch of the Rwanda Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) National Stakeholders Forum in the context of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture (KCOA) project; the inception of the Knowledge Center for Organic Agriculture in Africa (KCOA-Africa) in Uganda; the organisation of the one-day workshop for 28 participants from four eastern African countries (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania) of KCOA (Kenya).
- Acted as Chair of the Conference Organising Committee of the 1st International Conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems in Africa (Kenya), an event jointly organised by Biovision Africa Trust, IFOAM - Organics International and the World Food Preservation Center.
- Reviewed documents on National Organic Movements (NOAMs).

Bablu Ganguly



- Represented IFOAM – Organics International at several events, including delivering a speech at the 1st Xichong International Organic Innovation Summit (South Korea) organized by IFOAM Asia; the Organic and Millets Trade Fair (India); the 3rd Asia Organic Congress and Organic Youth Forum (Philippines).
- Promoted and pursued opportunities to further PGS, representing IFOAM – Organics International at several international events, with high-level representatives.
- Attended BIOFACH China (Shanghai), BIOFACH South East Asia (Thailand), and BIOFACH (Germany) with speaking assignments.
- Participated in several skype meetings with the Action Group Task Force and provided input into the process of organizational development of INOFO.
- As a member of the Membership Task Force, I gave recommendations for improved processes in the handling of membership.
- Exchanged and engaged with affiliates of IFOAM – Organics International at various events.

Edith van Walsum

WB Member until May 2021



- Focus on convergence of agroecology and organic agriculture, both in official meetings and in direct contact with farmers.
- Member of the Organic Markets for Development (OM4D) Steering Committee with one visit to an OM4D project location (Ghana). A face-to-face Steering Committee Meeting to be held during 2019 was postponed due to crowded agendas of Committee members.
- Drafted note on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), an agroecological strategy being rolled out in Andhra Pradesh, South India.
- Engaged with farmers, field workers, farmer leaders, educators and researchers in Andhra Pradesh to foster agroecological and organic transformation.
- Exchanged and engaged with the Action Group of IFOAM – Organics International, e.g. IFOAM Organics Europe for their 15th anniversary and Board elections; also joined the Technology Innovation Platform of IFOAM – Organics International (TIPI) to reflect on the future development of the platform.
- Attended three global BIOFACH events.
- Produced a special issue of Farming Matters Magazine on the upscaling of agroecological approaches to achieve SDGs, in collaboration with IFOAM – Organics International, launched at the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Agroecology Symposium (Italy).
- Reviewed a paper for IPES-Food (International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems): Seven Case studies of transition away from industrial agriculture. I participated in several joint activities with scope for organizational learning. The Task Force Scaling Up Agroecology was active from October 2018 till July 2019. As its chair, I facilitated five skype meetings. The focus question was: how can IFOAM engage with other key actors in upscaling agroecology? In July 2019, the E-board decided to keep the AE Task Force dormant, and to call for a meeting if key strategic questions come up. EB agreed and the process now continues.
- Visits to farmers' organisations in India (INOFO members in Rajasthan and Kerala) and AOI members in Indonesia helped me to deepen my insights into powerful links between organic farmers' organisations and citizens all over the world.



Julia Lernoud

- Participated in two BIOFACHs, speaking at several sessions, as well as the opening ceremony.
- Acted as Chair of the Action Group Task Force with co-organization of the annual Action Group Day 2019.
- Carried a global membership survey and developed recommendations and reports assessing improvement potential of membership processes as part of the Membership Task Force.
- Participated in discussions on the revision of Policy 23 on Self-organized Structures as a member of the Self-organized Structures Task Force.
- Coordinated input from the Regional Body of Latin America for the Network Committee.
- Produced and launched the 2018 and 2019 editions of 'The World of Organic Agriculture' at BIOFACH.
- Launched the third and fourth edition of 'The State of Sustainable Markets' report in which IFOAM – Organics International was showcased.
- Delivered a class on organic farming worldwide and IFOAM – Organics International in two instances for a Master course at the Heredia University, Costa Rica.
- Participated in the training and conference parts of the Asia Organic Youth Forums in the Philippines and Taiwan, organized by IFOAM Asia.
- Worked on a survey concept to map the current youth involvement in the organic movement and launch and development of the World Organic Youth Forum together with IFOAM Asia and IFOAM – Organics International.
- Member of the One World Award Jury
- Provided support to IFOAM Latin America for their GA and participation in the IFOAM Network.
- Presented in GLF Digital Forum: Food without Farmers.
- Presented at two CIAO Conferences.
- Presented at the Agrocalidad Conference – Youth in organics and Organic 3.0 – Ecuador.
- Participated at the opening of the RAE Conference – GMOs and Food Security – Peru.
- Participated at two ISEAL Conferences.



Gerold Rahmann

- Represented IFOAM – Organics International at German research and development meetings, policy hearings, United Nations bodies (e.g. FAO) organic students classes and farmers' meetings and as a keynote speaker at conferences in Germany and across Europe, Africa and Asia.
- Cooperated with IFOAM Organics Europe in the communication on GAP (EU policy agenda 2020-2025: organic competence to achieve goals - scientific assessments) and the new EU Organic Regulation 848/2018.
- Supported several donor-funded projects involving IFOAM – Organics International, e.g. Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture (KCOA, 23 million-euro budget) where I serve as one of four members on the advisory board of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, or the 'Organic Africa' project funded by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) where I contributed to the conceptual and advisory work around the project.
- Coordinated the Scientific Forum of the Organic World Congress 2021, reviewing submissions and related communication.

Hans Herren



- Co-authored the policy comment paper '[Sustainability of Global Agriculture Driven by Organic Farming](#)' published in Nature Sustainability.
- Acted as co-organizer of the '1st International Conference on Agroecology Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems in Africa', held in Nairobi (Kenya) to highlight the damage synthetic pesticides is having on African populations. The event was jointly convened by Biovision Africa Trust, IFOAM - Organics International and World Food Preservation Centre LLC, and attracted over 400 participants from 20 countries.
- Prepared the IAASTD +10 anniversary event and publication with arrangements to include IFOAM – Organics International.
- Presented and promoted key themes on IFOAM – Organics International's agenda, e.g. the transformation needs for agriculture and the food system, food security and True Cost Accounting, with a view to securing funding for relevant activities.
- Received speaking assignments for events, e.g. the Organic World Forum (now postponed to 2021). I also spoke at webinars in India and China on the need for food system transformation towards AE and OA.
- All my activities at the Millennium Institute are geared towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at national level, by helping governments develop policies that are conducive to sustainable development in all three dimensions. I am giving a special emphasis to scenarios that include organic agriculture and agroecology practices to further not only Goal 2, but also all the linked Goals.
- With my Biovision Foundation Founder and President hat, I am promoting on a regular basis organic agriculture / agroecology in Switzerland, as well as in Africa by supporting projects that further these practices.
- Acted as Closing Keynote at the Organic World Forum, with an emphasis on OA3.0 as a key element in the broader agroecology-based food system transformation needed to counter the main challenges ahead.
- Under my presidency of the Biovision Foundation, as founder of the Biovision Africa Trust based in Nairobi, I further promoted OA and AE as the way forward with funding for research and implementation projects in Africa, while also promoting the shift in Switzerland and more generally in the industrialized world.
- Co-published the book 'Transformation of our food system: the making of a paradigm shift' with former IAASTD colleagues as well as published a list of Key Messages for the way forward for AE and OA.
- Provided letter of support to the President for the GMO ban in Peru.



