



General Assembly 2021



The 2017 General Assembly of IFOAM - Organics International passed a recommendation to ask all candidates running for the World Board the same questions regarding our strategy, policies and positions, for the voting members to know more about the people they vote for.

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1. The [strategic plan of IFOAM - Organics International 2025](#) refers to 3 key levers to promote the [principles of organic agriculture](#): supply, demand and policy. On which lever would you like to put the emphasis in your work for IFOAM – Organics International, and why?

I bring strategic and hands-on experience creating strong results with **all three levers**—ambitious organic policy, farm innovation/conversion, and market development, where Denmark is a world leader. My focus will be on IFOAM's two most important roles: 1) **Positioning organic farming and agroecology** in the global food and farming agenda, and 2) **Strengthening our members** in their important work with the 3 key levers to ensure **their** success in upscaling organic farming, building organic markets, and advocacy for local and national organic policy. I also have decades of leadership experience with organizational development in NGOs—useful in the World Board.

2. Please share your thoughts on which actors in our movement could contribute to which parts to make our common vision come true.

Transformational change requires **action**--and **collaboration**--from a huge diversity of actors. IFOAM, our regional bodies and daughter organizations can unite and **enable** all actors: the farmers developing organic practices and organizing cooperatives to drive product- and supply chain innovation; researchers and advisers developing and spreading new knowledge; food companies teaming up with organic NGOs to drive sales growth through partnerships with retail and foodservice; public kitchen workers and their trade unions transforming food to healthier, organic and climate friendly meals. Our vision also requires more allies from farm, climate, nature and social justice movements, creating a supportive political ecosystem.

3. What do you propose in order to get a real transformation in agriculture, in general, and more specifically, in your role as a WB member?

We must seize the opportunity provided by the strong recognition (finally!) from FAO and IPCC for the contributions of organic farming/agroecology to solving crises in climate, food security and biodiversity. IFOAM can build new alliances and strengthen members capacity to upscale organics in the global south and mobilize funding from the global north towards agroecology at home and abroad. We can help members share best-practice in policy, farmer training, organizing, and market development. And we can set an organic agenda in global trends and debates on plantbased-foods and climate. As a WB member, I can contribute on all these levels.



4. Reflecting on the development of new GM breeding techniques such as Crispr CAS: where do you see challenges and issues for the organic sector?

Crispr brings a new wave of nuance and debate, but the issue is fundamentally unchanged. We still need transparency, farmers seed rights and massive investments in breeding capacity in organics, working from organic principles. While I embrace new technology useful to us, we must maintain our strong precautionary principle, shared by consumers. I support IFOAMs position adopted in Delhi (2017). I get more energy from positive agendas for people and planet, but I worked hard for the EU ban on GMOs in organics; the world's first GMO law (Denmark), and first law ensuring compensation to organic farmers for GMO contamination.

5. The SDGs of the United Nations are aiming at sustainability in all areas of life and development. How do you make the SDGs a reality in your own life?

While my work life is not always what could be described as sustainable, I have always tried to live a life where I stand together with others for a local community--and world--with social, economic, and ecological sustainability and justice. As in nature, I see community, workplaces and family as living organisms that are healthier and more sustainable (and creative, productive and fun) where there is diversity, and where each person has value. As a leader, I listen to learn. As a consumer, I try not to be one. Buying almost nothing. Giving income to others. But living well.

6. The work of IFOAM-Organics International is partly financed by membership fee, and for a greater deal by donors and foundations. What experience and skills can you bring to support acquiring financial resources?

As Organic Denmark's director, I led project development and partnerships growing our staff from 7 to almost 70, personally writing over 40 grants. I lobbied to create many new funding sources, including the Fund for Organic Agriculture. I was born fundraising. By age 6, I was going door-to-door for local food programs. By my late 20s I had chaired a coalition of churches and NGOs forcing banks to invest in low-income housing rehab and one of the first US microlending programs and had raised private and federal funding for housing improvement, an inner-city food coop and a Community Land Trust.