

Dear Reader,

The 3rd International ISOFAR Conference, convened as a part of the 17th Organic World Congress in Namyangju, Republic of Korea during September 29-October 1, 2011 was a big success.

About 2000 participants from 76 countries attended the congress, and the four parallel research tracks arranged and chaired by ISOFAR were generally well visited, with good discussions, and keeping a high level of scientific quality.

Our former General Secretary, Daniel Neuhoff, has had a very comprehensive task to coordinate a lot of contributions, and lead the work to design the program and produce scientific conference proceedings which were published and handed out at the event in two impressive volumes. Daniel, thank you so much!

Members can download the proceedings from the internal website of ISOFAR (www.isofar.org/member-area/index.html) using the password communicated in the Email message from info@isofar.org.

The ISOFAR General Assembly was convened in Namyangju on September 28, 2011. ISOFAR President Prof. Dr. Ulrich Köpke decided not to run for President again. Vice-president Niels Halberg, ICROFS, decided not to candidate again for the Board. A new ISOFAR President was elected, Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn from the Republic of Korea, Dankook University. He has been a member of the ISOFAR board since its beginning in 2003. Secretariat functions will in part be transferred from Bonn, Germany to Kampala, Uganda where Prof. Dr. Charles Ssekya is prepared to become ISOFAR's new General Secretary.

Editorial



The ISOFAR board members, here Anne-Kristin Løes and Gerold Rahmann, had a busy time to assist in the ISOFAR booth during the 17th OWC in Namyangju, Republic of Korea.

Membership fees and other economic issues will be taken care of by a new treasurer, Prof. Dr. Gerold Rahmann from the von Thünen Institute, Trenthorst, Germany. The new Vice-President, Dr. Anne-Kristin Løes from Bioforsk Organic Food and Farming, Tingvoll, Norway will be in charge of the newsletter. The new board is further presented on page two.

Enjoy your further reading, and remember that the newsletter is open to anyone wanting to present an organic project, publication, education, institute or other relevant topic.

On behalf of the ISOFAR board,

Anne-Kristin Løes





The newly elected ISOFAR Board 2011-2014, Namyangju, Republic of Korea September 28, 2011.
 From left: Wu Wenliang, Charles Ssekyewa, Ulrich Köpke, Anne-Kristin Løes, Gerold Rahmann, Ilse A. Rasmussen, Ulrich Hamm, Sang Mok Sohn, Carmelita Cervantes, Peter von Fragstein, Laszlo Radics and Mohamed Ben Kheder.

The new ISOFAR Board 2011-2014

- Sang Mok Sohn, Republic of Korea, President
- Anne-Kristin Løes, Norway, Vice President
- Gerold Rahmann*, Germany, Treasurer
- Charles Ssekyewa, Uganda, Board member and General Secretary
- Ulrich Köpke, Germany
- Ulrich Hamm, Germany
- Laszlo Radics, Hungary
- Mohamed Ben Kheder, Tunisia

- Ilse A. Rasmussen*, Denmark
- Wu Wenliang*, China
- Peter von Fragstein*, Germany
- Carmelita Cervantes*, Philippines

The President, Vice president, General Secretary and Treasurer form the Executive Board.

The board had its first meeting in Korea on September 28, and will meet regularly by Skype

(Board members being elected for the first time are marked by *)

Dear members of ISOFAR,

I was very surprised and am happy now to be elected as new president. It is my great honour to be responsible for our honorable ISOFAR community as 4th President for the following 3 years.

In Feb 1986, I made my PhD majoring in plant nutrition in Germany at the University of Goettingen, Institute of Agricultural Chemistry, with scholarship of Konrad Adenauer association. Thereafter I joined reintegration program for 6 months provided by University of Kassel, Witzenhausen campus, where I made contact with people active in organic agriculture.

After return to Korea, I was employed by Dankook University in Cheonan, and launched and participated in various national and international research in organic agriculture. I have been a partner in several research projects on organic agriculture with German institutes like FAL.