Strategic Plan

of IFOAM - Organics International

The strategic plan 2017 - 2022 positions IFOAM - Organics International as the organic change agent for true sustainability in agriculture, value chains and consumption on behalf of the global organic movement and its membership in over 120 countries. It is based on the conviction that agriculture – done differently – can be part of the solution and that organic agriculture is a forerunner for truly sustainable agriculture. It offers practical and systemic solutions to address hunger and inequity, climate change, biodiversity, depletion of natural resources and other issues. In 2020, with feedback and input from the Regional and Sector Bodies, we reviewed our strategy under its mission: ‘Leading change, organically’.

The World Board assessed that indeed, the work areas of capacity building, awareness raising, and policy and guarantee lie at the core of our strengths as an enabling organisation. We enable and collaborate with our members and network to make sure our common work falls on fertile soil.

We have maintained our recognised role as a global player and have a seat at the table of important UN processes and bodies. We extended our reach of partners for whom Organic 3.0 meant a proposition to collaborate.

We created tools to serve the organic community, like the [Global Policy Toolkit](#) or the [Honest Food](#) communications campaign. We upheld our profile as experts in organic guarantee. More and more, we were able to directly influence national and regional governments, engaging them in meaningful conversations on policy and regulation.

Our communications expanded, our tone of voice is solution-oriented. Our visibility on social media and our packaging resonates with multipliers.

We included new themes like Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture and supported our members with institutional building.

In the coming years, we want to increase our membership and involve our network more and better, e.g. in advocacy efforts, as project partners, and of course as amplifiers of our common messages. We will share more evidence and facts and extend the Organic Academy in order to empower more leaders and multipliers. And we will work further on the backbone of the organisation.

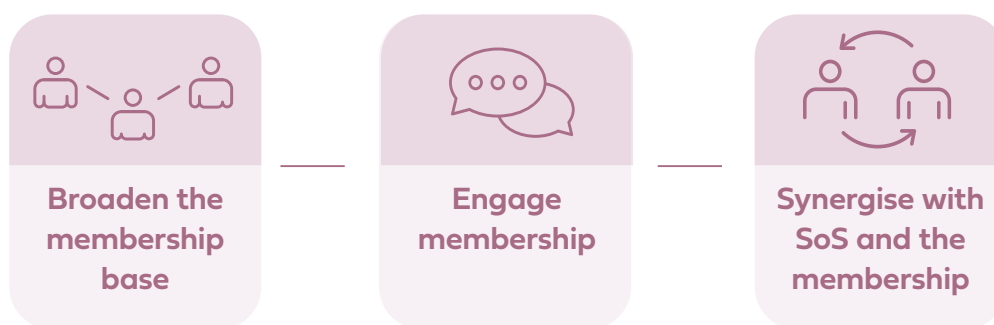
2022 will be a special year. It not only marks 50 years of IFOAM - Organics International, IFOAM Organics Europe will celebrate its 20th and IFOAM Organics Asia its 10th anniversary. We will use these celebrations as key moments for the upcoming strategy 2023 - 2027 and look forward to learning your thoughts, our dear members.

Term Highlights



Membership & IFOAM Action Group

To promote the broad participation and engagement of membership and Self-organised Structures (SoS), we have developed a membership strategy with three clear strategic goals:



A unique selling proposition (USP) has been formulated, at once addressing and empowering regional diversity while keeping the core message clear: IFOAM - Organics International is the only global organic association and change agent.

The *IFOAM Action Group* has been steady in the past term. Annual leadership meetings led to the constitution of a Network Council, which proposed a network reform to improve the relationship between Self-organised Structures and IFOAM - Organics International. The World Board approved the concept of 'one membership' within the IFOAM network, a joint membership with

IFOAM - Organics International, Regional Bodies and INOFO. The aim is to underline the joint identity and provide even more value to membership by bringing together regional and global benefits.

In 2020, a trilateral MoU was signed by IFOAM - Organics International, the Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organisations (INOFO) and Andreas Hermes Akademie (a German capacity-building institution). The objective is to consolidate and strengthen the collaboration between IFOAM - Organics International and INOFO.

Advocacy

We have one third of the time available to meet the ambitious goals of Agenda 2030 behind us. Only nine harvests are left and we still struggle with our dysfunctional food systems, leaving a lot of people food-insecure, malnourished, obese, our ecosystems exploited and climate change exacerbating.

However, the last years have seen an improved integration of sustainability and inclusivity in food security and nutrition agendas, particularly at the global level. This is indicated by the United Nations' selection of themes to be focused on during UN international decades and years.

As the UN Decade on Biodiversity was coming to an end, the Decade of Action on Nutrition and the Decade of Family Farming were launched. 2021 was declared the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, with IFOAM - Organics International, INOFO, and other Network members taking a leading role in these. Together with our Ambassadors, we constantly leverage the opportunities created by these in our advocacy for truly sustainable agriculture and food systems, which will see new horizons with a [UN Food Systems Summit](#) in 2021.



Agroecology and organic agriculture getting traction

As agroecology evolved to the flagship approach our movements would stand behind, we are successful in securing organic agriculture a place in it.

We did so at the [2nd FAO Symposium on Agroecology](#) with IFOAM - Organics International World Board members taking centre stage.

As a conclusive step, the [FAO Scaling Up Agroecology Initiative](#) was launched. To explore synergies and find ways we can contribute, the World Board formed an Agroecology Task Force and organised a joint workshop with the FAO team in charge.

As part of the [Future Policy Award on Agroecology](#), in partnership with FAO and the World Future Council, we highlighted policies that scale up agroecology to support the protection of life and livelihoods of small-scale food producers, ensure sustainable food production systems, and implement climate-resilient agricultural practices. The winners of the award, including the gold winner Indian state of Sikkim going 100% organic, were celebrated in a ceremony at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) also chooses the topic "Agroecology and other innovative approaches" for their next report. Due to our inputs and push, organic agriculture is clearly considered as an agroecological approach in it.



Leadership in the global discourse on all segments of sustainability

Together with our Ambassadors and Network, we continue our leadership in global processes, giving us a chance to speak at UN events. We co-lead the Farmers Major Group / Constituency in the SDG process and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), while playing a key role in the one on climate change. We are reelected as a member of the Mul-

ti-stakeholder Advisory Committee for the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP). We are also an active member of the Civil Society Mechanism for the CFS and the UNCCD and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes.

As a result, our delegates — organic farmers from Chile, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Kenya, Peru, Uganda and many more — were invited to speak at the highest level global discussions to topics such as climate friendly livestock management, nutrition-sensitive agriculture and ecosystem services management.

