



Dear Reader,

We can look back to a very successful 2nd International ISOFAR Conference in Modena. After positive experiences like those ones that could be made in Adelaide and Modena in organizing such a big event and in selecting and coordinating the presentations in harmony with the individual organizing committees on site, I feel free to state that ISOFAR can be considered as a well-established institution within the Organic Community.

I am pleased that once again the scientific part of this IFOAM Congress could be organized and hosted by ISOFAR. No less than about 500 papers had to be screened, reviewed and edited for the Proceedings that resemble the state-of-the art of Organic Agriculture based on revised 4-page scientific contributions. The two volumes amounting to a total of 1700 pages have gone as fast at ISOFAR's Modena booth as the first volume of ISOFAR's Tropical Series. Ways to place your order of these publications are shown on our website (<http://www.isofar.org>). ISOFAR – members can download the proceedings from the internal website (password available upon e-mail request at: info@isofar.org). Moreover, all oral and poster presentations had to be organized. I owe my gratitude to all co-organizers for their immense commitment and good co-operation. A very warm 'Welcome' to the over 20 new members, who decided in Modena to join our society.

Thus, Modena has indeed marked a milestone on the history of international conferences on Organic Agriculture. When we had been planning the IFOAM Organic World Congress and the optimized integration of ISOFAR's conference activities within the overall context, we were once invited by Antonio Compagnoni, the responsible organizer on site and his partners, to enjoy a selection of more than 90 different Italian starters that we were served as part of a multiple course menu.

The Italian cuisine is famous for its great variety. Italy stands for enjoyment with the utmost quality. Quality over quantity is known here as a traditional phrase that stands for sophisticated eating culture – which is finally congruent with the ultimate aim of Organic Agriculture to serve the general well-being of consumers with the utmost product and process quality.

Similarly all participants during this Modena world meeting were confronted with a broadly varied programme offered – which seems to me the most diverse one since the very beginning of the great international IFOAM Organic World Congresses. I very much hope that all participants were able to select from the menu of this comprehensive range of presentations and activities those ones that were most appropriate for them and that all did return home afterwards richly sated with new knowledge, experience and sense of well-being!

After Modena is before Seoul, i.e. Korea 2011. I am writing you just when preparing together with our office staff and BM Prof. Dr. Sang Mok Sohn the next steps towards our Third International Conference, which will certainly display another individual conference style.

With warm personal regards,

Ulrich Köpke

(President ISOFAR)

ISOFAR Events and Activities in between the International ISOFAR Conferences in Modena, Italy 2008 and in Seoul, Korea 2011

- ISOFAR has supported **‘Bioacademy 2008’ in Czech Republic, Eastern Europe**

This conference was held September 3-5, 2008 in Lednice, Czech Republic within the framework of the **‘8th European Summer Academy on Organic Farming’** (<http://www.pro-bio.cz/bioak>). The theme was **“New Findings in Science and Research – Innovation in Organic Farming”**. The main objective of the conference was the exchange of information and contacts between Eastern and Western Europe. In addition, the discussion among farmers, researchers, and other professionals in the field of Organic Farming and foodstuff was promoted. Excursions to organic farms and companies were also part of the event.

‘Bioacademy 2008’ included two parallel conferences: a ‘scientific conference’ and a ‘practical conference’, both under the patronage of the European Union Group of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM EU Group) and the Ministry of Environment of the CR. The Scientific Conference was organised by the Bioinstitut - Institute for Ecological Agriculture and Sustainable Landscape Management, in cooperation with Palacký University Olomouc, ISOFAR, the Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research Bioforsk, Bio Forschung Austria, BIO Austria and FiBL - the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland.

- ISOFAR will support **‘ECOMIT’ in Slovakia, Eastern Europe**

The 5th International Scientific Conference on Sustainable Farming Systems ECOMIT will be held November 5-7, 2008 in Piešťany, Slovakia

(<http://www.ecomit.vurv.sk/about-the-meeting/intro>). The aim of the conference is to present and discuss research results and experiences in sustainable agriculture with emphasis on soil sciences and climate change related risks in agriculture.

The Conference is being organised by ISOFAR member Zuzana Lehocka working for the Slovak Agricultural Research Centre – Research Institute of Plant Production, Piešťany and the Slovak Association for Sustainable Agriculture “SASA” in cooperation with The Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic, The Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands, The European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF), The International Society of Organic Agriculture Research (ISOFAR), The Institute of Organic Agriculture, University of Bonn (IOL), The Town Piešťany, The Piešťany Town Cultural Centre and Slovak No-till club.



- The Agricultural Minister of Indonesia, Dr Anton Apriyantono, has invited ISOFAR to organize the **workshop ‘The potential of Organic Agriculture and Low-Input Sustainable Agriculture Systems in Indonesia’** (date not yet fixed, spring 2009 envisaged).
Contact: ISOFAR Head Office: info@isofar.org
- Our Board Member (BM) Mohamed Ben Kheder will organise a North-African **ISOFAR workshop ‘Towards improved soil organic matter management’** in collaboration with the **Mediterranean Organic Agricultural Network (MOAN, <http://moan.iamb.it>)** (date not yet available, March 2009 envisaged).
Contact: Mohamed Ben Kheder : benkheder.mohamed@iresa.agrinet.tn
- Our BM Charles Ssekyewa currently prepares the **‘African Organic Conference 2009’ under the theme ‘Fast tracking sustainable development in Africa through harnessing Organic Agriculture and Bio-Technology’, May 19-22, 2009 in Kampala, Uganda.**
Contact: Charles Ssekyewa: cssekyewa@umu.ac.ug

The conference will emphasize attributes of Organic Agriculture as a science relevant to sustainable development, poverty eradication and assured food security in Africa. Furthermore, the conference will explore Organic Agriculture as a science in contrast to other schools of thought, and how it relates to Biotechnology in contributing towards sustainable agricultural and economic development. Participation will be open to all scientists, industry and the private sector actors who are involved in strategic activities geared towards achieving lasting agricultural and economic development as well as set Millennium Development Goals.