My favorite research subjects are nitrate leaching, nitrate uptake, optimum N fertilization strategy and nitrate limit value. For five years I was President of ARNOA (Asian Research Network of Organic Agriculture) and organized 1st, 2nd and 3rd ARNOA Conferences held in 2003, 2004 and 2005. In 2008, I organized 1st ISOFAR Asia Conference and was a co-editor of its proceedings. I am also board member of ISOFAR, and Chairman of the ISOFAR Soil Fertility Committee since 2003. From 2005, I established the 1 year course "Advanced Course of Organic Agriculture" given by Dankook University and initiated a National Qualification Test to receive the title of Organic Agriculture Engineer in Korea.

Upon my initiative, Gyeonggi Province could successfully host the 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress (2011) in Paldang/Korea. As a government delegate of Korea, I participated in the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius conference for Organically Grown Food in 1998. Since 2006, I am the director of the Organic

Welcome address



Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn, The President of ISOFAR.

Certification Body which is attached to Dankook University. Since Jan 2011, I have organized the Korean Organic Agriculture & Industry Federation and serve there as a president.

I want to express our deep thanks to the founder and former President of our society, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Koepke. He initiated the foundation of our society, created the 16 sections & 5 working groups, arranged the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ISOFAR conference, organized numerous regional symposiums and seminars, and during his last year as President, ISOFAR published the journal of Organic Agriculture in cooperation with Springer publishing company. It will be very hard for me to leave as big footprints as Prof. Dr.

Ulrich Köpke did. We are very honored that he will be further active in our society as a board member.

I also want to express my warm welcome to all of you who are reading this ISOFAR Newsletter, which is the first to be released after a successful 3rd ISOFAR Conference. We organized a fruitful conference, thanks to your qualified oral and paper presentations. I deeply thank Dr. Daniel Neuhoff and all other editors who were involved to organize this big event and reviewed and published the ISOFAR Conference Proceedings. Interested members can find them on our web site.

You are, or you are most welcome to become, a member of ISOFAR, and it means you are also an owner of our society. The 12 members of the board will listen to your valuable opinions on how to expand our international scientific activity within organic agriculture. Your suggestions and ideas are always welcome. The board members, elected on 28th September 2011, are here to serve you and arrange ISOFAR activity. We will try our best to grow ISOFAR by scientific activities including international co-operation.

During our 1st and 2nd board meeting we have dis-

cussed the possibility of organizing a World Organic Expo, establishing an ISOFAR e-learning program, and how to promote and conduct our activities in a more decentralized way. One option may be to develop a node system to facilitate decentralized activity. If the interest is there, we may create nodes like ISOFAR-Asia, ISOFAR-Africa, ISOFAR-Mediterranean etc. The interest is there to form country groups of ISOFAR, e.g. ISOFAR-Korea and ISOFAR-Philippines, and we expect and hope for more frequent activities on regional and country level such as regional symposiums and seminars. Our board members will advice everybody who is planning such an event, and we welcome you to involve us and to use the ISOFAR logo.

In the near future, ISOFAR will create specific committees for individual projects. These committees will support the development of our ambitious plans. For that we need your kind cooperation and involvement.

With warm regards,

Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn

The President of ISOFAR



Organic rice field outside Seoul, Korea. Photo: S. O. Rebsdorf

Upcoming events (co)organized by ISOFAR

- **African Organic Conference**
Lusaka, Zambia, May 2012.

Contact person

Charles Ssekya

Email: c.ssekya1@yahoo.com

- **The 1st International Workshop of the Italian Research Group for Organic Farming (GRAB-IT)**
Ancona, Italy May 11-12, 2012.

The focus will be on Mediterranean Organic Farming. The event will be held in conjunction with the 5th national (Italian) biennial Workshop.

GRAB-IT is an association grouping academic researchers involved in organic farming research in Italy and was founded in 1996.

Workshop website

www.grab-it.it/ancona2012/home.html

- **Organic Animal Husbandry Conference**
Hamburg, Germany, September 2012.