Due to a strong push by our INOFO delegates, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Farmers Forum asked IFAD and governments to support organic farming and agroecology.

Responding to the needs for the meaningful, participative and legitimate 2030 Agenda implementation and the necessity of global, holistic and integrated actions, working from the global to the local level, we conducted a three-year project titled 'Make Europe Sustainable for All', combining the expertise and experience of 25 partners from 14 EU countries as well as EU and global networks.



Highlighting what works

As part of the [Farming for Biodiversity project](#), we identified, celebrated and helped replicate community-driven solutions from around the world that align biodiversity preservation with agricultural production. Through our global crowdsourcing effort, we surfaced a total of **338 such solutions**. These, along with best policies working for agroecology, are highlighted in the [Panorama Platform](#) operated jointly with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Rare.

We are engaging an [interactive global network of policymakers](#) interested in making our food systems sustainable to face current global challenges. Policymakers shared their experiences in various events including the [CFS High-Level Special Event](#) and the [3rd Global Conference of the Sustainable Food Systems \(SFS\) Programme](#). Recent pioneering initiatives such as in Himachal Pradesh in India, in Bogotá, Colombia, and in Karnali province in Nepal all participated in the exchange.

Our solid support to agroecology as the right approach to transform food systems is reflected in the initial products of the process preparing for the Food Systems Summit in 2021.

Policy Toolkits on Organic Regulation & Supporting Policies

During the period of 2017–2021, we promoted our [Global Policy Toolkit on Public Support to Organic Agriculture](#), published in 2017. As a result, it was intensively used by policy advocates and policymakers during the period, with many personal appreciations, direct uptake in national policy documents, and more than 3,000 downloads for the various elements of the online toolkits over the three years that followed.

2017–2021 was also a period of intensification of our direct impact on national organic policies, regulations, strategies and action plans. We had a direct input and impact in organic policy and regulation formulation in at least 15 countries, in Africa (Cameroon, Morocco, Togo, Madagascar, Uganda), Asia (Sri Lanka, India and several Indian States, Armenia, Bhutan, Nepal, Philippines, Mongolia, Kazakhstan), Oceania (Vanuatu and

New Zealand) and of course in the EU and the USA. In all those countries, we thrived to promote good, locally adapted and accessible organic standards, effective and accessible control systems including Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) recognition and group certification acceptance, import and export rules based on equivalence, and effective organic support policies.

We continued implementing and promoting tools of global relevance that are the unique mark of IFOAM - Organics International, including the IFOAM Family of Standards, the IFOAM Standard and Accreditation Program, global data collec-

tion on PGS and the status of organic regulation development worldwide (which we publish every year in the World of Organic Agriculture). We added to those globally relevant tools the publication of the [Organic Equivalence Tracker](#) and the [Organic Certifiers' Directory](#).

We also launched, together with FAO, the publication ["Why invest in Participatory Guarantee Systems?"](#) and the short animated movie ["PGS and Local Sustainable Food Systems"](#), as well as a revision of our PGS Policy Brief and of the PGS Guidelines.

Capacity Development

The implementation of the 2nd phase of the Nutrition in Mountain Agro-ecosystems (NMA) project (2018–2020), funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Development and Cooperation (SDC), was planned to end together with the three-year world board term. However, due to the negative effects of the pandemic and consequent challenges in finalising our objectives in time, the project period was extended with additional funds. Coping mechanisms were put in place and digital media helped make up the delays caused by the pandemic. For example, field visits were replaced with the coaching of partner organisations and rural service providers through regular phone calls, webinars and virtual meetings.

The NMA project saw almost 800 rural service providers trained and supported across nine countries. With its main focus on upscaling nutrition-sensitive agriculture (SUNSAI), NMA II has achieved that 19,553 producers implemented more than 20 nutrition-sensitive agriculture practices. They produced more than 50 crops and agricultural products (2,388 tonnes) that were accessed by 166,000 consumers, with 40% not being directly from the production area. 130,000 people were reached through awareness campaigns. The SUNSAIs were co-financed with almost half a million US\$.

In June 2019, we ended our long-term investment and intervention in the organic sector in East Africa (Organic Trade and Value Chain De-

velopment - OTEA) with the 1st International Conference on Agroecology "Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems in Africa". OTEA contributed to an increase of 9% more organic farmers in the region, an increased organic trade in local (support of 130 PGS groups), regional and international markets and a consistent engagement with policymakers leading to, for example, the organic policy in Uganda.

2018 marked the beginning of our intervention in West Africa (Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso and São Tome e Príncipe) with the Organic Markets for Development (OM4D) project, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands. OM4D focuses on strengthening organic umbrella organisations, developing the national and international organic markets (introducing and strengthening PGS initiatives as well as building global value chains) and linking the interventions to national, regional and international advocacy.

In 2019, we started PROBio in Senegal, aiming to strengthen the organic umbrella organisation FENAB. It combines institutional development, training and capacity development with advocacy for a stronger recognised and competent organic umbrella association in Senegal. PROBio is part of the sequa programme PartnerAfrica contributing to the Special Initiative Income and Employment of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and is set to run for three years.

During this period, we also strongly engaged in the development of the capacity development strategies of the Organic Knowledge Centers established in five regions in Africa, financed by GIZ / BMZ. The concept is to have a cascading approach in which Teams of Trainers receive training in each region to multiply their knowledge and skills on each coun-

try's level. Curricula have been designed in a participatory way and coaching concepts created. The first training in East Africa took place in 2020. At the time of writing, a special training is being prepared at a continental level that will focus on leadership.

Organic Academy

Over the last World Board term, we spread our messages through our Organic Leadership Courses (OLC), Training of Trainers (ToT) and other capacity-building activities.



In 2018, we held OLCs in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe. With a focus on farming for biodiversity, we trained 200 participants from Nepal, Kenya, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, Vietnam and Ethiopia as part of a project conducted with Rare. Close to 100 participants from around the world took their newly acquired knowledge from our OLCs back to their respective realities, many using their development projects as business plans for new organic ventures.



In 2019, as part of the OM4D project, the top three alumni in each of the countries where OLCs were conducted (Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo) received a grant to test their end-of-course development plans in real-life settings. We used our Training of Trainers programmes to build the capacity of local multipliers in NMA target countries. In acknowledgment of this, the FAO and UN invited, for the second year in a row, our Organic Academy to conduct a training at their summer school. Focusing on 'Agrobiodiversity in a Changing Climate', we contributed our expertise while providing thematic leadership from a global angle.



In 2020, the pandemic inevitably led to detrimental setbacks on the programmes of the organisation. Despite these challenges, ToToT (Training of Trainers of Trainers) programmes were conducted with 41 participants from East Africa in Kenya (33 participants) and North Africa in Tunisia (8 participants). In total, seven countries were represented.

Despite major challenges, we undertook face-to-face events that respected health and safety regulations, with **ToToT held in Namibia (27 participants), Nigeria (14 participants), and Benin (12 participants)**. Programmes are planned for **South Africa** (with participants from Malawi) and **Zambia** (with participants from Zimbabwe). A significant programme to train leaders from across Africa on the Ecological Organic Agriculture Leadership Course (EOALC) is underway in addition to Training for Senior Government Executives in Kyrgyzstan.