- BM Niels Halberg and BM Ulrich Köpke will approach partners in Brazil in order to promote ISOFAR regional activities in South America. These will be harmonized with the activities of SOCLA (Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology) lead by by our BM Miguel Altieri. **A joint workshop is foreseen to be held in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil** (date not yet available, October 2009 envisaged).
Contact: ISOFAR Head Office: info@isofar.org
- BM Laszlo Radicz has announced to organize the **workshop ‘Teaching Systems for Organic Farming’ in Budapest, Hungary** (year 2009 envisaged)
Contact: Laszlo Radics: laszlo.radic@uni-corvinus.hu

Publications

The first volume of the ISOFAR Tropical Series ‘Organic Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics’ was presented at ISOFAR’s booth in Modena, Italy.

Compared with the knowledge gained and distributed in the northern half of our globe, information based on scientific work in Organic Agriculture is limited in the southern hemisphere. ISOFAR’s Tropical Series is foreseen as a stepwise extended source of knowledge that will serve scientists and teachers as well as students interested in the evolution of scientifically based Organic Agriculture in the tropics and subtropics.

Volume 1 of the series provides an introductory compilation of various important issues that Organic Agriculture is confronted with in the South. Although expensive binding and production methods were used to guarantee the sustainable use and durability of this book, its price has been kept low to allow extended worldwide distribution and access.

Contents (please also see our ISOFAR website)

Foreword

1 Prata Neves, M.C.; Azevedo Espindola, J.A.; Marinho Guerra, J.G.; De-Polli, H.: Optimizing the use of BNF in Organic Agriculture – advantages of the tropics

2 Becker, M.: Potential of organic substrates in lowland rice-based systems of Asia

3 Juroszek, P.; Lumpkin, T.A.; Easdown, W.; Tsai, H.-H.: Organic vegetable production and research needs in the tropics and subtropics

4 Bayu, W.: Use of farmyard manure in improving soil physicochemical properties and crop yield in smallholding agriculture in north eastern Ethiopia

5 Birech, R.J.; Freyer, B.: Optimising cropping systems with green manure and tillage techniques in Organic Farming in Kenya

6 van Elzakker, B.: 20 years of developing organic exports in the tropics; the need for and interface with research

7 Techawongstien, S.; Chuachin, S.: Reviews: Development and Current Situation of Thai’s Organic Vegetables

8 Leitzmann, C.; Behrendt, I.: Organic food and human nutrition

9 Al-Bitar, L.; Raeli, M.: Organic Agriculture in the Mediterranean: Ten years of cooperation and networking with CIHEAM – IAMB

10 Balestra, G.M.: Case Study - Somalia: Phytopathological situation and organic plant protection perspectives

11 Kotschi, J.: Agricultural biodiversity is essential for adapting to climate change

12 Kotschi, J.: More ecology – less hunger?

Availability and pricing

Organic Agriculture in the Tropics and Subtropics. ISOFAR Tropical Series Vol 1, edited by Ulrich Köpke, 2008, 178 pages, hardcover, order number: BZ 675-8, ISBN-13: 978-3-89574-675-8

Available via ISOFAR bookshop (subject to availability): 9.00 EUR for members, 16.80 EUR for non-members (subject to availability) or via bookstores/retailers: 16.80 EUR

Future volumes will be organized in the next session as theme books that focus on specific topics in order to develop strategies for improved environmentally sound agriculture approaches. Currently, volumes are projected for soil fertility-building concepts, nutrient management, paddy rice production and organic cotton production. Potential authors should contact ISOFAR's Head Office or Ulrich Köpke directly to express their interest to contribute to a future volume of the ISOFAR Tropical Series.

Events

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

Announcements

A new issue of ISOFAR Scientific Series

The ISOFAR working group LTE (Long-Term Experiments) met at the ISOFAR Conference in Modena, Italy to discuss future activities. Among others, it was decided to produce a second publication on long-term field experiments in Organic Agriculture that is intended to be published as a volume of ISOFAR Scientific Series. In 2006, the book '*Long-term Field Experiments in Organic Farming*' was published as the first volume of this series including 12 experiments in Europe and North America. Unfortunately, a number of other interesting experiments could not be considered in the first volume. It's time to continue the presentation of long-term experiments. End of this year, the editors will contact potential researchers in order to invite them to contribute to a second volume '*Long-term Field Experiments in Organic Farming*'.



Membership services

- We would like to remind all ISOFAR members: please be so kind and send, if not yet done, to the ISOFAR Head Office **the keywords related to your professional expertise** (research topics). The Head Office needs your information for future joint research activities among members, organising lecture requests, etc.
- There is a great interest in education in Organic Agriculture. Therefore it is intended to publish **text books on Organic Agriculture**. Interested people who like to contribute should contact the ISOFAR Head Office. BM Charles Ssekyewa currently prepares a text book format for immediate and easy publication.
- Please, inform the ISOFAR Head Office on papers you have published recently in **a peer-reviewed journal**, a **book** or a **book chapter** allowing us to share the information with all members.
- 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 / ISOFAR Secretariat

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