Website

www.ifoam.org/events/ifoam_conferences/Animal_Husbandry_2012.html

Contact person

Gerold Rahmann

Email: gerold.rahmann@vti.bund.de

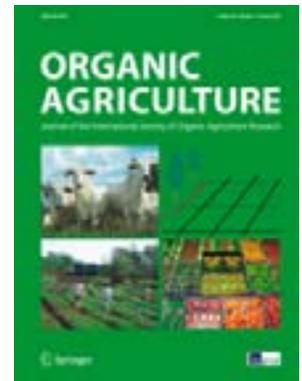
Please check the ISOFAR website (www.isofar.org/events) regularly for up-dated information on proposed events such as ISOFAR workshops, etc.

Announcements

In spring 2011, ISOFAR launched the official, peer-reviewed journal 'Organic Agriculture' in cooperation with the publishing company Springer, Germany.

Website

www.springer.com/life+sciences/agriculture/journal/13165



From 2012, all ISOFAR members will have free access to the website of the journal, where full length papers may be downloaded. So far, 14 peer-reviewed papers have been published in 3 issues, covering a range of interesting and relevant topics.

5 most popular journal papers

We list the five so far most popular papers from the journal, with the number of downloads during the last 90 days, by October 25, 2011:

- "Soil organic matter pools and crop yields as affected by the rate of farmyard manure and use of biodynamic preparations in a sandy soil." Heitkamp, F.; Raupp, J.; Ludwig, B. (387)
- "Diversity of different farmer and modern wheat varieties cultivated in contrasting organic farming conditions in western Europe and implications for European seed and variety legislation." Serpolay, E.; Dawson, J.C.; Chable, V. et al. (305)
- "Modelling sustainability: what are the factors that influence sustainability of organic fruit production systems in New Zealand?." Page, G. (262)
- "Influence of ley duration on the yield and quality of the subsequent cereal crop (spring oats) in an organically managed long-term crop rotation experiment." Watson, C.A.; Baddeley, J. A.; Edwards, A. C. et al. (192)
- "Increasing organic consumption through school meals—lessons learned in the iPOPY project." Løes, A.-K.; Nölting, B. (170).

Membership services

- We would like to remind all ISOFAR members, and people wanting to become members: Please send to the ISOFAR Head Office (info@isofar.org) the keywords related to your professional expertise, and contact details. The Head Office needs your information for future joint research activities among members, organising lecture requests, etc.
- All members are kindly invited to provide contributions to the ISOFAR Newsletter such as reports on your on-going activities and other interesting or useful information.
- Important: Don't forget to inform us on any change of your address!

Newsletter contact

Contributions (text files and separate picture files) should be sent to Anne-Kristin Løes by Email. anne-kristin.loes@bioforsk.no.



Allotment Gardening outside Seoul, Korea.
Photo: A.-K. Løes

An impressive exhibition area encircled the Organic World Congress buildings. Photo: A.-K. Løes





Organic pear production outside Seoul, Korea.
Photo: S.O. Rebsdorf



Traditional Korean temple roof painting. Korean Folk Village, Seoul. Photo: S.O. Rebsdorf

ISOFAR Contact Information

International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR), c/o Institute of Organic Agriculture (IOL), Katzenburgweg 3, D-53115 Bonn, Germany.

Contact persons

Ms. Anja Schneider (Secretary), Tel. +49228 735616, Fax +49 228 735617

Dr. Daniel Neuhoff (Honorary duties) +49 228 732883

E-mail | homepage

info@isofar.org | www.isofar.org

Legal seat of the society

International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR), c/o Institute of Organic Agriculture (IOL), Katzenburgweg 3, D-53115 Bonn, Germany

President

Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Dankook University, Cheonan, Republic of Korea; Tel: +82-41-550-3663, Fax: +82-41-568-3633, E-mail: smsohn@dankook.ac.kr

© 2011, International Society of Organic Agriculture Research

Editor: Anne-Kristin Løes, Bioforsk, Norway

Layout: Simon O. Rebsdorf, ICROFS, Denmark