Communications

The last four years have seen considerable progress in our communications! We expanded our social media presence and have almost 50,000 followers across [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#). We ran the Good Food 4 All campaign which included the launch of a communications toolkit, made a short film '[We Unite](#)' accompanying German farmers on their protest for a better food system and also information animations highlighting the work organic farmers do and how choosing organic is better for birdlife.

In addition, we launched the [Honest Food](#) campaign providing numerous resources for organizations and individuals who want to share information on the multiple benefits of organic agriculture. Finally, in 2019 we celebrated farmers by sharing their stories and videos on a dedicated day using [#IGrowYourFood](#). This was such a success that we want to make it a global action day we host every year and in 2020 reached about 2 million people online with numerous contributions from over 40 countries.

General Assembly 2017

Motions

& Recommendations



Implementation Report

This document reports on the implementation of the 2017 General Assembly (GA) motions. The full motions, as approved by the GA 2017 in New Delhi, India, can be consulted [here](#).

MOTION W51 //

Compatibility of New Breeding Techniques

MOTION TEXT: Given that outside of the organic sector there is discussion and possible broadened uptake of new breeding and genetic engineering techniques in plant and animal breeding in the future, the General Assembly affirms the corrected position paper on the Compatibility of Breeding Techniques in Organic Systems.

The GA mandates the continuance of the Working Group to make recommendations for: (i) developing strategies and viable alternatives to avoid seeds and breeds of questionable breeding techniques; (ii) supporting organic animal and plant breeding initiatives and (iii) engaging with the mainstream breeding sector to strengthen organically compatible breeding programs, and protect the integrity of organic systems and of genetic resources in general. This shall include more thorough, more current, and more comprehensive information on the use of genome editing and similar techniques as well as on the possibility to monitor and police the exclusion of incompatible techniques.

REPORT:

In the next revision of the IFOAM Norms, the definitions of GMOs and GE will be changed to reflect the updated position expressed in the new breeding position paper.

In its ongoing advocacy work, whether it be at the UN level or when engaging in national regulation and legislation advocacy or technical advice, IFOAM - Organics International and its ambassadors will advocate in line with the positions on ge-

netic engineering and the position on the compatibility of breeding techniques.

IFOAM - Organics International will however not directly engage (other than through advocacy) in concrete efforts to set up or strengthen organically compatible breeding programmes, as there are other organisations better placed to do this.

MOTION
W52.1 +
W52.2//

Organic Aquaculture + Organic System Boundaries for Aquaculture

MOTION TEXT:
W52.1

IFOAM - Organics International adopts the following position and advocates for it to national and international fora and to private and government standard setters: The Principles of Organic Agriculture are applicable to aquaculture but can treat the aspect of soil differently, ensure its protection but not require it as a central system component. Organic aquaculture systems use natural resources responsibly, are integrated into the host environment to manage biological processes, enhance the health and protect the biodiversity of plants and animals. Standards should guide producers toward best organic practices regarding environmental stewardship, breeding, animal welfare, feed, veterinary care, and quality of the end product. Aqua food products need to be antibiotic-residue free.

MOTION TEXT:
W52.2

Organic aquaculture may include an environmentally integrated recirculation system only if it is based on and situated in a natural environment. It does not routinely rely on external inputs such as oxygen, allows the raised species to spend the majority of their lives in outdoor facilities and preferably uses renewable energy.

REPORT:

The Aquaculture Working Group prepared a draft and submitted it to the Policy and Guarantee department of IFOAM - Organics International for consideration by

the Standard Committee (SC). The SC did not work on the topic in the past term but have however scheduled to discuss it in 2022.

MOTION
W53 //**Organic 3.0 – for Truly Sustainable Farming and Consumption**

MOTION TEXT: The GA approves Organic 3.0 as a landmark and commits to include the content of Organic 3.0 in its strategies and actions and to facilitate required change in attitude and thinking. It mandates IFOAM - Organics International to be guided by Organic 3.0 and to lead the Organic Movement in this direction.

The term 'soil fertility' should be replaced with 'soil health' (page 2), immediately in the online version of the position and in future prints.

REPORT: The wording change as indicated in the motion has been done. See document [here](#).

MOTION
W54 //**Membership Structure**

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM - Organics International reforms its membership system within the framework of the statutes and whereby the World Board will:

- **Simplify administration**
- **For the definition of a fee category, rely on an online self-assessment tool by the members, using more criteria than just organic/non-organic turnover; this self-assessment will be published in order for members to give feedback to the World Board prior their final approval on membership.**
- **Develop the new membership strategy with proper involvement of the membership, regional bodies and self-organized structures**

REPORT: Simplify Administration: the International Office introduced the Online Membership Directory which includes an individual Members' Area for updating the profile and data for each affiliate. More recently, an online payment tool was added as a feature to facilitate fee payments. The online application form was simplified and the data exchange platform was implemented with two more Regional Bodies. The self-assessment tool has been further developed. Implementation scheduled for the second part of 2021. The vetting process will get included in the update of

the software for the online directory, also scheduled for the second half of 2021. A membership strategy has been developed based on the information and guidance provided by membership and SoS surveys, World Board and SoS task forces, direct consultation with SoS stakeholders and input provided by an external expert. The Membership Strategy for the IFOAM Network was approved by the World Board in April 2021. Implementation started in May 2021 in close cooperation with the SoS.

MOTION

M61 //

Organic Textiles: Fibre Production and Processing to be Covered by Appropriate Standards

MOTION TEXT: Textiles advertised/labelled 'organic' and made with organic fibers produced according to recognized standards (e.g. IFOAM Family of Standards), should also be processed to a standard (endorsed by IFOAM - Organics International) that prohibits hazardous and residual inputs according to a clear procedure.

IFOAM - Organics International acknowledges that such standards should cover the whole supply chain (as is the case with food). Stating the organic fiber content ("contains X% organic cotton"), e.g. through the Organic Content Standard by Textile Exchange, is a relevant step.

IFOAM - Organics International will communicate this to stakeholders and engage with them for the widespread adoption of a whole-chain-approach (chain of custody) to labelling organic textile products.

REPORT: IFOAM - Organics International developed, in consultation with GOTS, the key elements of position and debate/questions to use in a survey to businesses/organisations involved in organic textiles. For this purpose, a globally representative database of organic textile companies & organisations to be consulted in the business survey was compiled. The results have been analysed and inform the planning of next steps.

MOTION

M62 //

IFOAM norms – Integration of a Guide on Key Themes Related to Sustainability

MOTION TEXT: With more and more Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) emerging, many attempts are being made to assess their sustainability using indicators in relation to good governance, environmental integrity and social wellbeing. In order to make assessments of IFOAM norms easier, the GA suggests the addition of a guide listing key sustainability themes and indicators, with reference to the relevant norms chapter. This guide should be based on the GA approved IFOAM Best Practice Guidelines, on the FAO's SAFA (Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems) Guidelines and on the Sustainable Development Goals.

REPORT: A work plan was developed with FiBL in a driving position. The work has been paused and it is planned to be finished by the end of 2021. As part of the guide, an evaluation report based on the agreed indicators will be presented.

MOTION**M64 //****Organic Invertebrates Standard**

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM - Organics International shall develop specific requirements for the production of organic invertebrates (including insects and annelids) and their products in its IFOAM Standard for Organic Production and Processing.

REPORT: The EU Commission has developed a draft of organic insect production rules for the new EU organic regulation. IFOAM Organics Europe has sent this to IFOAM - Organics International for comments mid-January 2019. A first version of the Organic Invertebrates Standard was produced in November 2020, and was discussed in two successive meetings of the IFOAM Standard Committee (SC). Following the SC meeting, an extended expert consultation was organised in February 2021. The results will be analysed in the next SC meeting that will take place in June 2021. A public consultation will be organised in July/August 2021, followed by a last SC session about this topic. The final draft will be submitted for approval to the World Board, and subsequently voted on by the IFOAM - Organics International members by electronic vote.

MOTION**M65 //****Transparency of Certification**

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM - Organics International shall tackle the issue of transparency in making public details of certified producers, products and processes in the next revision of its IFOAM Accreditation Requirements, and shall advocate for further transparency in this area within other fora, such as in the ISEAL community and towards government organic regulations.

REPORT: We have not been able to initiate any revision of the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements, as we have been hugely delayed with the work on the IFOAM Standard, which remains the first priority. Also, with regards to certification issues, we have focused our work on the group certification requirements process, due to the urgency imposed by the EU organic regulation revision and the risk of disruption in the value chain concerned by group certification. We therefore intend to postpone the work of this motion to the next 3-year GA-GA cycle.

MOTION
M67 //

IFOAM - Organics International Should Establish a Strategy to Identify and Systematise Non-certified Organic Agriculture

MOTION TEXT: According to data published by IFOAM - Organics International, there are about 50.9 million hectares in certified organic production. However, unofficial figures mention that non-certified organic agriculture is much larger. IFOAM - Organics International should take the lead, along with partners such as FAO, to establish a -methodologically credible - figure on non-certified organic agriculture. This should also include non-certified organic gardening.

REPORT: IFOAM - Organics International has started developing a methodology for this. This turned out to be quite cumbersome, not credible and hard to scale. It has started collaboration with FAO on monitoring agroecology. The FAO Workplan on Scaling Up AgroEcology includes a public online database on agroecology (including quantitative, qualitative and spatial data). However, the FAO also has difficulties with quantifying AgroEcological farmers.

Based on these cumbersome experiences, the World Board decided to stop working on the quantifying exercise. Nonetheless, the communication of IFOAM - Organics International focuses equally on all farmers, regardless of whether they are certified, PGS-verified, otherwise community-controlled or practicing organic practices. In the #IGrowYourFood campaign, certification is not a topic of distinction.

MOTION
M68 //

IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Highlight the Social Dimension of Local Markets and their Contribution to Organic Agriculture Development

MOTION TEXT: Local markets are central to the current growth of organic agriculture, especially in developing countries. For now, many of them have been based on the production and marketing of organic foods. Considering local markets are also the basis of the social fabric between producer and consumer and other stakeholders, the organic movement and short food supply chains initiatives should work more closely together. IFOAM - Organics International should complete a study to identify and visualize the social attributes of local markets.

REPORT: FAO published an innovators handbook in 2020 to which numerous members of the organic sector contributed as well as staff members of IFOAM - Organics International. Titled 'Enabling sustainable food systems', it was written by a group of innovators from Asia, Africa, the Americas and Europe who are leading initiatives to grow, share, sell and consume more sustainable foods in their local contexts. It showcases

case studies about Participatory Guarantee Systems, traditional farming schemes in India, local organic markets in Chile and much more. We have promoted the publication in our newsletter and also on our website.

Links and resources:

Enabling sustainable Food Systems
See document [here](#).

MOTION
M69 //**IFOAM - Organics International Should Review and Report the Theoretical and Practical Bases of Internal Control Systems (ICS)**

MOTION TEXT: **The majority of the world's organic farmers enter national and international markets through internal control systems. After more than 20 years of success, however, the practice of internal control systems deserves a critical assessment in order to improve their performance and increase consistency. Regional groups and IFOAM – Organics International projects in developing countries should assess the functioning of ICS and provide recommendations to the Accreditation Requirements Committee that shall be used in the revision of the relevant criteria.**

REPORT:

We took up this issue as an urgent work area in view of the EU regulation development process. The aimed outcome is a new set of requirements that can be fed into the IFOAM Accreditation Requirements revision process.

We have submitted several rounds of official comments and briefing papers to the EU Commission, and other EU policymakers, the latest being in August 2020. This comment had a strong influence on com-

ments submitted by other stakeholders to the commission. The advocacy work to the EU Commission is still ongoing. We have also submitted a comment to the USDA in October 2020 on the proposed new USDA rule, with a strong focus on the group certification requirements. This comment was developed in consultation with our US members and more generally with the whole IFOAM membership and ICS stakeholder base worldwide.

MOTION
M70 //**IFOAM – Organics International Should Take a Clear Position on Other Sustainability Standard**

MOTION TEXT: **As the organic sector is growing, other standards try to take advantage of this, which for a big part exists thanks to the vision, mission, reality and success of IFOAM - Organics International. These other standards are often non-organic, but try to appear as sustainable and a win for producers, consumers and nature. IFOAM - Organics International should have a clear message, to support the organic sector by communicating intensively the positive impacts of organic practices and its importance for sustainable development.**

REPORT:

Through our communication like the blog and Honest Food campaign, we clearly communicate the positive impacts of organic. However, through Organic 3.0, we also want to be inclusive, take others on their

way to true sustainability in agriculture. To this end, some World Board members, the Executive Director and others have written an opinion piece for [Nature Sustainability](#), which will be widely promoted.

MOTION
M72 //

Multilateral equivalence instead of unilateral compliance

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM - Organics International reinforces its position on preference of multilateral recognition of organic standards and regulations based on equivalence. It urges regulators to abstain from demanding compliance in certification and accreditation for international market access, which is still practiced by most regulators. It maintains the tools (e.g. the Family of Standards) to facilitate equivalence. It encourages and observes policy processes such as for example the discussions of Switzerland, USA, EU, Canada, Japan, Korea and Chile on plurilateral recognition and it defends the interests of organic smallholder producers throughout the world particularly of those from not regulated countries. IFOAM – Organics International endorses Regional Equivalence Agreements as a means to provide for equivalency access to organic food markets. IFOAM – Organics International appeals to governments not to go from the principle of equivalence to full compliance and to defend the essential guarantees of the final Declaration of Marrakesh for justice in fair terms of trade.

REPORT: This motion reflects the work done by IFOAM – Organics International on an ongoing basis. IFOAM - Organics International has been working on influencing the modifications brought to the concept of group certification by regulators like the EU Commission and the USDA. Thus, we have been organising expert workshops on group certification and have been directly commenting on both the EU and USDA regulations in order to keep a system accessible which is the basis for the livelihoods of millions of smallholders worldwide. Moreover, the work on the Family of Standards has continued with the inclusion of new equivalent standards in the FOS during the past term. Furthermore, we have been actively advocating towards governments in order to promote multiple recognition of equivalence and have registered positive results in the case of Sri Lanka, Madagascar and Cameroon.

MOTION
M73 //

Defining and Regulating the Process and the Relationship Between IFOAM – Organics International and IFOAM Regional Bodies

MOTION TEXT: Cooperation between IFOAM – Organics International and its Regional Bodies should lead to a non-competitive environment on regional advocacy work, strategies and regional projects. IFOAM - Organics International and the IFOAM Regional Bodies collaborate and seek for synergies, on the basis of a mutually agreed strategy, with the lead taken by IFOAM - Organics International for interregional and global issues and the lead taken by IFOAM Regional Bodies for regional issues.

REPORT: 'Policy 23 on Self-organised Structures' has been reviewed by the Action Group Task Force, which has its mandate from the Self-organised Structures (SoS) Leadership meeting on February 11, 2018 and further refined by the Network Committee. The World Board approved [a revised policy 23](#) in November 2020. The Network Council has a clear ToR; it functions at operational level and meets every quarter.

MOTION

M74 //**Organic & Health**

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM – Organics International and the organic movement put wellbeing and human health (including social well-being, income for farmers/producers and consumers' health) in their development strategies. In this context, IFOAM - Organics International and its members look for cooperation to understand the needs of operators, consumers and standards developers and they look for getting funding support. The organic movement raises awareness and researches the relation between health, organic agriculture and lifestyle.

REPORT: BIOFACH 2019 had Health as the topic of the year, through which a narrative for the organic movement and the public was developed. This narrative has been discussed with the sector and the conclusions were spread through the communication of IFOAM – Organics International.

MOTION

M76 //**Transparency of Finances of IFOAM - Organics International**

MOTION TEXT: Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall include a detailed financial report not only for IFOAM – Organics International (as an association registered in Bonn (Germany), but also with respect to all other entities where IFOAM – Organics International holds interests (such as shares) or where IFOAM programs are implemented such as the IFOAM Organic Guarantee System and the IFOAM Accreditation Program.

REPORT: The [2017 Annual Report](#) contained, for the first time, three financial posts (from each Self-organised Structure, IOAS and bioC: Income, Expenditures & Reserves). See page 30 of the 2017 Consolidated Annual Report of IFOAM – Organics International, page 22 of the [2018 Consolidated Annual Report](#) and page 23 of the [2019 Consolidated Annual Report](#).

MOTION
M77 //

Transparency of Salaries at IFOAM - Organics International

MOTION TEXT: Future reports on the finances of IFOAM – Organics International shall provide better transparency of the annual earnings e.g. the ratio between highest and the lowest paid.

REPORT: Starting from the Annual Report 2017, IFOAM - Organics International publishes its salary scheme. See page 31 of the [2017 Consolidated Annual Report](#) of IFOAM – Organics International, page 20 of the [2018 Consolidated Annual Report](#) and page 23 of the [2019 Consolidated Annual Report](#).

MOTION
M79 //

Raising Awareness of Glyphosate Contamination in the World to Motivate People to Action

MOTION TEXT: In order to raise public awareness and promote and protect the long-term growth of organic agriculture, the World Board of IFOAM – Organics International shall set up a task force or use existing appropriate committees to direct a study by an international team of scientist to assess and publicize the world-wide contamination of glyphosate in our environment, in our food and in our human bodies. Evidence collected shall be published in peer-reviewed journals. The scope of the project will be determined by grants and/or the financial support that is received from the membership.

REPORT: The Executive Board mandated that the implementation of M79 should focus on gathering already available science and making it available in target-audience tailored communications toolkits. Looking at the activities planned for the Honest Food campaign, there was overlap between the mandate of the motion and planned campaign activities: The messaging planned for Honest Food will raise awareness of the damage pesticides can do to farmers, consumers and the planet. In addition, we have the GoodFood4All campaign for which we will also develop a version of the Honest Food toolkit with messaging on pesticides. Messaging on glyphosate has been included in toolkits for the Good Food for All Campaign and [Honest Food](#) campaign. Numerous articles pertaining to glyphosate have been shared on our social media channels and our blog, e.g.:

- [Honest Food Toolkit](#)
- [Organic Without Boundaries](#)
- [Twitter.com/IFOAMorganic/](https://twitter.com/IFOAMorganic/)
- [Facebook.com/ifoam.organic/](https://facebook.com/ifoam.organic/)

MOTION
M80 //**Highlight Unethical Behaving of Multinational Agro-industrial Corporations**

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM – Organics International should highlight the ill effects of unethically behaving multinational agroindustrial corporations such as Monsanto by collaborating with various international organizations.

REPORT:

This is already incorporated in IFOAM - Organics International's activities and is planned to be in the focus further on. IFOAM - Organics International will reinforce such efforts by speaking at events, organising and speaking at press conferences, giving interviews and writing articles/news pieces on issues, such as giant mergers and other means of concentration of power in the agricultural sector. IFOAM – Organics International was an active participant in the campaign organised jointly with various actors against the merger between Monsanto and Bayer. We spoke at the street demonstration as well as Bayer's shareholder meeting trying to convince shareholders to make the right choice.

[We participated in the demonstration 'Wir haben es Satt'](#) in Berlin in January 2019 together with farmers protesting against the concentration of power in the agricultural sector.

Our campaign titled Good Food 4 All also developed messages related to agrochemicals and their producers that we and our 24 partners use on social media. As part of the campaign, a video has been produced on the struggles of organic farmers in this

economic environment, including footage on the march mentioned above. The video was screened widely to the general public as well as at global and European events. We are engaged in discussions on planning for a follow-up of the Monsanto Tribunal held in 2016 in The Hague which had a broad media coverage around the globe. All these activities are backed up by online and social media campaigning, and we also regularly post messages on the topic, mostly in the context of major global events.

In an attempt to change our messages to be more on the positive side, we launched a social media campaign early 2019 titled '[I Grow Your Food](#)', celebrating and drawing citizens' attention to farmers as the often-forgotten players of our food systems dominated by a couple of large brands.

Our work promoting the full cost accounting approach to global organizations and governments is also partly aimed at changing these company practices by showing what environmental and social costs unsustainable practices entail.

MOTION
M81 //

Communicate Advantages of Organic Farming over Conventional

MOTION TEXT: IFOAM – Organics International should gather documentation and communicate it in order to confirm the advantages of organic farming over conventional.

REPORT: We set out to collect testimonials of people involved with organic, telling us in the first person what they perceive as the advantages. For this purpose we launched a blog, Organic Without Boundaries in May 2018, featuring stories and testimonials that highlight the benefits of organic agriculture. Both social media and the website are used to share information that highlights the reasons why organic is better than conventional agriculture.

E.g.:

- [World soil day](#)
- [Why are Synthetic Fertilizers Not Allowed in Organic?](#)
- [Sikkim – The First 100% Organic State in the World!](#)
- [Facilitate the Growth of Organic by Ending Subsidies for Chemical Inputs](#)
- [The Toxic Trail of Glyphosate](#)
- [How Organic Agriculture Helps Mitigate Climate Change](#)
- [How are Agroecological Farmers Challenging the Industrial Way of Farming?](#)
- [Find Out How Organic Farming Benefits Farmers, Consumers, Buyers and Traders!](#)
- [How Organic Agriculture Supports Biodiversity!](#)
- [Choose Organic](#)
- [Study Calls for a Shift Away from Destructively Intensive Agriculture!](#)
- [EAT-Lancet Commission Proposes Healthy Diet](#)
- [Future Policy Award 2018 Announces Winning Policies](#)

General Assembly 2017

Recommendations / Conclusion / Report

Recommendation 1:

IAHA Declaration

IFOAM - Organics International acknowledges the conclusions of the IFOAM Animal Husbandry Alliance (IAHA) Pre-Conference (7-8 November 2017) on "The Role of the Livestock in Sustainable Agriculture" as stated in the IAHA New Delhi Declaration.

Conclusion to the recommendation

The declaration is published on the IFOAM - Organics International [website](#) as requested. The World Board to take up items as appropriate.

Recommendation 2:

Prominence of Principles

To increase the prominence of the IFOAM Principles in framing and guiding the debates which we engage in as an organic movement. E.g. Discussions in IFOAM - Organics International facilitated sessions at the OWC should be introduced with reference to principles, which will best guide the debate to support the development of IFOAM - Organics International's positions, programs and standards.

Conclusion to the recommendation

The World Board agrees that the Principles of Organic Agriculture are a landmark and very important for our work. However, representatives of IFOAM - Organics International should refrain from appearing to be dogmatic. IFOAM - Organics International should use the principles whenever it makes sense and whenever they help moving forward rather than repeating them in each and every debate to increase their prominence.

Recommendation 3:

World Board candidates

In addition to biographies of WB candidates, ask each candidate to write answers to questions about IFOAM - Organics International policies, and about the WB and member motions, so that voting members know more about the people they vote for.

Conclusion to the recommendation

It makes sense to have a few guiding questions to identify World Board candidates' positions and

not only CV information. However, those questions should not touch upcoming motions or issues in which the World Board has taken a common position, since WB members commit to represent in the public common WB conclusion rather than their own opinion.

The Nomination Committee formulated questions for the candidates to respond to in May 2021. The responses are published to the membership in July.

Recommendation 4:

Standards for Urban Agro-Ecology

Develop standards to define Urban Organic Horticulture worldwide. An attempt should be made to include Urban Agroecology into the Organic Movements.

Conclusion to the recommendation

The World Board does not agree that specific standards should be developed for urban organic horticulture. However, it is agreed that urban agro-

ecology should be included in the organic movement. This should be done by identifying relevant institutions and by engaging with them. IFOAM - Organics International will identify sustainable urban agriculture initiatives around the world and connect with a view to collecting testimonials and/or interviews conducted when on travel. These can be published as thought-provoking feature stories on agriculture in the context of urban realities.

Recommendation 5:

Tracks in the OWC

To reduce the tracks dividing different audiences in the next OWC and replace them with themed sessions with papers identified as R-Research, P-Practice or M-Markets so we can get an integrated view on the topic.

Conclusion to the recommendation

The OWC2021 includes a stakeholder forum. The board of the Forum consists of representatives of other Fora as well as of AFSA, SOCLA and other related movements. Contributions to other Fora will get brought together to debate a subject from different angles and on different levels.

Recommendation 6:

Best Practice in the IFOAM Standard

IFOAM should develop a new Basic Standards to incorporate the IFOAM Best Practices Guidelines.

Conclusion to the recommendation

The Basic Standards was never aimed to be a "gold" standard. The best practices guidelines were not developed with the intention to convert them

into standard, but rather as an inspirational document. The introduction chapter of the IFOAM Basic Standard can explain the different functions of the documents and the aspiration of the organic movement as explained in Organic 3.0 (e.g. the continuous improvement or the diversity of conformity assessments).

Internal Auditor's Report 2017 – 2021



By Uygun Aksoy
ETO-Turkey



and Michel Reynaud
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Background information

The Internal Auditors (IAs) were appointed during the General Assembly in India 2017, with the main objective being to assess whether the motions and recommendations of the General Assembly (GA) are being carried out and whether the activities developed and implemented by the World Board (WB), including the Executive Board (EB) and the Office, are in accordance with goals and objectives of IFOAM – Organics International, as mentioned in statutes and the strategic plan of the organisation.

The internal audit activities are coordinated by Thomas Cierpka, Senior Manager responsible for Membership and Operations. All the documents required for the internal audit were made available to the IAs in a timely manner, as well arrangements for in-situ and online meetings with the staff according to the proposed agenda. When relevant, IAs met with other resource persons, e.g. WB members.

The Annual Audit office visits took place respectively in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021^[1].

Management: WB, Executive Director (ED) and the international office staff

The first internal audit in July 2018 coincided with the change of ED: Louise Lutikholt took over the position from Markus Arbenz. During the four-year period, the efficiency and internal communication of the office staff increased clearly with the new organisation. Interviews with staff and surveys show improvement in the organisational structure and staff working at the office, though further improvement is needed. The ED and office staff are well aware of the 2017 – 2025 strategy, and this is also reflected in the distribution of

the budget and project choices. IAs have confidence in the measures taken by the ED to have proper management and to face the challenge of managing a budget of more than 5 million euros. Within the WB, the members of the EB have taken more responsibilities. However, the IAs propose that all WB members can be involved in outreach activities, promotion of membership and strengthening of regional or local networks. Self-assessment is beneficial, however, to make an objective assessment, and special key performance indicators may be put in place according to the strategies and priorities decided for the three-year WB term. IAs propose to review the way performance of the WB and WB Members is assessed with more concrete figures/results or activities better aligned to the policies of the organisation. To facilitate the introduction of the new incoming Board members (election scheduled for September 2021), IAs recommend that the current Board makes an assessment of what has been done, including achievements and weaknesses, and provides recommendations to the new Board on ongoing issues and transfers lessons learned.

Motions

There were 20 Motions and six Recommendations accepted during the 2017 General Assembly in New Delhi, India. IAs checked the current state of each motion and decided on the issues that require further discussion with EDs and other members of the IFOAM – Organics International staff. IAs focused on how the motions are handled, by whom, the amount of time spent, the timetable, and the result. To address these issues, the office prepared a list of 2017 motions and recommendations, responsible persons, and what has been done, inserting the advances on motions report

and updating it for each WB meeting. The IAs' evaluation displayed that some motions require long-term efforts, cannot result in concrete achievements during the four-year term, and are more similar to recommendations. In this respect, IAs included a paragraph in the call for motions for the 2020 GA to guide members in submitting motions. As of 2021, all motions were handled and responded to.

Membership and Regional Groups

In IFOAM - Organics International, the numbers of affiliates (748 members, associates and supporters as of March 2021) slightly reduced over the last three years, negatively affecting the budget as well as the networking. The number of associates (108) and supporters (135) were also very limited. The number of members from North America and from market institutions were relatively small compared to the rapid growth in the markets. The aim should not be limited to income generation, but rather to decouple the increase of the number of affiliates from income generation. An assessment has been done and a 2025 membership strategy has been developed with an appropriate approach "Broaden, Engage and Synergise". The shares of membership from farming, science, service providers etc. in the total membership have to be evaluated in depth. The main challenge is that while the market increased, membership decreased. Therefore, the aim should be to contact sector players from areas where markets saw an increase. A push-and-pull approach can be implemented. Improving the new online membership platform with a database that is regularly updated would be a support. IAs recommend implementing the drafted membership strategy in a well-structured approach to increase membership by giving more emphasis on special sectors, groups or regions.

There should be a clear policy and structure drafted on networking at national and regional levels. It should be IFOAM - Organics International pulling interested parties more proactively according to the set up defined rather than finding solutions whenever there is a demand.

Projects

IAs have noticed a significant increase in the number of the projects directly taken over by IFOAM - Organics International and partnerships with donors. Since the increase of budget comes mainly from projects, there is a need for a continuous cycle of project formulation and submission. The sustainability of these high-budget, multi-annual and/or multi-stakeholder project outcomes should also be guaranteed. Paral-

lel to the increases in the number of project-employed staff, there should be a special orientation program prepared for their integration within office work and staff. The WB is recommended to follow the activities and outcomes of these projects closely, together with the project coordinators, and to contribute to the sustainability of achievements.

Budget and Reserves

The 2019 financial year ended with some losses due to a financial cleaning of the previous years, requiring a transfer of reserves. The year 2020 may also show a negative result due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the inconsistencies that appeared in the financial audits of the past, huge efforts were made to align the budgets of the past years with higher audit standards the organisation has committed to. The IAs underline the importance to rebuild reserves to overcome any fragility. Most of the revenue is coming from projects. IAs recommend that a special attention is given to the overhead and to have a well-calculated, justified overhead policy which value the assets of IFOAM - Organics International.

Organic World Congress (OWC)

The OWC is one of the most important global events in the organic world. IAs note that in order to minimise any risks, IFOAM - Organics International should revise the policy for the Congress, namely the templates for budget, contract and compulsory reports taking into consideration global threats as faced in COVID-19. Additionally, there should be a direct transfer of experience from the previous OWC to the coming one. There should be in-depth reporting about participant profiles, topics of interest, etc. The archiving and wider use of presentations, papers and knowledge pool accumulated should be maintained for the coming years.

Conclusion

The IAs are pleased with the relevance and increasing efficiency of the activities undertaken by the WB and the office and believe there is still room for improvements, as expressed under recommendations in yearly reports. During the four-year term, IAs made 37 recommendations that were all taken into consideration. The IAs appreciate the openness and hospitality of the IFOAM - Organics International office during the internal audits and thank the WB, Louise Luttkholt (ED), Yvonne Simonis-Liesenber (Deputy ED), Thomas Cierpka and the office staff.

^[1] The 2021 audit was carried out as on-line due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Statement of Income & Expenditures

Statement of Income and Expenses for the Period
from 1 January to 31 December of the year.

| € x 1000) | Audited 2017* | Audited 2018* | Audited 2019** | Audited 2020** |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Grants | 2.006 | 2.546 | 2.504 | 2.162 |
| Membership contributions (incl. Regional bodies) | 419 | 373 | 361 | 352 |
| Donations | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Sales Revenue | not separately shown | | 164 | 119 |
| Other operating income | 653 | 627 | 801 | 593 |
| Total Income | 3.078 | 3.554 | 3.830 | 3.226 |
| Expenses for project funding | -1.227 | -1.401 | -1.700 | -1.130 |
| Personnel expenses | -1.217 | -1.447 | -1.423 | -1.554 |
| Depreciation | -3 | -7 | -8 | -19 |
| Other operating expenses/ administration/ taxes | -539 | -559 | -1.086 | -735 |
| Total expenses | -2.986 | -3.414 | -4.217 | -3.438 |
| Profit/ Loss | 92 | 140 | -387 | -212 |

* audited according to a simplified audit standard (partly cash in and cash out-based)

** audited according to a stricter audit standard (profit and loss-based/ HGB §§ 317 ff.)

Committee Members



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Stephen Barrow
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Mahesh Chander
Jan Deane
Sarah Hathway
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Rowena Buena (Philippines)
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George Muigai, Kenya
Mahesh Chander, India
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We thank everyone who has contributed to our success over the last years. *

Over 500,000

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, The Netherlands
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Sweden
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Switzerland



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

250,000 - 500,000

- EU Commission, Belgium
- SEQUA gGmbH {BMZ Funds}, Germany
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Switzerland



European Union



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement für
Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung WBF
Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO

* Contribution refers to the total revenue per Financial Year

160,000 - 250,000

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, {BMZ funds}, Germany
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB), {EU Commission Funds}, Belgium
- Kamut Enterprises of Europe BVBA, Belgium
- Nürnberg Messe GmbH, Germany
- RARE {BMU Funds}, USA



50,000 - 160,000

- Biovision Foundation {SDC & BMZ Funds}, Switzerland
- Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V., Germany
- Joan Davis Memorial Fund of the Balaton Group, Switzerland
- Rural Development Administration (RDA), South Korea
- Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), Sweden



* Contribution refers to the total revenue per Financial Year

5,000 - 50,000

- ADA Office Yerevan, Armenia
- Afilias, Ireland
- Afilias , USA
- Agriculture & Finance Consultants (AFC), {BMEL Funds}, Germany
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany
- Asian Development Bank, Philippines
- Asian Productivity Organization, Japan
- Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Armenia Office
- BAASA, South Africa
- Beijing Organic and Beyond Corporation
- Bio Inspecta, Switzerland
- Bio Suisse, Switzerland
- Biovision Africa Trust (BVAT), { BMZ Funds} , Kenya
- DOGTARBESBIR, {EU Commission Funds}, Turkey
- EcorNaturaSi Group, Italy
- Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
- Federation Nature & Progres, France
- Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Italy
- IFOAM Organics Europe
- International Climate Initiative, USA
- IOAS, USA
- KRAV Ekonomisk Förening, Sweden
- Little Charity, UK
- Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock, Madagascar
- Neuapostolische Kirche-Karitativ e.V., Germany
- Rapunzel Naturkost AG, Germany
- Research Institute for Organic Agriculture (FiBL), {SDC & Mercator Foundation Funds}, Switzerland
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji
- Stiftung für Umwelt & Entwicklung SUE
- SwissAid, Tanzania
- UNEP, Kenya

* Contribution refers to the total revenue per Financial Year



WORLD BOARD TERM REPORT

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